

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • March 23, 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: Jenny Talke Munyak – Treasurer, Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Deb House – Delinquent Tax Collector.

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: Peter Stevenson, Joe Castle – MSVFD Chief, James Reed. Via Zoom: Aileen Stevenson, Tasha Turan, David Wright at 7:45pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Herb called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a) Selectboard Regular Meeting February 23, 2023
- b) Town Informational Meeting March 6, 2023
- c) Selectboard Regular Meeting March 9, 2023

Terry moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2023 & March 9, 2023 as presented, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry moved to approve the Town Informational Meeting minutes of 3/6/2023 pending final approval by the Town Moderator, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / GUESTS: Joe Castle – MSVFD – FD received a substantial grant from FEMA to install a new air pack filling system. To install the new system, they need a new electrical service. They would like to run it underground instead of overhead. They'd also bury the telephone lines to the firehouse when they are digging. They'd also like to get rid of the overhead line to the town's salt shed. The fire department is willing to do the digging for relocating the salt shed wires if the town buys the materials to get it done.

The board has been wanting to address that situation for a while, so they are happy to work with the fire department to get this done. They would like some time to review our policies about underground utilities and to get a solid price for the project.

Joe will get some quotes for the materials and bring them to the next meeting. They would like to begin this project this spring.

Joe then inquired if the board had allocated all of the ARPA funds – they have a project they'd like the board to consider if not. The board has allocated a small portion for a library project so far and has voted to hold on to the remainder until the town office building is complete to have that money available for that project should the need arise. Once that project is done, the board will be revisiting all the previous asks and can consider a fire department request at that time as well.

James Reed - Fire Warden – brought up the idea of the town installing a Fire danger sign in the center of town. His past research had the price range at \$150 to \$250. Would like to know if this is something the town would be interested in researching more. The board was interested in getting updated pricing and visuals of possible signage. One obvious place to install would be the lawn of the new town office at the four corners.

INTERVIEW WITH PROSPECTIVE SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:

Herb presented James Reed and Peter Stevenson as two candidates responding to the board's call to fill the recent vacancy.

Herb started the discussion with this question, what do you bring that you feel this board needs?

Both James and Peter had an opportunity to respond with their perspectives to this first question and others posed by board members. Both candidates relayed a commitment and willingness to serve the town they love.

A general distilled flavor of the conversations is summed up below.

James has served as our Fire Warden, is on the volunteer fires department, has been on the local first response and has served on the Poultney Rescue Squad board in the past. He would like to see the town continue to move forward and has been interested in serving on the selectboard for a while. He feels he brings a different generational perspective to the table, which could enhance the current board makeup.

Peter has enjoyed working with the board on the building project and has volunteered his expertise on many prospective building projects around town over the years, including the library, the fire department, the highway garage, etc. He has a broad spectrum of experience in managing budgets and projects. He feels he's ready to serve as he's been to almost every selectboard meeting for the past three years so, he has a pretty good grasp on what's going on a daily basis with the board and knows how they solve problems.

Both Peter and James expressed their commitment to serving the town in varying ways regardless of whether they are the chosen candidate.

The board expressed their appreciation to James and Peter for their willingness to step up and to come to the table with their perspectives and enthusiasm to serve.

TOWN OFFICERS REPORTS – Town Clerk | Treasurer | DTC | Auditors | Listers | EMD | Library | Trustees of Funds | Planning Commission | Other

Town Clerk had nothing new and exciting to share. The auditor was "just auditing". The treasurer and delinquent tax collector had signed off the meeting at this point, so nothing to report.

Herb as EMD reported highlights from his attendance at a vulnerable populations meeting. One noteworthy highlight was that when Chittenden County recently tried to implement their vulnerable populations protocols during a widespread power outage – the plan was a complete failure. Bringing to the forefront a slew of real-world examples to address for future events.

Herb also reported that he disseminated this year's draft LEMP to board members for their review and reminded us that we'd need to get him any necessary or suggested changes prior to the next meeting.

TOWN HIGHWAYS

a) Road Commissioner Report

- Into the 6th mud season now trying to keep up.
- Thinks most of the frost is out of the roads at this time.

b) Other Highway Information and Concerns:

Bill reported that he investigated a potential speed sign grant with RRPC. That grant was based on helping people 50 or older and was not something we can use. Bill had some suggestions for potential sign placements and will continue to pursue other possible funding sources. He did find that pricing for solar operated signs ranges from \$5000 to \$8000.

David Wright spoke about some things happening in Tinmouth on this front. They have a speed study committee, and they are pursuing that avenue. David plans to attend their next meeting and will bring back information that might be helpful to us.

Patty brought up the unresolved service request on Spruce Knob Road. Terry & Bill visited today, it's a rough year, things are torn up everywhere. Terry didn't see anything he didn't expect to see or that he sees in other parts of the state.

Sarah asked if a board member could come to her place and listen to her concerns. Herb will meet with Sarah this weekend to look over the area and gather Sarah's perspective on the situation.

TOWN LANDS

a) Town Office Construction Update –

The board received an invoice from Naylor & Breen for panelization and deposit on ordered materials. The invoice is for \$18,178.09.

Terry moved to approve the latest requisition from Naylor & Breen in the amount of \$18,178.09 to be paid from the Bank of Middlebury, Herb 2nd. All in favor motion carried. Patty will send the invoice along to Bank of Middlebury tomorrow.

Peter reported that he received the anticipated change order reducing the amount budgeted for hazardous materials cleanup.

Herb Moved to approve change order #2 from Naylor & Breen for a deduct of \$13,092.08 and authorized Patty to sign it on behalf of the board, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

b) **Other Town Lands and Facilities:** Addressed in the Public Comments section.

SOLID WASTE: Brief discussion on prep for Large Dumpster Day, May 13, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Vermont Dept of Health – Health Officer Recommendation & Oath forms – Herb has not talked to Carl yet. Will work on that between meetings.
- Overweight Permits
 - HOP Energy / Keyser Energy w/COI & \$10
 - Johnson Energy w/COI & \$10
 - Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating w/COI & \$10
 - Steve Newton / Single Truck \$5 no COI – Patty attempted to contact will continue to try. Board will hold until COI is received.

Terry moved to approve Overweight Permits for HOP Energy/Keyser Energy, Johnson Energy and Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved Planning Commission volunteers to this space in the meeting. Tasha Turan and Steve Harrington are willing and eager to serve in these positions.

Patty moved to appoint Tasha Turan & Steve Harrington to the Planning Commission until Town Meeting 2024, Herb 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

FINANCIAL APPROVALS

a) Board Orders

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

b) Change in allocation to Poultney Rescue Squad from \$7,940 (as warned) to \$11,116 (as requested) –

Herb moved to allocate \$11,116 to Poultney Rescue Squad the difference between what was warned and what was requested will be taken out of the general budget, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

LEGAL: none

DELIBERATIONS TO FILL SELECTBOARD VACANCY THROUGH TOWN MEETING 2024

After a brief discussion:

Terry moved to appoint Peter Stevenson to fill the vacant SB seat through 2024, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Many thanks to both candidates.

OTHER BUSINESS: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION (If necessary)

Herb moved to enter Executive Session at 9:22pm inviting Bill Reed to stay, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Herb moved to exit Executive Session at 9:35pm, Terry 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

No action taken.

ADJOURN: Terry moved to adjourn at 9:36pm, Herb 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk

Next Regular Meeting – April 13, 2023