

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes Special Budget Meeting • December 7, 2023

BOARD PRESENT: At the Town Office: Herb Childress, Terry Redfield, Patty Kenyon, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, Peter Stevenson at 7:33pm. via Zoom: none.

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Kristal Hier – Library Board. At the Town Office: Jenny Talke Munyak – Treasurer.

PUBLIC PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Herb called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

BUDGET: Primary overview, income, beginnings of Town General operations –

The board reviewed revenues and began general government expenses. There was a discussion about salary increases and agreement to plug in initial numbers factoring a 3.5% increase for all hourly and salaried positions. There was also a brief discussion on the Sheriff's line item and whether this service was worth the cost. Some research needs to be done on our obligations and possible alternatives.

Kristal would like to have the \$20,000 for library facilities put in the budget instead of on the ballot as a separate vote. She will bring the board more information on the library's budgeting and plans to the next meeting.

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:

Town Report: Patty would like some direction from the board on reporting the details of the building project in the town report. She has been tracking the different pots of money and the expenses and can put a report together, does the board want her to do that. The consensus was yes, that should be done as well as a written narrative on the process. Peter submitted a narrative a while back that can be the base, Robin and Herb will work on getting that piece ready.

Town Highways: The board had a conversation on practices for winging back snowbanks suggesting that we instruct the road crew to create a shelf then wing back above that shelf so less damage to lawns in the spring. Terry will inform the road crew that the board would like to employ this strategy for the coming season.

There was also a concern brought up about idling equipment for extensive periods of time in and around the town yard. The board member receiving the concern did some research on this practice, the advice received from professionals is that anything more than a half hour of equipment left idling can begin to cause damage to the vehicles beyond wasting fuel.

The member will have a conversation with the road foreman about the complaint and share the above information.

Setting budget board session for Thursday 12/14, 6pm – Board will start meeting at 6pm next Thursday to continue budget work.

Next regular Board meeting—7PM Thursday December 14, 2023

ADJOURN: Terry moved to adjourn at 8:48pm, Peter 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Kenyon, Clerk