

Approved

Middlesex Selectboard
Minutes of 1/10/2006

Present: Walter Kelley, June Lakin, Peter Hood, Mary Alexander, Cindy Carlson
Gary Lamell, Abe Lewis, Thea Schwartz

Called to order at 6:35 pm.

Correspondence

VLCT News

VLCT & Regional Planning Commissions Planning & Zoning Series #2

VLCT notice of Health Trust Policy Concerning Health insurance Coverage for Municipal Retirees

The Seedling Newsletter

VLCT – Life After ‘You’re Hired’ seminar

VLCT Weekly Legislative Report

U-32 notice of meeting 1/4/2006 regarding FY2007 Budget

Letter from Everett A. Kidder, Worcester Fire Department, requesting use of the extra engine to use as a pumper truck until they can replace theirs.

State of Vermont Department of Taxes Notice of Equalized Education Property Value is at 96.13%

VLCT Legislative Priorities

Health Officer Environmental Health Newsletter

Offer for Quinlan Publishing Group for Grants for Cities and Towns subscription

Superior Court of Vermont Washington County proposed budget for fiscal year 2006-2007

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of December 20,2005 minutes. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of the renewal note from Chittenden Bank in the amount of \$15,826 for the grader and in the amount of \$12,200 for the backhoe. Walter seconds.

After discussion, the Board questions the balance of the grader note. June will verify the amount before the next board meeting. Motion withdrawn.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of the Certificate of Highway Mileage as proposed by Gary. Walter seconds, motion carries.

The highway department can use the old fire truck as a chloride truck with minimal repairs. Gary will contact the town of Worcester to see if they still want to lease the truck until their engine is replaced. If Worcester leases the vehicle, it will be their responsibility to maintain insurance and make any necessary repairs to the vehicle.

There have been some engine problems with the one-ton truck, which have all been covered under the warranty.

Gary has obtained an estimate on paving; the rate has increased by \$31,000 per mile over last year's cost.

Other Business

The proposed 2006-2007 budget, which has been presented by each department, was reviewed. There is not a proposed school budget yet. There is the possibility that the school may have to hire a full time nurse, which is under discussion along with busing issues. The school is expecting an increase in the 4-6% range.

The grant received by the fire department for the purchase of equipment has an expiration date of 12/31/06. Invoices need to be submitted for reimbursement.

The town has received a copy of letter from State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs to James Colby concerning the Middlesex interchange and the "Design Guidelines"

The Board discusses development of a town policy to handle non-sufficient funds notice on any checks received. It is decided that a letter will be sent immediately to the issuer and to return their check to them. There will be further discussion when the tax bills are generated to determine if a notice should be included regarding NSF checks with the invoices.

Central VT Chamber of Commerce agenda for 1/10/06.

Copies of maps of the town's roads from AOT were reviewed that dated back to 1962. Copies of the maps will be given to Glenn Howland for his review.

Meeting adjourns at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Executive Assistant to
The Middlesex Select Board

Approved

Minutes of January 31, 2006
Middlesex Selectboard

Present: Walter Kelley, Abe Lewis, Cindy Carlson, June Lakin, Mary Just Skinner, Mary Alexander

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

The Boards adds to the agenda Zoning By-Laws and approval of the warning.

June presented an amended proposed budget for the period 7/1/06 – 6/31/07. The Health Insurance line item has been reduced because she received revised rates. A correction has been made to the Payroll Tax and Retirement line items for the Highway Department, which reduced the total budget to \$759,427. The Board discusses the possibility to increasing the Town Clerk's hours by having the office open on Fridays from 8:30 to 12:00. The additional cost to have the office open would be \$3750 per year. June agreed to this recommendation; her salary would increase 3% instead of the recommended 4% for other town employees. It is understood that if there is not enough work to justify the additional time and residents are not taken advantage of the office being open, at any time during the budget period the workweek would be reduced to 4 days. With approval of this adjustment, the total proposed budget is 763,177 or a 5% increase.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves the proposed budget in the amount of \$763,177. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Town Meeting Warning – The Board discusses the possibility of increasing the discount for early payment of property tax from the current 1.5% to 2% and increasing the interest from .5% to .7% per month if property taxes are paid late. It was noted that interest rates have increased over the past year. These proposals were adopted.

After discussion the Board decides not place in the warning the League's request to include the following: Shall the voters instruct the Governor and our State Representatives and Senators to oppose: any use of the State Education Fund for purposes that are outside the law's original intent to "make payments to school districts and supervisory unions for the support of education, the shifting of existing state general fund expense obligations to the education fund and the reduction of any existing state general fund revenue support to the education fund. "

The Cemetery Commissioners positions are discussed. The Board referred to the state statutes to determine the responsibilities and duties of the Commission. There is discussion of the possibility of changing these positions from elected to Board appointed. Also discussed whether to include a proposed budget to be included in the town budget and voted on by residents. It was noted that Commissioners are not paid a salary for their services. The Board decided to refer to the League for a recommendation on the elected versus appointed Cemetery Commissioners question. The Board will meet on February 2, 2006 to discuss this matter further.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves approval of the 2006 Town Meeting Warning as presented subject to a special meeting on February 2, 2006 concerning the possibility of adding an additional article concerning the election or appointment of Cemetery Commissioners. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Zoning Discussion – Sandy Levine’s letter concerning the proposed Zoning By-Laws presented by the Planning Commission was reviewed and discussed. The Planning Commission is divided 3 to 2 on the proposal; the main concern is the issue of density. At the public hearings held by the Planning Commission, residents expressed concern that the proposal was too restrictive for Middlesex. The Selectboard heard the same concerns at its public hearing. Residents are concerned with the permitted uses and feel the building sizes should be increased to accommodate businesses. If any substantial change is made to the Planning Commission’s proposal there is not enough time to warn revised Zoning By-Laws for vote at Town Meeting. A vote would not take place until fall at the general election. There is discussion about adopting as interim zoning some of the agreeable items until a finished draft can be prepared. The Board feels that a proposal should represent the wishes of majority of the town and would like large participation in the vote. There has been a lot of good work done by the Planning Commission to the proposal presented last fall, but the Board feels some additional adjustments need to be made. They also feel if the proposal is presented as is, the voters would defeat it.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to accept the draft regulation for the proposed Zoning By-Laws from the Planning Commission but Board will modify the proposal and hold further public hearings for a Town vote at the general election. Walter seconds, motion carries. Mary Just Skinner abstains.

A tax sale is scheduled for 2/8/2005 at the Towns Clerk’s office. The Board discusses the possibility of bidding on three properties: Alan Goldman \$4754.23, Denis Nolan \$2,767.40, John & Betty Cossett \$2,667.95.

Motion: Walter moves to give June Lakin, Town Clerk, authority to place a bid on behalf of the Town Of Middlesex on the above properties. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Other Business

An outline for the Board’s report for the Annual Report is reviewed. The Board will meet February 8, 2006 to write the Annual Report.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Medical Service from the City of Montpelier for FY 2007 & FY 2008 is discussed.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Medical Service in the amount of \$30,479.50 for the year 7/15/06 – 07 and \$32,425 for FY 08. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of the Chittenden Bank Capital Equipment Refunding Note in the amount of \$15,826 for the 1997 Caterpillar Grader and Capital Equipment Refunding Note in the amount of \$12,200 for the 1997 Caterpillar Wheel Loader Backhoe. Walter seconds, motion carries.

The cost of adding a phone line for the Fire Department to the Unicel contract is \$19.00 monthly.

Motion: Walter moves approval of overweight permits for McCullough Crushing, Inc and Allen Lumber Company, Inc. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of the January 10, 2006 minutes. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Correspondence

State of Vermont AOT – calendar year 2005 Bridge Inspection Reports

VLCT News

McKee, Giuliani & Cleveland notice of Fred Cleveland's retirement

Request from Green Mountain Relay event June 10 – 11, 2006 – The Board agrees to grant approval for this event.

State of Vermont Judicial Bureau report of collections in the amount of \$96.00

2006 Annual Report – Division of Property Valuation and Review

VLCT Weekly Legislative Report

VLCT Local Government Day in the Legislature

Revised building replacement limits were received from the League of Cities and Towns. The limits were discussed. It was decided to request the League increase the value of the Town Garage #2 to \$100,915 due to the improvements recently made to the building.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the recommended building replacement value from the League of Cities and Towns with the adjustment to the Town Garage #2 to \$100,915. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Meeting adjourns at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the Selectboard

Approved

Minutes of the Middlesex Selectboard meeting of
February 2, 2006

Present: Peter Hood, Walter Kelley, Mary Just Skinner, Cindy Carlson

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm

The Board discusses the question of elected or appointed Cemetery Commissioners. It was confirmed with the League of Cities and Towns that the Commissioners are responsible for endowments, income from lots, perpetual care and cemetery town funds in addition to maintaining the cemeteries owned by the town.

It was decided not to place the question on the Town Meeting Warning for 2006 if the Cemetery Commissioners should be appointed by the Board instead of voted on by the town.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the Town Warning as presented. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Meeting adjourns at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the Selectboard

Approved

Middlesex Select Board
Minutes of March 14, 2006

Present: Walter Kelley, Bill Callnan, Mary Just Skinner, Cindy Carlson, Mary Alexander, Peter Hood, Marge Dethloff, Kimberly Hagen, Gary Lamell, James Paige, Sherry Paige

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Correspondence

Weekly Legislative Report VLCT

Sony Electronics, Inc. – Anycast Station

Opinions Newsletter

Dopp & Dopp Associates, Inc. – advertisement

EPA Newsletter

Central Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board – notice that funding has been received to start Neighborhood Watch Program

VLCT News

Edward Jones, Mark Perry notice they have downgraded on one stock in the North Branch Cemetery Associations portfolio

Organization

Motion: Bill moves Peter Hood as the Board Chair. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves the Board Chair have voting status. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to nominate Mary Just Skinner as Vice Chair. Bill seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to hold meetings at the Town Clerk's Office on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Bill seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves that the Times Argus is the paper of record. Mary Just Sinner seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to appoint Gary Lamell as Road Commissioner. Bill seconds, motion carries.

The Conservation Commission will be asked to recommend whom to appoint for which length term. There are 1, 2 and 3-year terms open.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves Charlie Merriman, Walter Kelley, Scott Merrill, Roger Hirt and Dennis Nealon to the Board of Adjustment. Bill seconds. Motion is withdrawn; Charlie will be contacted to see if all members are interested in serving again.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to appoint Rev. Phillip Chase as the Town Service Officer. Bill seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to appoint Ronald Krauth as the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commissioner. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to appoint Mike Morrisette as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Debbie Craddock as the Wrightsville Beach District Director. Bill seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Bill moves to appoint Kevin Barrett and Greg Faber to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management and Tammy Nye as the first Health Officer and Elizabeth Forman as second Health Officer. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Previous appointments to the remaining vacancies will be asked if they want to be appointed again.

Marge Detholff and Kimberly Hagen – Town Constable complaint

Marge submitted a letter of complaint against the professionalism of the Town Constable during a recent dog bite incident at her home. Kimberly addressed the Board stating that in her opinion a Town Constable should be cool, level headed and act in a professional manner when representing the town. She has been involved in more than one situation with the Town Constable where she felt he did not act in a professional manner. Marge obtained a new dog about 3 weeks ago and has received a letter from the Town Constable giving her until March 15, 2006 to license the dog. The dog ordinance and state statutes were reviewed. The ordinance states dogs have to be licensed prior to 4/1/ of each year. An e-mail from Gabe Halberg and Rebecca Yahm was submitted to the Board expressing their concerns about the Town Constable.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner

The Board has received several complaints concerning the condition of the roads.

Gary recommends approval of a paving grant application, which will be used for Shady Rill Road to Wood Road.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to approve a Grant Application/Agreement for aid to improve a Class 2 Highway in the amount of \$16,639. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Bill moves to approve a driveway permit off the Notch Road for Steve and Darlene Martin at Gary Lamell's recommendation. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Walter moves to deny a new driveway permit for Shawn & Lee Starr based on the fact that their last driveway permit is not in compliance. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

The Fire Department has advised Gary that they will not be making any repairs to the old pump truck due to the cost. He has left messages for the Town of Worcester as they had expressed interest in the use of a truck. They have not returned his calls. Gary will get the truck started and make a determination if he can use it as a chloride truck.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Bill seconds, motion carries. Board goes into executive session at 7:50 pm.

Motion: Walter moves to come out of executive session. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Board comes out of executive session at 8:03 pm.

The Board has received a draft of the Municipal Facilities Report from Black River Design. It is suggested that the Facilities Committee review the draft and give a report to the Board. John Rahill will be asked to come to the 4/11/06 Board meeting and give an overview of the process.

Jim Paige, Town Constable and Sherry Paige

Jim Paige was advised that Marge Detholff was before the Board earlier and has filed a complaint concerning his professionalism. Marge's letter was discussed along with the e-mail to the Board and other residents that have spoken to members of the Board. Jim has reviewed the letter and feels that it is a personal vendetta due to neighborly disputes prior to him becoming Town Constable. Jim feels that he handled the situation with the dog bite incident at Marge's property in the correct manner. He tried to contact her several times after the hospital and animal clinic were unsuccessful in reaching Marge. The dog was unlicensed and he was asked to obtain vaccination records for the dog. He left messages and made a visit to her house when she didn't return his calls. He did not issue a ticket for keeping a vicious dog on Marge's property.

Jim was asked if he advised Marge to license her new dog by 3/15/06. He did advise her of this, but also stated that if she decided not to keep the animal, he would only request that she show proof of vaccinations due to the recent dog bite incident at her property. Since she did not provide the documentation, he sent the letter with the deadline for license.

The Board feels that giving the history in the neighborhood, these situations interfere with his ability to do the job of Town Constable. Jim states that he has not had other complaints about his ability either outside his neighborhood or in his previous employment as a deputy game warden or at Norwich University. Jim feels that he is able to separate a dispute with his neighbors from his capacity as Constable. Jim states that he feels that it is typical for a person who has had a complaint filed against them for a dog issue to have an issue with the Constable. The Board is concerned with Jim's response to meeting with Marge tonight, in that he requested to come before the Board at a different time. The Board feels that the tone of his voice and correspondence offends people. The timeline for licensing of dogs was discussed.

Motion: Bill moves to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Walter seconds, motion carries. Mary Alexander abstains. Jim and Sherry Paige are invited into executive session at 8:50 pm.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to come out of executive session. Walter seconds, motion carries.

The Board comes out of executive session at 9:10

Jim Paige has resigned and the Board accepted his resignation. The Board thanked Jim for his past service and they appreciate the efforts he brought to the job and for coming to the meeting to discuss the complaint.

All orders were signed with the exception of an order for Kellogg Hubbard Library which cannot be paid until 7/1/06, as it is part of the 2006 budget.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to appoint Ron Morissette as the Town Constable. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

The minutes for the 2006 Annual Town meeting 3/7/06 were deferred until the next Board meeting.

Motion: Bill moves approval of the minutes of 2/14/06. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

Overweight Permits

Ultramar, Darcy Nelson, Black Rock Coal, Inc., Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Thomson Timber Harvesting & Trucking LLC, Walker Construction, Inc., R.P. Frost, Inc. dba Vermont Well & Pump, S.T. Griswold & Company, Inc., Donald Giroux's Trucking, LLC, Kingsbury construction Cop., Inc., Pike Industries, Inc.,

Motion: Bill moves to accept all the above overweight permits with the exception of RP. Frost, Inc., whose certificate of insurance is not in order. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

The Board discusses a time line to update the proposed zoning bylaws. The Planning Commission will be consulted.

It was reported that Ron Gilles has been reviewing the documentation concerning the town right-of-way on the Flanagan/Austin property and feels he has about half a day of work remaining to do.

Meeting adjourns at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the Select Board

Approved
Minutes of the
Middlesex Select Board
Meeting of 3/28/2006

Present: Walter Kelley, Peter Hood, Cindy Carlson, Mary Just Skinner, Bill Rossmassler, Dave Shepard, Barry Goodman, Heather Furman, Libby Towne, Doug Lombard, Joe Segale, David Saladino, Kate, Don Wexler, Ron Morissette

Traffic Calming Study Update Public Meeting #2

The purpose of the study is to consider enhancements for traffic calming in the village area. The study area includes Route #2 north of Camp Meade, through the village and past the Route #100B intersection. A traffic study was completed in October, 2005. Based on this study the first recommendation is to reduce speed through this section to 30mph. It is also recommended to install gateway signs, and some raised dividers entering town to close off the wide sections entering the village area. One suggestion is to widen the culvert entering town near Camp Meade and installing a pedestrian bridge across the stream. The estimated cost of this portion of the project would be \$175,000.

Comments: Members of the public did not feel that there is enough pedestrian traffic to justify the expense of a footbridge and would rather see the shoulders widened.

In the section south of the Depot building to Church Street the recommendation is to install sidewalks on one side of the road, with a crossing at the depot building. This would require construction of a retaining wall and construction of sidewalks at the road level along the right (south) side of the road. There is not a safe way to have pedestrians cross the road if the sidewalk was built along the left (north) side of the road. There was also discussion of moving the road with a change to the centerline to widen the shoulders. When the new bridge was installed to cross the river to Moretown, there was discussion of narrowing the entrance to Church Street. If this were done, V-Trans requirements must be met. There is a good argument that Church Street could be narrowed now that the road is dead-ended. The estimated cost of this section of the project would be \$120,000.

Comments: It was suggested that some lighting be extended to this section. Residents feel lighting will give the effect of entering a village and traffic may slow entering the village.

In the section from Church Street to the store, the sidewalk would continue on the right side of the road to the bridge. A raised treatment would be used in the store parking lot, with the possibility of a bus stop and an information booth. The estimated cost for this portion of the project would be \$150,000 - \$200,000.

Comments: It was noted that the Feasibility Committee is reviewing the need for town buildings. One of the items for consideration is the use of the town owned land behind the store to be used for a combined fire station/town hall. If the land were used for a new municipal building there would not be enough room for this option. It was suggested that a raised crosswalk at the store to cross the road would slow traffic coming around the corner.

The last section is the intersection of RT #2 and 100B. Ideas for a roundabout, an all way stop or a raised splitter island were discussed. The estimated cost for a roundabout is \$200,000 and an all way stop is approximately \$12,000. The installation of light across the bridge from 100B, additional gateway signs, an island splitter and continuation of the sidewalk to the canoe portage were discussed. The estimated cost of this portion would be \$143,000.

Comments: There was discussion of traffic from Montpelier. It would not have to slow much to use a roundabout and a roundabout takes away from the intimacy of a pedestrian village. Residents stated there is not a lot of foot traffic through the village as it is not safe to walk. There is a fair amount of bike traffic.

These projects would be done in two phases. There is Vermont Transportation funding available along with funds from the By-Ways Program. The next step for the project is to revise the plans and provide cost estimates. VTrans would review the project and make recommendations. A final report will be developed and will be completed for the end of the contract, which is 6/30/06.

Ron Morissette, Town Constable

The general duties of the Town Constable were discussed with Ron when Peter spoke with him regarding accepting the position of the Constable. The Board reiterated that Ron is not to carry any weapons and that the State Police are to be called in on any parties, domestic disputes, speeding etc. Any health issues need to be coordinated with the health officers. The junk ordinance and dog ordinance were discussed. The goal of the constable is to manage the dog situation, to work on the junk ordinance as time allows, and to respond to complaints as they arise.

The town will pay ½ of the basic charge for his cell phone and Ron is to provide quarterly updates to the board.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the minutes of 3/14/06. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the minutes for Town Meeting 3/7/06. Walter seconds motion carries.

The Board discusses the possibility of a committee to develop a plan for the pandemic bird flue virus at the recommendation of those who spoke at Town Meeting. It was suggested that Mike Morissette, Barbara Whitchurch and David Feldman might be interested in serving on the Committee.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to appoint to a Town of Middlesex Pandemic Virus Committee, with initial members Mike Morissette, Barbara Whitchurch and David Feldman, and that a notice be placed in the Middlesex Newspaper to see other members of the community might participate. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Correspondence

Marble Valley Reprographics Inc. advertisements

Copy of letter sent to Sean Starr concerning the denial of the driveway permit

Weekly Legislative Report

Agency of Transportation notice of Hazardous Chemicals/ Substance stored at the 6 maintenance garages and the office location in District No 6

State of Vermont Department of Public Safety Vermont Emergency Management Contact information

Lefavour P.C. results of the excavation of test pits around the town hall

Copy of VTrans Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways for 7/01/06 – 6/30/07

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the Town Highways Plan for 7/1/06 – 6/30/06 as recommended by Gary. Walter second,s motion carries.

Overweight permits

Vermont Hauling Inc., Dennis Demers, Harrison Redi-Mix Corp, Richmond Home Supply, Gregory Supply Company, Inc., Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc., Limlaw Pulpwood, Inc., Green Mountain Power Corporation, Champlain Construction Co., Inc/Bear Dog, Gillespie Fuels & Propane, Inc./Randolph Coal & oil, Bourne’s Inc. / Propane, Scott A. Brown, R. P. Frost, Inc. dba Vermont Well & Pump, Sundown Corporation. All Certificates in order except Vermont Hauling Inc.,

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the overweight permits with the exception of Vermont Hauling. Walter seconds, motion carries.

All orders signed.

A replacement laptop will be ordered along with a complete version of Office program for Cindy Carlson, Assistant to the Selectboard. . The cost will be allocated to the assistant’s line item.

Vermont Department of Public Safety Traffic Control and Security Services Contract for 7/1/06 – 6/30/06

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the speed enforcement contract at the new rate of \$5,000 per year. Walter seconds, motion carries.

The History of Middlesex book, written by Patty Willey and Sarah Seidman was discussed. It was suggested there be a resolution to Sara and Patty of the Middlesex Historical Society or dedicate next year’s town report to them.

Meeting adjourns at 9: 15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the
Middlesex Select Board

Approved

Minutes of the Middlesex Select Board
April 11, 2006 Meeting

Present: Walter Kelley, Bill Callnan, Mary Just Skinner, Cindy Carlson, Mary Alexander, Peter Hood, Karen Greenwood, John Rahill, Steve Martin, Dick Alderman, Mike Patterson, Paul Zabriski, Gary Lamell

Meeting called to order at: 6:30 pm.

Town Feasibility Study

John Rahill, Black River Design and the Feasibility Committee

The Town Feasibility Study Draft report was reviewed. The report proposes options to meet the needs of the Town Offices, Fire Department, Road Department, a Town Meeting Place and the Historical Society. A final draft will be prepared after this meeting to be presented by the Board at public hearing. The report included estimated costs for each proposal. The septic capacity on the lower land in the village, owned by the town, has minimal septic capacity. A building designed to accommodate 300 people, has to have a septic system adequate for 300 people on a daily basis, even if the building will only be used for this number of people on a limited basis. The report does not address ongoing operational costs or the difference for construction of a building with a meeting space above a fire station. Construction of a public space above or attached to a garage adds substantially to the construction cost. The Committee recommended that the Town not build a functional fire station since as these types of buildings are difficult to insulate. After heating & ventilating systems and finished space is completed, the costs are similar to framed fire station construction.

A lower cost option for an alternate meeting space is to improve the multi-purpose room at Rumney to accommodate a meeting space. The septic system is adequate to support a meeting room and additional parking at the town garage with a walk through to the school would be available. Child Care would be on site, and the Middlesex United Methodist Church could continue to host the dinner at the school. With this option, the town offices could be moved to the upstairs of the existing Town building and the current town offices could be used for the Historical Society. A new fire station could be constructed on the town owned land behind the Country Store.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner, advises that the town will need to construct a covered salt/sand shed. The State of Vermont will mandated this type of construction within 3-4 years. Currently there is grant money available for these buildings. The Highway Department could also use another bay on the garage to provide storage area for equipment, and a wastewater disposal area.

The draft report has been based on a 5-10 year plan.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioners

Residents have spoken to the Board complaining that roads are being widened as the roads are graded. When the roads are soft, traffic tends to travel to the outer edge, which is some of the reason for the wider roads. The road can be brought in as grading is done and the roads will be maintained at the standard width. The 2000 truck is due to be traded in the next budget period. Gary will obtain bids for a tandem truck for

comparison. Since the 2000 truck has had some major repairs made to it, an inventory will be done with the possibility of keeping it for another year along with the bids for a replacement truck.

Gary Lamell recommends that the access for the bandstand be relocated to the fire station. A walk through can be put in at a lower access place. The Committee is going to do some signage for a memorial of the bandstand. Costs to install a low fence around the Ed Weed tree and monument will be obtained for future discussion. Landscaping and gardening proposals will be presented to the Board for their review in the future.

Other Business

Appointment of officers

The Conservation Commission has two vacancies this year. They will make recommendations to the Board to fill these spots.

Motion: Bill moves to appoint Walter Kelley, Scott Merrill, Charles Merriman, Roger Hirt and Dennis Nealon to the Board of Adjustment. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

The Board is seeking members for the Budget Committee.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the minutes of 3/28/06. Walter seconds, motion carries.

The furnace malfunctioned recently at the Town Hall. The office was closed for a few hours and repairs have been made to the furnace. There was discussion that the door to the boiler room has been left open and it should be closed at all times.

Driveway Permits

Motion: Bill moves approval for the driveway permits for: Sarah Seidman, Sean & Leigh Starr, Charles & Jeanne Evans. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to accept the 2006 Liquor License Renewal Application for Middlesex Country Store. Bill seconds, motion carries.

Overweight Permits

Motion: Bill moves approval of Overweight permits for: Newton Construction, LLC, Willie's Village Auto, Duane Wells Construction, Inc., E. E. Packard Enterprises, Inc., Vermont Hauling, Inc. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Correspondence

George D. Aiken, RC&D bulletin

VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs – 2005 Project Completion Achievement notification for the completion of the Community Capital Revolving Loan Fund Grant

Capital Shuttle schedule

U-32 Senior Project/Community Service Project

VLCT Weekly Legislative Report

VLCT News

Letter from Black River Design concerning the Draft Facilities Report

TD Banknorth Inc., 2005 Summary Annual Report

CT Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board minutes of March 21, 2006

VLCT 2007 Legislative Policy Development

NESEC News

VLCT presents Conducting Effective Tax Appeals seminar 5/11/06

The Seedling Newsletter

Certificate of Liability Insurance from Road Runners club of America

The special vote is being held on 4/25/06 for the school, which the expenses are allocated to the town budget.

Meeting adjourns at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the
Middlesex Select Board

Approved

Middlesex Selectboard
Minutes of April 25, 2006

Present: Walter Kelley, Cindy Carlson, Bill Callnan, Mary Alexander, Mary Just Skinner

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Other Business

The Court has granted Flanagan/Austin an order to dismiss the town's counter-claim concerning the town's right-of-way through their property. There is a discovery schedule where all written discovery is to be completed and a mediator/arbitrator/or evaluation will be scheduled prior to 10/1/06. This evaluation can be extended if motion is filed prior to 9/1/2006.

The Town's March 30, 2006 financial report was reviewed and discussed. The Administration salary is favorable and the Highway Department may exceed its total budget. These two items will be discussed with June Lakin, Town Treasurer.

Motion: Bill moves to accept the Liquor License for Camp Meade Diner.
Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Bill moves approval of the following overweight permits: Michael Molleur, Dale E. Percy, Inc., Cox Trucking Inc., Clement cox, RG Paving Inc., Ray LaPerle, Dubois Construction, Inc., Lajeunesse Construction, Inc., Paul Garcia, Ran-Mar, Inc., Mclure Moving 7 storage DBA Excel Transport Inc. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Correspondence:

Minutes from the Cemetery Commissioners - 3/16/06, 3/27/06, 4/17/06, 4/11/06
Copies of the minutes were given to each board member. After a quick review of the minutes the Board states they are very appreciative of the work being done by the new commissioners.

Timberline Events notice of their event for 6/10/06 & 6/11/06

Notice of services provided by VLCT

Northeast Municipal Forum April Edition

VLCT Weekly Legislative Report

Notice from State of Vermont Department of Public Safety Audit Finding concerning The Middlesex Fire Department and Fast Squad's Awards under Homeland Security Equipment Grant 2004. The Board directed a letter be went addressing their concerns.

Opinions Newsletter

Meeting adjourns at 7:05 pm.

Approved

Middlesex Selectboard
Meeting of 7/11/2006

Present: Walter Kelley, Bill Callnan, Cindy Carlson, June Lakin, Peter Hood, Mary Just Skinner, Mary Alexander, Gary Lamell, John Krezinski, Bill Rossmassler

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Correspondence

Spanish Language Immersion For Law Enforcement – October 9 – 19, 2006

Middlesex Cemetery Commissioners minutes of 6/21/2006

Department of Information & Innovation Office of the Commissioner – Community Broadband Grant Program for 2006

VLCT News

How to Find Ancient Roads sent and written by Attorney Paul Gillies

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the overweight permit for GET Trucking Inc. Bill seconds, motion carries.

The Board discusses hiring Olsen's Extreme Clean to clean the town hall on a regular schedule. The Board agreed to have them clean the downstairs twice a month and the upstairs once per month upstairs at a rate of \$40 per hour.

Tax Rate Discussion

The total municipal tax effort is \$634,143.82. This represents a 5% increase for the 2006 – 2007 budget period. The Board discusses the residential and non-residential tax rate that will be needed to cover the general government budget. The tax rate will increase 5% over last year's rate of \$1.97 to 1.98 for residential and 1.91 to \$1.95 for the non-residential rate. The general government rate will go from .43 to .45. The State of Vermont Education rate for residential is \$1.53 and the non-residential rate is \$1.50.

Motion: Bill moves to increase the municipal tax rate to .45 as discussed. Walt seconds, motion carries.

The Board agrees to break for 15 minutes during the next meeting on July 25, 2006 to allow the Board of Abatement to meet.

All orders signed.

John Krezinski – Zdon Road

John requests that the town upgrade approximately 670' at the end of Zdon Road from a Class 4 to a Class 3. The road has been improved to town specifications at his expense with a turn around at the end. The road was surveyed and recorded before the work was started. John has consulted and worked with both June and Gary during the process. The other landowners will be notified the Board is considering upgrading the road. Gary recommends that the road be improved, it will be easier to turn around and maintenance costs will be minimal, there will be additional state highway funding.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner

A grant application to replace the culvert at Bridge #3 on the Brook Road was signed. The road will be closed for two weeks some time late August or early September while work is being completed.

The gravel has been tested at Andy Emerson's property; the supply is not sufficient. The loader is in the shop for brake repairs. The estimated cost of the repairs is \$6,000. Gary has consulted with the landowner on Portal Road concerning how to repair damage caused by the recent landslide. This year's winter sand is ready and the road crew continues to grade the roads.

Bill Rossmassler, Conservation Commission

The Middlesex Conservation Commission received an application to apply for conservation status for the property at the end of the Notch Road. The landowners have also submitted an application for funding to The Forest Legacy Fund. It is the property owners plan to sell 20.1 acres and to hold onto approximately 50 acres. The remaining acres 393 acres would be placed into the Forest Legacy program. An ancient road, which would give the state access for logging purposes, is being researched. This application will be submitted under Friends of the Worcester Range in conjunction with a separate application for a Stowe property owner. There has not been a request for funding from the Middlesex Conservation Fund from the property owners.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to accept and approve the Middlesex Conservation Fund Application for Eleanor Ott & Cynthia Steed. Mary Just Skinner seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to accept the June 28, 2006 minutes. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

There has been no action on the Linda Simpson case, per the court records.

A sample definition for Elderly Housing Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission was reviewed. Calais and Montpelier's definition of restaurants was discussed. The League of Cities and Towns was also consulted for information on limiting the number of seats or square footage of a restaurant.

Walt will continue to work on an estimate for bids to paint the outside of the Town Hall.

The fence at the Ed Weed Memorial will be in place within 2 weeks. The Board discusses placement of entrance signs. Estimates will be obtained for these signs.

Meeting adjourns at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the
Middlesex Select Board

Approved

Middlesex Select Board
Minutes of 10/10/2006

Present: Walter Kelly, Mary Just Skinner, Peter Hood, Cindy Carlson, Gary Lamell, Mary Alexander, John Puleio, Betsy Shapiro, Elliot Burg

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner

The replacement of the culvert on the Brook Road is on schedule, the road should be open next week. The crew continues to do ditching and is ready for the winter season. One of the trucks is in for a possible head gasket replacement.

The Board discusses upcoming meetings. There will not be a meeting held 10/24/2006, as there will not be a quorum.

Correspondence

From Watershed to Well Fall 2006 newsletter

Audit Engagement Letter dated June 30, 2006 from William Yacavoni

Vermont Cemetery Association Newsletter

Revolt & Repeal – letter to enlist support regarding repealing the statewide property tax

State of Vermont District #5 Environmental Commission – I-89 Ledge Work, Town of Middlesex

Letter of introduction from Vision Appraisal Technology

VLCT presents Municipal Budgeting and Finance seminary 11/2/06

VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force – Wildland Fire Gear Available

Article concerning towns billing for fire department fees

Other Business

McGee, Guiliani and Cleveland has submitted a letter to the Town Tax Collector advising there will be a 15% legal fee as part of the tax collection process.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to authorize Elizabeth McGill of McGee, Giuliani & Cleveland to act on the town of Middlesex to collect delinquent property tax and include a flat 15% of the tax amount plus reimbursement of any advanced charges for advertising or recording as long as she is the attorney for the town of Middlesex conducting tax sales for the town pursuant to 32 VSA sec. 5258. And further we request she send two copies of the tax sales summaries: one to the Town Treasurer and the second directly to the Select Board. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

Bandstand Committee - John Puleio, Betsy Shapiro, Elliot Burg

The Committee thanks the Board for their support of the Band Stand and a special thanks to Bill Callnan for his continued support over the past year. Bill has advised the Committee that he will step down from his role. The Committee has been asked by a local gardening club if a garden can be created on the property. The Board discusses keeping any gardens on a small scale, with minimum maintenance and with the idea the property can be converted back to lawn if need be. The master gardeners will guarantee their service for 5-year period. There has been some Board concern regarding the addition of a garden as a memorial.

The Committee has discussed potential traffic control for future concerts to include the possibility of signs, traffic tape, and more volunteer services. They asked if the Town Constable could assist, which the Board agreed to, with funding from the concerts to reimburse for the Constable expenses. The Committee would also like to rent the bandstand and will develop a written set of rules as well as a hold-harmless agreement. There was discussion of who would monitor events. The Board will and will have the events approved at a Board meeting.

There is discussion of whether to allow alcohol during the bandstand functions. The Board prefers not to have the Town Constable enforce alcohol issues. The Committee will review how other towns handle these situations.

There is discussion of accessing the bandstand and how to get equipment to the site. Equipment was transported by hand this summer and it was difficult. It was suggested the Committee talk to the Road Commissioner concerning his recommendations about a second access and come back to the Board.

The Committee was advised that a tree was available and they were going to ask the Board's approval to plant the tree. It was noted that the tree had been ordered and an invoice in the amount of \$125 is in the order to be charged to the Conservation Commission budget. The tree has been delivered and a plan has not been put in place for the planting of the tree. The Bandstand Committee will contact the Conservation Commission and ask for their assistance in planting the tree.

All orders were signed.

Mary Alexander reports that she has been contacted regarding construction of a garage without a permit. The Zoning Administrator has contacted them and is in the process of sending out a violation letter. There is a possibility that there may be a setback issue, which will have to go before the Board of Adjustment.

Mary Alexander updates the Board on the Kellogg-Hubbard Library as a result of attending two of their budget meetings. The Library will petition the Town of Middlesex to approve \$20,000 in the next budget period. They applied for a grant in the amount of \$50,000, which they did not receive, and their donations have been down. Their proposed budget was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the Middlesex Select Board

Approved

November 14, 2006

Minutes of the Middlesex
Select Board

Present: Walter Kelly, Cindy Carlson, Peter Hood, Gary Lamell, Mary Just Skinner, Mary Alexander, Abe Lewis

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

There has been an invoice submitted from Sunwise Surveying in the amount of \$5,002.50. This is work that has been completed in conjunction with the Flanagan/Austin property as an expert to survey the road. The Board is concerned with the amount of the bill. The Board decides to pay ½ of the invoice from the discretionary fund and ask Paul Gilles concerning the final work product.

Gary Lamell, Highway Department

Gary submits a proposed highway budget for 2007 – 2008 in the amount of \$409,650 which represents a 2 ¼% increase. The cost of paving has substantially increased over the current budget period. A 3% salary increase has been calculated into the proposed budget. Winter and Summer Maintenance line items do not reflect an increase in funding, which Gary feels he can work with. A 5-year road plan was submitted. The engine in the truck has been repaired at a cost of \$2,200.

The Board discusses equipment purchases and the possibility of investing town funds. Abe Lewis suggests that an appraisal be done on the backhoe and grader.

Other Business

Motion: Mary Alexander moves approval of the Verizon petition and order for Job #9AAT8H, File #06-375 TEL RTE 1-10-8 & 1-10, Center Rd., Middlesex VT at Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner, recommendation. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to accept the Audit Engagement Letter from William Yacavoni, Certified Public Accountant in the amount of \$2,450.00, dated 9/27/2006. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to ratify the submission by Peter Hood as Chair of the Select Board of the application for Ancient Road Research and Mapping Grant Program in the amount of \$5,000 dated 11/5/06. Walter seconds, motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves that Michael Levine has permission to remove fallen brush and trees per his 10/30/06 letter. Mary Alexander seconds, motion carries.

A request from Owen Ward asking for the town policy on removing brush and fallen trees from blocked trails. Gary will be asked to look into further.

All orders signed.

Correspondence

VLCT notice of annual membership meeting 11/18/2006

Minutes from Central VT State Police community Advisory Board 10/17/06

State of Vermont Department of Taxes notice concerning SPANS submitted showing individuals who have not filed a homestead declaration.

VT State Police contract summary for the month of September 2006

Central VT Regional Planning Commission notice of grant funding under the Brownfield Initiative.

VLCT News October and November editions

Opinions Newsletter

VLCT notice of Select Board Forum 12/9/2006

Notice of date change for Revolt & Repeal new conference to 10/18/2006

VLCT notice of Planning for Ancient Highways 11/14/2006

VLCT Education Finance Reform notice

VLCT notice of Status Report on 2007 Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance Rates

VLCT Planning and Zoning Forum 11/16/2006

Letter from William Bartlett concerning Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations

VLCT Preliminary Unemployment Rate Assessment for 2007

Letter of introduction from Antioch New England Institute

Washington County Annual Report

Letter from VPIRG asking the town to consider passing a resolution to protect residents from mercury exposure in fish.

Meeting adjourns at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the Select Board

Approved

Minutes of the Middlesex Select Board

December 12, 2006

Present: Walter Kelley, Bill Callnan, Cindy Carlson, June Lakin, Peter Hood, Mary Alexander, Abe Lewis, Mary Just Skinner, Mark Tillinghast, Elisabeth Fortman, Jeff Koonz, Jeremy Goff, Kate Scott, Zach Tallinghast

Meeting called to order at: 6:40 pm

The Ancient Roads Grant that the town applied for has been approved in the amount of \$5000

Budget 2007-2008

The Conservation Commission submitted a proposed budget in the amount of \$1,000. They have requested that funds be set aside this year for the Tree Warden due the possibility of potential tree related projects in town in the amount of \$1,000. They have also requested a special article amount for the conservation fund in the amount of \$5,000.

The Middlesex Recreation Field submitted a proposal in the amount of \$2,400. The tennis court needs to be re-sealed this year and the proposal includes projected increased costs for the resealing.

The Planning Commission submitted a proposed budget in the amount of \$2,075.

The Middlesex Fire Department submitted a proposed budget in the amount of \$32,000. The Fire Department will start fund raising for a new pumper truck in 2010. Engine #2 will need to be replaced. The current pumper is a 1981 model. The issue of Dry Hydrants was discussed; there have been reports that residents have contacted the Fire Department with no response. The Fire Department is asked to coordinate installation of these hydrants. There is discussion of accelerating the current payment of the fire truck debt, as the Town cannot afford debt service on two trucks at the same time. The Board would like a report showing how many calls the Fire Department has responded to and a purchase schedule for future trucks/equipment. The Fire Department is in the process of doing research on billing for fire department service charges.

Health Insurance

A comparison of current Blue Cross rates was made to the proposed Cigna, MVP and AIVIS Blue Cross Blue Shield rates. After discussing these plans, it was decided to proceed with a proposal from L. Samuel Miller, AVIS for Blue Cross/Blue Shield VT Freedom plan with an increase in the deductible to \$500.

There was discussion of the current town policy for vacation and sick days. The current plan gives 1 day per month earned for both sick and vacation with a 20-day cap on vacation and no cap on sick days. This will be reviewed again after the budget is finalized.

The Board decided not to meet again until 1/9/2007.

The Zoning Administrator is working on new zoning applications and will present them to the Board on 1/9/2007. A new fee schedule will be developed as well. There was discussion of issuing a certificate of occupancy on permits that were approved prior to the adoption of the new zoning by-laws. This will be discussed further at the 1/9/2007 meeting.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the minutes of 11/14/2006. Walter seconds; motion carries.

Motion: Mary Just Skinner moves to approve the minutes of 10/10/2006. Mary Alexander seconds; motion carries.

All orders signed

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage for year ending February 10, 2007 as completed and recommended by Gary Lamell, Road Commissioner. Bill seconds; motion carries.

Correspondence

Opinions Newsletter

NESEC News

Notification of Regional Hurricane Tabletop Exercise 1/20/2007

The Seedling Newsletter

Letter from Middlesex Conservation Commission regarding vacancies on the Commission

Barre Town Newsletter

Superior Court of Vermont – notice of pre-budget meeting

George D Aiken RC&D notice

Letter from James Colby concerning Zoning Regulations and town highway #34

Other Business

Motion: Mary Alexander moves to appoint Cindy Carlson, as Assistant Zoning Administrator. Bill seconds, motion carries.

The Town Meeting Solutions Committee feel there may not be broad enough participation in the town budget process at the Town Meeting. The Committee suggested holding some meetings to promote the process in smaller groups. There was discussion of the possibility of holding a public hearing as part of the budget process.

Meeting adjourns at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Carlson
Assistant to the
Middlesex Select Board