

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

BOARD PRESENT: At the town office: Patty Kenyon, Herb Childress, Terry Redfield. Via Zoom: none

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: Bill Reed - Road Foreman/Road Commissioner Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Sean Ruck - Library Trustee, Jenny Talke Munyak – Treasurer, Kristal Hier – Library Trustee at 7:15pm, John Weatherhogg – Trustee of Public Monies at 7:29pm.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Patty (Town Clerk) called the meeting to order at 7:04pm for Board Reorganization.

BOARD REORGANIZATION – Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk

Terry nominated Herb Childress for Board Chair, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Herb nominated Terry Redfield for Vice Chair, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry nominated Patty Kenyon as Clerk, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular meeting, February 23, 2023

Minutes of 2/23/2023 were tabled until next meeting when all members have had a chance to go over them and we have enough members to vote in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / GUESTS - none

TOWN OFFICERS - Emergency Management Director/Town Clerk/Treasurer/Delinquent Tax Collector/Auditors/Listers/Library Trustees, etc.

Herb reported that it is a busy time of year for EMD activities. He has and will be attending numerous meetings and will be updating the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP).

Patty reported that she is still buttoning up from Town Meeting – lots of things to update and forms to complete.

Terry noted that the town of Benson voted down their general and highway budgets resoundingly. It's not a given to have support from your constituents.

Treasurer's Report – Jenny provided the board some information from the Trustees of Public Monies. They are moving money in the Matthews Bigelow fund from Credit Union of Vermont to

Heritage Family Federal Credit Union's investment arm. Credit Union of Vermont has issued the check to close the account to the Town of Middletown Springs. The town will need to deposit that check and reissue a check to the investment firm on behalf of the Matthews Bigelow Fund. Basically, a pass through. Check needs to be written to the Town and can't be written to the Matthews Bigelow Fund.

The plan is that this will be on the next meeting's board orders for approval. The board is okay with that process and thanked Jenny for giving us the heads up at this meeting.

Sean Ruck reminded the board that the Library fundraiser Pie for Breakfast is this Saturday at the school. Gave a brief overview of a conversation he had with Kristal about a Dept of Libraries grant she is working on. Kristal affirmed that assessment joining in from the road.

John Weatherhogg joined at 7:29pm and recapped their plan to shift the Matthews Bigelow from Credit Union of Vermont to Heritage Family Federal Credit Union.

Unfilled Seats we need to fill: The chair then moved us on to the unfilled Town Officer seats. We have one open Library seat and two of three Planning Commission seats open. Herb will put out a FPF post to solicit interested parties for appointment to these important roles.

Appointments: We then moved on to our yearly appointments – running down the list we have:

Fence viewers – Selectboard members are okay taking on this role again this year.

Tree Warden – Terry Redfield is willing to serve here.

Service Officer – Selectboard members are okay taking on this role again this year.

Emergency Management Director – Herb Childress is okay with taking this on but would really like to hand this off and he is trying to find someone to join him in some meetings and eventually step into the role.

Rutland Regional Transportation Council – Bill Reed is willing to serve here, but as always, he can't attend the meetings because they conflict with Selectboard meetings.

Town Representative to RRPC – Herb will check in with Hilary Solomon to see if she can fill this role.

Conservation Commission – We currently have three members and two vacancies, Herb will touch base with Elizabeth Cooper to see if we have any new leads.

Animal Control – Terry has reached out to Neil to see if he might be willing to continue. Will report back next meeting.

Health Officer – 3-year term expires April 30. Herb will reach out to see if Carl is interested in re-upping for the next 3 years.

Fire Warden – 5-year term expires this year. Terry will reach out to James Reed to see if he is interested in serving in this role for the next 5 years.

Board Liaison with Road Foreman – Terry is willing to continue in that position.

TOWN HIGHWAYS - Road Commissioner Report: Bill reported:

- Working through the 5th mud season of the year.
- Issue with a section of Dudley Road he'd like to rebuild out of the general budget this year.
- Working on a potential grant for speed signs.

- Looking into a Structures Grant for work on Coy Hill Bridge at the intersection with West Street.
- Will be working with Stephanie at RRPC on this year's Grants In Aid project
- Continuing to pursue the engineering work for the Daisy Hollow Project.
- Reported that GMP has reached out about putting power on Brown Road for a new service.

Other Town Highway

Patty mentioned that in our board transition, we have an unresolved service request. This specific request was being worked on by two now former board members. The full board hasn't received a report on the issue and would like to make sure we can resolve it. Herb will reach out to former board members who were working on this to see where it sits, so that we can move it forward and get it settled in our records.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project; In progress –

Peter reported that he received an email from Leo at Naylor & Breen. They have been working on the panelization for about a week and half. Good news. We should expect to see an invoice at the end of March for work done this month as a result.

Other Building Projects: MSVFD, MTS Library, 577 West Street site - Congressional Discretionary Spending Grant opportunity – Herb investigated two opportunities one with Senator Sanders, one with Senator Welch for potential grants. He also talked to the folks at USDA Rural Development who are an integral part of this program. Currently we are not in a position to take advantage of a grant like this.

Herb would like the board to begin working on an overall facilities plan so that we have our ducks in a row when another such opportunity arises. The board is enthusiastic about this approach.

SOLID WASTE – Nothing pressing but a reminder that Large Waste Day in two months May 13, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Selectboard Resignation – Heather Grier – (Letter added to the minutes as an addendum.)
 - The board thanks Heather for her three years of service to the town, and for serving as chair for the past year.
 - Terry, moved to Accept resignation with regret, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.
 - The board would also like to thank Neil Russell for his three years of service on the Selectboard.

Herb will post Notice of Vacancy for Heather's seat tomorrow in numerous places. This seat's term expires March 2024 coinciding perfectly with the mandated appointment term until the next town meeting. He will suggest folks contact him by Tuesday, March 21 so that we can invite interested parties to our next meeting on March 23.

- Postcards & Letter from VLCT for each board member
 - SB Essentials Training
 - VLCT's NEW municipal access portal
 - VLCT Letter about the new access portal
- Letter from VT Dept of Health re: Health Officer Appointment
- Brown's Quarried Slate Products – Updated Pricing
- Overweight Permit – Markowski Excavating w/ \$10 ck and COI.
 - Herb moved to approve the overweight permit for Markowski Excavating, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills

Terry moved to approve board orders as presented, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

LEGAL: None

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:

Patty reported that Deb House gifted the town office with a new dedicated document scanner. It has been hooked up and is working great. The board thanks Deb for this generous gift.

Next Regular Meeting – March 23, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION (If necessary) - none

ADJOURN: Terry moved at 8:44pm, Herb 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk

Addendum follows on next page.

Heather L. Grier

40 Meadowbrook Ln
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

February 28, 2023

Dear Town of Middletown Springs Selectboard,

I am writing to you after thoughtful consideration to inform you of my resignation from the position of selectboard member effective immediately. I believe you will appoint someone who can put forward the patience, time and energy required to fill the remainder of my term. I have done my best to carry on in this position for the many residents who supported me for the last three years. I am thankful for the opportunity to have served and appreciate those voters who elected me to the position. I must at this time place myself and my family first. As you all know the responsibility of managing the town is not easy and very time consuming. I believe this to be the best time for a smooth transition as next week you will be reorganizing the board.

Best regards,



Heather L. Grier

RECEIVED

FEB 28 2023

Initial: PK