Select Board Members
_x_Liz Scharf, Chair
_x_Zara Vincent, Vice Chair*
_x_ Stacey Skadberg
_x_ Larry Rooney
_x_ Paul Cerminara*
*via zoom

Middlesex Special Select Board Meeting
January 16, 2026
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Cheryl Grandfield, Kevin Thompson, Dorinda Crowell

9:30 a.m.

- **Motion to approve amended agenda for January 16, 2026.** Larry moved, Stacey seconded, motion carried.

- **Discussion of requesting town vote on transitioning Municipal Treasurer to an appointed position**
  - SB previously approved a warning for upcoming town meeting asking voters whether they would authorize the SB to appoint a town clerk pursuant to 17 V.S.A § 2651e and now considers a similar warning for the position of Town Treasurer pursuant to 17 V.S.A § 2651f.
  - Kevin Thompson offered feedback that, while not opposed, the decision felt rushed and had not been proactively communicated with the town prior to the SB's recent action. The SB should be very clear that these requests have the net effect of limiting voter impact by transmuting two currently elected positions to appointments made by the SB.
  - Liz acknowledged the impact of the warnings if the request(s) were approved by the voters at town meeting. There were no candidates running for the position of town clerk until just recently. Transitioning the positions to appointments removes the residency requirement and thereby expands the pool of potential candidates, if needed.
  - Paul did not disagree with Kevin's concerns and expressed support for the change sought. Larry would like to see more participation from town residents, and noted that, even though the request would remove two positions from the election process, the SB members would remain elected officials. Zara added that she wasn't sure how many voters are even aware of the residency requirement with respect to the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions.
  - Shelly Dejardin agreed with Kevin and wondered if the town could wait until the need actually arises. Cheryl also agreed that the request felt rushed and more communication might benefit.
  - Liz noted that the timing of the request is driven by the fact that transitioning these positions can only be done on a floor vote at town meeting. If the warnings are not approved now, would not be able to revive the issue until next year, and, candidly, deferring the issue likely will not change voter appetite for getting involved in local governance.
  - Kevin understood and felt that town meeting will be a good opportunity to start the conversation on these issues; he is still likely to request the issue be deferred for further discussion.

- **Motion to add warning requesting approval to change the Municipal Treasurer position into an appointed position pursuant to 17 V.S.A § 2651f.** Zara moved, Larry seconded, motion carried.

- **Motion to approve mailing the town ballot for Town Meeting with the WCUUSD school budget ballot.** Zara moved, Larry seconded, motion carried.

- **Discussion regarding updated budget of $2,261,978.14**
  - Dorinda clarified that the budget committee had identified benefits in the budget that were specific to one of the positions the town administrator was replacing, reducing the final budget to **$2,261,978.14**
  - Larry asked for clarification about the cost-of-living increase and how it had been presented. Dorinda answered that a 3% cost of living increase was used because cost

of living is currently at 2.7% and she had not been asked to prepare anything otherwise. Dorinda confirmed that last year the cost-of-living increase was 4%. \
    - Liz did not recommend increasing cost of living more than 3% under the circumstances; felt the compensation was fair. Paul agreed and felt it was particularly fair considering the benefits packages the SB had recently approved of for town employees.

- **Motion to approve updated budget of $2,261,978.14 that reflects a 11.60% increase before special articles.** Larry moved, Zara seconded, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn special meeting. Larry moved, Zara seconded, motion carried.

10:00 a.m.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD WERE APPROVED ON JANUARY 20, 2026.

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LIZ SCHARF, CHAIR

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ZARA VINCENT, VICE CHAIR

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LAWRENCE ROONEY

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PAUL CERMINARA

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STACEY SKADBERG