

**Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • February 9, 2023
Start time 7pm**

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

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: Sally Achey – Lister, Bill Reed – Road Foreman/Commissioner. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Kristal Hier – Library Trustee

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: None. Via Zoom: Peter Stevenson

CALL TO ORDER: Heather called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 26, 2023 Regular Meeting

Terry moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 regular meeting as presented, Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: None.

TOWN OFFICERS: Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers / Library

Sally Achey – Lister chair – presented the annual certificate for no appeals pending on the grand list of 2022 for the board's approval.

Terry moved to approve the Certificate of No Appeal Pending on the Grand List of 2022, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Sally reported that the Listers have appealed the CLA/COD with the state. She is meeting with the district advisor tomorrow morning and plans to bring up a few sales that she feels could improve our status. She'll share information with the board as it becomes available.

There was a brief discussion on the current state of CLA/COD's statewide and that the legislature is proposing for relief. We were lucky not to hit the mandatory reappraisal threshold, but two thirds of the towns in the state were not. We're sure to hear more about this as the legislative session moves forward.

Town Clerk Update: Patty reported on Town Meeting preparations and reminded the board that we have a BCA meeting scheduled for 6pm on February 23 just prior to our next Selectboard meeting. The BCA will re-organize, review the checklist, and approve a list of election workers for 2023.

Patty also brought up the error she discovered in the approved warning. Article 11 –

Poultney Rescue Squad appropriation did not get updated to the current figure on the warning. The FY23/24 request was from Poultney was \$11,116, while the warning requested approval for last year's figure of \$7,940.

The board discussed informing the voters of the error, via FPF, TownNews, adding the information to our town wide mailer and bringing it up at the Town Informational meeting. Additionally, the board feels that, should the warned article pass, the town would need to make up the shortfall of approved funds vs requested funds, using money in the general operating budget.

Kristal – Library board chair– reported that they have finalized an agreement with an architect at NBF out of Rutland. She will be working on a design for ADA accessibility and possible expansion. The board has been in touch with VLCT and the Secretary of State's office for guidance on moving forward. They have been advised to consult the town's attorney. Kristal asked the process of engaging the town's attorney. The board advised there is a standing budget line item for legal work and this would come under that category. Kristal will reach out to Gary Kupferer and will copy Heather on any communications so that the board is in the loop.

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report: Bill Reed reported:

- About the current weather - no issues anticipated tonight – just expecting rain.
- Next week might bring mud as we warm up.
- They've been cutting brush and opening culverts.
- They are continuing with maintenance of equipment in the off-hours and have been having trouble getting parts, also cost is up for most of the parts.

Other Town Highway: Terry reported on tree work he's contracted for on Haley Road, \$1600, and at the old cemetery, another \$1000.

Terry also noted that the town of Ripton has a proposal out for a salt shed – as a note of interest the dimensions for their building are 72 x 140. New regulations on salt & sand containment are dictating larger buildings.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress.

Patty reported that we received a couple of metal roof samples – a light gray and a bronze. The darker color seemed to be the preference of the board, but it was also asked if there were other color options we could look at.

Peter – Atlas has finished the hazardous waste cleanup; paperwork has been submitted to the state and approved and a deed amendment on the property has been filed in the land records. This close out will result in some savings on the overall contract estimate as the job was less expensive and intensive than we originally allowed for.

Peter will check in with Naylor & Breen to see where they are at in terms of panelizing walls and if they can give us a projected schedule for the spring.

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

SOLID WASTE: Nothing in particular. A brief discussion about last week's cold weather day and how that went.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- State of Vermont PVR – Appeal of CLA/COD received – appeal meeting happening tomorrow 10am
- Service Request – Spruce Knob Road property damage from Sarah Grimm. The board discussed the request and Heather will schedule a site visit as soon as possible, inviting any other board members who can attend. We'll discuss possible solutions at the next board meeting.

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

LEGAL: Nothing beyond what we discussed above.

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS – Nothing.

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

Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6pm BCA & 7pm SB

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – Terry moved to enter Executive Session for personnel at 8:18pm inviting Bill Reed to join us, Robin 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Patty moved to exit Executive Session at 8:30pm, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

No action taken.

ADJOURN: Patty moved to adjourn at 8:32pm, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk