Select Board Members
X Liz, Scharf, Chair
X Randy Drury, Vice Chair
X Vic Dwire
_Peter O. Hood
X Zara Vincent

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Liz Scharf. Vice Chair Randy Drury. Select Board members Vic Dwire, and Zara Vincent* (Chair of the Town Roads Subcommittee). Road Commissioner/Foreman/Fire Chief Eric Metivier. MVFD President Jeff Koonz. EMC Steve Dennis. Budget Committee Chair Mark Harris and committee member Elias Gardner. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes, and the meeting was recorded by ORCA. (*indicates attended via Zoom)

Call to Order

Liz called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.
MOTION: Randy moved, and Vic seconded approving the minutes for the November 12, 2023, Middlesex Special Select Board meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were signed by those present.
MOTION: Randy moved to approve the amended agenda for the November 19, 2024, meeting; Vic seconded. The motion passed.

Highway Report

Eric submitted his weekly highway report. He said Lafeyette Highway Specialties will install guard rails. Tuesday paving will begin on Shady Rill.
Vic said a resident asked about a squash culvert on East Hill near Carr Cemetery. He asked about who determines the depth and elevation of the culvert. Eric said the State determines the dimensions of the culvert.
Zara explained the drone seen scoping out Brook Road was paid for by a $7,000 grant. Its purpose was to assess how the brook has changed over the last two flooding events. The previous drone study was done in 2023.
Zara said she and Eric met with new the new FEMA reps. The committee has submitted $155,624 to FEMA for reimbursement of repairs on Brook Road and $754,759 for repairs on East Hill. She noted these are still 2023 projects. The committee is working on wrapping up Center Road for a total of $791,921.

MVFD Monthly Report

Jeff said the Fire Department is up to 96 calls this year with 6 more weeks to go. (See report attached.)
Liz asked that the Emergency Management Committee meet and sign up with VT Alert to designate a committee member to send out local alerts. Steve said he's already set up to issue alerts on VT Alert, but that Eric would be ideal to send out alerts for any road issues.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FY26

The Board reviewed a proposed budget from the MVFD. Liz noted there's no new heating system budgeted for the fire station. She's asked the Energy Committee to get some quotes for one that's more energy efficient for the Town and maybe for the MVFD. The Town will not be receiving any money from MERP. If it's falling apart this year, then a new system should be in the FY26 budget. Jeff said the last estimate a few years ago was around $14,000 for a propane on-demand system which heats the stations radiant-heat floor. Eric requested that the committee also look at the Highway Garage's heating system as well.
Zara said when discussing adding a Town Administrator to the staff, the Board should discuss the Town facilities. Maybe reconvening in 2025 to consider all options or a $5 million for new Town garage and combining the office and highway into one building. At the very least, Town Hall needs radon mitigated and needs heat.
The Board reviewed the Middlesex Bandstand's request: $2,000 for general support of the summer series.

OTHER BUSINESS

All orders were signed.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed Sandy Levine's note that Elle O'Casey was resigning from the Planning Commission. The Board accepted her resignation with regret and gratitude, thanking her for her service.
MOTION: Randy moved and Zara accepted Elle O'Casey's resignation from the Planning Commission and directed that a Notice of Vacancy be posted so Middlesex voters could apply to serve in her place until the March 2026 Town Meeting. The motion passed.

Radon mitigation: following the unsuccessful bond vote that would have paid for Town Hall renovations, Liz said she reached out to several places about radon mitigation. She doesn't know what the cost are going to be. The Board approved going forward.

Municipal survey: Liz noted VLCT has sent a survey to local legislative bodies asking for input on local option taxes, pilot funds, housing, Act 250 and regionalization of emergency services. In order to comply with VLCT's request that only one Board member act as point person for the survey, the Board members agreed to send their opinions to Sarah who would compile them in a response.

Liz discussed brainstorming with a member of Moretown's government about possibly sharing a Town Administrator who would handle grants. (Liz asked that this be added to the Board's annual list of goals.)

She noted there's a very big difference between a Town Manager and Town Administrator who potentially could relieve the foreman of paperwork duties as well. The Board would like to discuss this on December 3rd and invite Moderator Susan Clark.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON DECEMBER 3, 2024.

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LIZ SCHARF, CHAIR

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RANDY DRURY, VICE CHAIR

_____
VIC DWIRE

_____N/A_____
PETER HOOD

_____
ZARA VINCENT

19 Nov MVFD Meeting Notes

Total calls this year: 96
Calls during this period: 9
Mutual Aid out: 3
Mutual Aid in: 0
Max members respond: 8
Min members respond: 3
Avg members respond: 5.66

E-1 out 6 times
E-6 out 0 times
T-1 out 3 times
R-1 out 2 time
Tk-14 out 0 times
POV out 1 times

29 Oct, I-89 SB mm 57, Car on roof, E-1, T-1, 7 responders
30 Oct, River Road, Smell of fuel oil, Furnace malfunction, E-1, 3 responders
MA out Moretown
04 Nov, Jones Brook Rd, Unpermitted burn, E-1, 6 responders
MA out Moretown, Moretown K-1 canceled Middlesex response
08 Nov, Upper Sunny Brook Road, CO alarm, false alarm, E-1, 3 responders
11 Nov, I-89 NB mm 55.2, Car into ledges, E-1, 7 responders
Initial call was for location in Montpelier, ended up being in Middlesex.
14 Nov, Dowsville Road Duxbury, Structure fire, T-1, 4 responders
MA out Duxbury
17 Nov, US Rt 2 Middlesex/Montpelier line, Structure fire, E-1, T-1, 8 responders
18 Nov, US Rt 2, Middlesex/Montpelier line, Structure fire rekindle, Canceled by P-8, 3 responders
18 Nov, US Rt 2 Middlesex/Montpelier line, Initially FS call, Traffic control no patient contact. POVs, 4 responders

FAST Sq:
18 total for the reporting period
2 medical only calls

Training: Pump operations

Repairs:

Purchases: Pager

DRAFT