

**Middletown Springs Selectboard  
Approved Minutes  
Regular Meeting • September 28, 2023  
Start time 7pm**

**BOARD PRESENT:** At the town office: Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, Herb Childress, Peter Stevenson at 7:05pm. Via Zoom: none.

**TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT:** At the town office: Bill Reed - Road Commissioner/Road Foreman. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Kristal Hier – Library board at 7:10pm.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** At the town office: Huey Cadieux & Mike Rupe - Poultney Snowmobile Club. Via Zoom: None.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Herb called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a) Regular Meeting September 14, 2023.

Terry moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023 regular meeting as presented, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / GUESTS:** Huey & Mike asked permission to put some stone into some deep holes on the class 4 part of Dayton Hill Road so their machines can get through this winter.

There was a brief discussion on just where the snowmobiles travel on the class 4 and class 3 parts of the road. All snow machine travel happens on the class 4 section of road.

The board asked them to fill out the permission form to work in the highway right of way. Herb will email the form to Huey and he will fill it out and submit it.

Robin moved to authorize the Poultney Snowmobile Club to make improvements to the Class 4 section of Dayton Hill Road, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Aye – Robin, Terry, Patty, Herb. Abstain – Peter since he missed the beginning of the conversation.

**TOWN OFFICERS REPORTS –Treasurer | DTC | Town Clerk | Listers | EMD | Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force| Auditors | Library (see also Town Lands) | Planning Commission | Trustees of Funds | Health Office | Other**

**Library –** Kristal gave a library report regarding the purchase of St. Anne church building. The Archbishop from CT has put a hold on all real estate dealings for the diocese, so that puts the library purchase on hold until the new Bishop comes in and gets settled. The library is working on a letter to the diocese to try to persuade them to make a move/exception to put this sale in the priority column. In the meantime, the library is continuing to work toward this deal happening and on the potential capital improvement grants so that if things work out, the library will be ready to move forward quickly.

Herb mentioned that there's also a MERP assessment grant that we've applied for on the new church building. We'll keep that in pipeline as is and cross that bridge when and if the funds are awarded to us.

There was also a brief discussion about the general project and potential logistics for that building's renovation.

## **TOWN HIGHWAYS**

### **Road Commissioner Report – Bill reported:**

- Grants in Aid project on Fitzgerald Road is complete, and the initial reporting done by Stephanie @ RRPC. The project finance report will be filed once all the invoices have been received.
- Excavator rental wrinkles – the machine came damaged and needs to be repaired. Parts are on the way, working around not having it, so project still moving forward.
- Working to get ready for winter when not on the project.
- No word on the mowing machine yet, still waiting.
- Still waiting on road sand price from Casella
- One ton needs new tires (6) \$300 per tire for winter tires.
  - Patty moved to approve purchase of 6 tires for the One ton at Pete's Tire Barn, Peter 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.
- Still waiting on Dubois & King re: Daisy Hollow Road work.
- Tom Fuller says he is pretty sure he can get to our two projects this season.

### **Other Summer Work – see above.**

- **Other Highway Information and Concerns** – Herb – submitted a grant for safety signage and pavement marking – it appears that we are going to receive that grant for pavement markings for the center of town, although we haven't received the official notice.

**TOWN LANDS - Town Office Construction Update:** Naylor & Breen expects to be out of the building by Monday. There's a mechanical part that we need for the heating system to be complete. Exterior doors needed to be turned around, the locksets also still need to be changed when the correct ones arrive. On October 5, State Fire Safety will do their final inspection of the suppression system in the vault. N & B would like to schedule a meeting with the Selectboard to go over all the equipment and the use of equipment in the building. There are still some loose ends that need to be taken care of.

We received a certificate of occupancy for the building last week.

N & B sent their monthly invoice that needs to be paid, we are down to the end of the loan, so we will need to decide what fund we will take this next payment from.

Herb moved to pay Naylor & Breen Req #9 in the amount of \$222,914.36 drawing upon the Municipal Building Reserve fund, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

The board completed a custom board order for this invoice that will be given to Jenny with the regular board orders tonight.

**Town Office physical move update:** Discussion on the move tomorrow – Moving company will be here in the morning. We are pretty much set to go with many people stepping in to make sure everything is organized and ready to move.

Patty wanted to be sure that we thank Matt Kenyon for pitching in two days this week to get the land and vital records moved, helping with the heavy lifting to help make the move of the vault records go smoothly. Haley Kenyon also volunteered some hours on Wednesday helping organize the new space. The board also thanked Matt for the work on the kitchen cabinet and Patty for all the extra work in the last few weeks.

**Town Office furnishings budget and procedures:** Not addressed tonight.

**Second review of Access & Use Policy:** tabled there were a couple of clarifications asked for and questions asked. Short review. Not ready yet.

**Update on Library Planning and possible purchase of St Anne's:** Above

**Other Town Lands and Facilities:** nothing

**SOLID WASTE:** Big Dump Day. Terry, Glen, Robin, and Nita are on tap. Bill or Richie will work with the backhoe. Herb will work at the transfer station. Terry is still trying to recruit another worker.

Containers are on order to be delivered on Thursday or Friday.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- RSVP Appropriation request – same as last year.
- Email from John Weatherhogg – Copeland Cemetery Association explaining their distribution to various agencies for this year.
- FEMA letter
- Bounced \$20.00 check from transfer station – needs chasing– Herb will take care of chasing this.
- Email of September 15 from Clayton's re: 1. Replacement sign on the green – sign is now gone so not sure what's happening – tabled discussion until we know what's happening 2. Junk Ordinance – what's the status of that. 3. Bears

Herb – responded immediately to all inquiries with his knowledge of each situation. He will send an official board response to the Claytons as outlined below.

- 1. The sign.** There was a general consensus that we do not want to place the sign on the Town Office property. The building itself is a new point of pride for the community, and we don't want to obscure it from view or draw attention away from it.
- 2. The junk ordinance.** The problem with the (2017) junk ordinance was not in the nature of its wording, but in the fact that after it had been approved by the voters, it was not appropriately posted in the Rutland Herald within seven days, so that a

public comment period could officially begin. A property owner challenged the Town over the technical validity of the ordinance on that basis, and we were advised by our attorney that it was unwise for us to keep the ordinance in place with that procedural failure.

**3. Bears.** As before, the Selectboard declines to take action on bear activity. The appropriate agency for these concerns is the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. We declined to introduce a mandatory reporting requirement for Town residents, because it would be utterly impossible to enforce. In general, we've found more progress on local issues through the carrot of neighborly relations than through the stick of governmental mandate.

## **FINANCIAL APPROVALS**

### **a) Board Orders**

Terry moved to approve board orders as presented with the addition of the special N&B order approved earlier in the meeting, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

**LEGAL: Further conversation about credit card use/policy – tabled.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Patty reported that we need to set our insurance values (Contents & Building) for the new building so that VLCT can provide coverage starting tomorrow. Currently we carry \$60,000 in contents coverage and no physical structure coverage. The board agreed that we should increase contents coverage to \$70,000 and to use the building construction cost of \$1.2 million for the building value. Patty will inform VLCT of these values tomorrow to ensure proper coverage.

Herb would like to formally appreciate the historical society for making this space available to the town for decades and for making the other spaces in this building available to us when needed. An awful lot of good work has happened in this building. A perfect example of the town making due with the resources they have.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION for discussion of highway staffing:** Nothing tonight.

**ADJOURN:** Peter moved to adjourn at 9:17pm, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Patty Kenyon, Clerk

**Next Regular Meeting – 7PM Thursday, October 12, 2023**