

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting • January 12, 2023  
Start time 7pm**

**BOARD PRESENT:** At the town office: Terry Redfield, Patty Kenyon. Via Zoom: Heather Grier, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, Neil Russell.

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** At the town office: Bill Reed - Road Commissioner/Foreman. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** At the town office: Via Zoom: Peter Stevenson at 7:30pm.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Heather called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 22, 2022 Regular Meeting

Terry moved to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2022 regular meeting as presented, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE:** Nothing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS:** None.

**TOWN OFFICERS: Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers:** Patty reviewed the Equalization Study Results for 2022 our CLA is 85.67% and COD is 18.20%. We just missed the mandatory re-appraisal marker. Sally says the listers plan to come to the February meeting to lodge the Grand List and will address any questions or updates at that time.

It was noted that two-thirds of Vermont towns came in needing a mandatory re-appraisal due to the pandemic property sales surge. Robin reported that the state legislature is looking into this situation and there is likely to be some legislation to address the issue statewide as it would be impossible for two-thirds of Vermont towns to be able to engage reappraisal services in the same year, there is not enough workforce capacity to meet the need. Stay tuned.

**TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report:**

- Bill presented a draft permission agreement to be completed and employed to address the beaver issues on Daisy Hollow Road. In a phone conversation with the property owner, he is willing to work with the town and the state to address the situation. The agreement will formalize that, so work can move forward. Patty will work on the permission form and get it sent out to the property owner.
- Sanding today in preparation for the storm
- They continued to work on maintenance and have purchased some new lights for the garage among other items.

**Other Town Highway:** Herb emailed the board indicating that we are not in a position to apply for the grant he was exploring for Daisy Hollow Road. It is something we could apply for in the future once we get some preliminary work done. One item on that list is

the road survey which we have budgeted for in this fiscal year. Bill has been working to move that forward with no luck – he's had no response from the engineering firm. He will reach out next week to Stephanie at RRPC to see if she can help us move this forward.

**TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress:** Patty mentioned that now is the time to do some potential solar pricing for the building to see what it would cost in case we have money left at the end of the project. Members agreed that doing the research is prudent at this time. We need to get some basics answered, how much capacity does the roof have, general energy needs, cost of a system. There was some discussion as to who would take the lead on this and who to approach. Heather & Neil will do some research and send information to Patty who will take the lead on connecting with some potential providers.

Peter joined at just the right time and reported that he has been in touch with Johanna Palmer who indicated the final report on the hazardous waste cleanup should be here soon. That report will also go to the state DEC and should close out the brownfields cleanup project.

He also reported that shop drawings continue to be done for the details we are at 57 drawings right now. So, while things are quiet at the site, they are not quiet in the background.

**Other Building Projects: MSVFD, MTS Library, 577 West Street site:** Nothing.

**SOLID WASTE:** Nothing

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Appropriation Requests
  - Neighborworks of Western VT - \$400 same as LY
  - American Red Cross - \$250 same as LY
  - Mentor Connector - \$200 same as LY
  - Child First Advocacy Center - \$400 same as LY
  - Habitat for Humanity - \$350 same as LY
  - Poultney Rescue Squad - \$11,116 – increase of \$4 per capita to \$14 per
  - Vermont Farmers Food Center - \$500 same as LY
  - Rutland County Humane Society - \$125 same as LY
- Note from Alida & Rodney Tarbell – Business name switching to Martelle Property Services – Jordan & Rachel (R&A daughter)
- Overweight Permit – Newport Sand & Gravel – w/ck & COI \$10 – Needs approval & signature
  - Terry moved to approve the Overweight Permit for Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.
- Certificate of Highway Mileage 2023 needs approval & signatures
  - Terry moved to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage 2022 with no changes, Patty 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills:** Patty moved to approve board orders as presented, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes - Terry, Patty, Heather, Neil. Abstain - Robin. Motion carried.

**LEGAL:** Robin updated the board that the special law allowing remote meetings expires on January 15, 2023. There is a new law in the works but it's not ready yet. People can still join a meeting remotely, but there needs to be a quorum of officials present at a physical location after January 15, and until the new law is signed. Something to pay attention to and plan for in the coming weeks.

**OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS – Finish 2024 Budget:** Patty reviewed the town warning, confirming the details of the place, time and manner for the upcoming Town Meeting. We'll continue as we did last year with a physical meeting in the Historical Society dining room offering remote attendance. We then moved on to items in question

- a) Will we include the Sheriff contract in the budget or vote separately? Board agrees to continue to vote this item separately.
- b) Will we include the \$20,000 reserve allocation in the general fund budget or vote separately? After a brief discussion,

Terry moved to include the \$20,000 allocation to the Middletown Springs Public Library in the general fund budget based on approval and funding last year, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes - Patty, Terry. Opposed - Robin, Heather, Neil. Motion failed.

The board moved on to the budget and Patty went over the changes she made based on suggestions from the treasurer. A number of changes were agreed upon and incorporated. Patty will send the draft budget and warning for the board to review before the next meeting.

January 19, 2023 is the deadline for petitions to add articles to the Town Warning. If petitions are received the board will need to meet to accept or reject said petitions. If that happens the board can then incorporate final changes and approve the warning and budget. If not, the board will plan to approve said documents at the next regular meeting.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (In Person w/Zoom access)**

**Next Regular Meeting** – Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary)** – Terry moved to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:45pm inviting Bill Reed, Patty 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty moved to exit Executive Session at 9:03pm, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Action Taken – Patty moved to approve setting up an HSA account for Bill Reed depositing the equivalent current health insurance monthly benefit amount into said account effective February 1, 2023 when he is officially enrolled in Medicare, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty will notify BCBS of Bill's new status to cancel current coverage and inform the treasurer of the change.

**Revisiting Other Highway:** Bill asked the board if we would consider giving him access

to the town credit card to facilitate small purchases at places that do not extend credit to customers, such as Harbor Freight, Tractor Supply, etc.

The board discussed the idea and agreed it made sense. Our town credit card currently has a spending limit of \$2000. To move this forward we will need to have the treasurer request a additional card for the Road Foreman to have in his possession.

Robin moved to approve the Road Foreman's use of the town's credit card for small purchases within the current spending parameters, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty will talk to the treasurer and work to move this forward.

**ADJOURN:** Patty moved to adjourn at 9:22pm, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Patty Kenyon, Clerk