

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

**Town of Middlebury  
Infrastructure Committee  
Thursday, September 9, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

**NOTE: The meeting was held in the Town Office Conference Room, but some interested parties and Committee members participated remotely via Zoom.**

Members Present: Luther Tenny, Esther Thomas, Gary Baker, Candy McLaughlin, Judy Wiger-Grohs, and Alternate Erik Remsen. Heather Seeley and Matt DeBisschop were absent, so Remsen will be voting in this meeting

Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Director of Public Works Planning Dan Werner, Director of Public Work Operations Bill Kernan, Fire Chief David Shaw and Accounting Services Manager Jackie Sullivan,

Others Present: Residents Michael Reeves and David Pistilli

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Acting Chair Luther Tenny.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Baker moved to approve the agenda and Wiger-Grohs seconded the motion. Tenny said there was one addition to the agenda; a change order from Markowski, the contractor for the East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project. Tenny said this item would be added following Project Updates. The agenda was approved with the addition with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

**3. Approval of August 12, 2021 Minutes**

Wiger-Grohs moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2021, and McLaughlin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

**4. Citizen Comments**

Michael Reeves had a question regarding requesting installation of a road sign and asked if it was part of the Infrastructure Committee process. Ramsay said those requests were reviewed by the Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan and Police Chief Tom Hanley, and she would put him in touch with Kernan.

42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81

Wiger-Grohs thanked the Infrastructure Committee for their past support of the work of the Tree Committee, specifically on the tree inventory and Emerald Ash Borer work.

## 5. Project Updates

**Washington Street Water Line** - Werner said Washington Street will be the next phase of the water line replacement project, and we've received a couple of significant grants to help with the cost. He said it is currently out to bid and the bids will be opened on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He said he hopes to have the stretch between Buttolph Drive and the Washington St/Seminary St. five corner intersection completed this fall.

**Cady Road Culvert** – This project is complete and the road is open.

**Ilisley Library – HVAC Update** – Werner said he and Library Director Dana Hart met with Dan Dupras of Environmental Services of Vermont, LLC to review the status of the work to date. He said there will be a walk-through on September 15<sup>th</sup> to evaluate the work that needs to be done in hopes of getting an estimated cost so we can decide how to fund this work. Ramsay said that Hart indicated they are beginning to look at the library expansion again, so she wants to look at locating the HVAC units so they can be used again.

**Stormwater General Permit 3-9050 & 3-Acre Parcels** – Werner said he was not able to get in touch with the person at the Agency of Natural Resources who is managing the program, so this will be delayed until the next meeting.

**Police Storage Building** – Werner said there is a humidity and ventilation issue in the south end of the renovated storage building, and the humidity this summer really illustrated the problem. He said these areas will need to be air conditioned to help remove the humidity, and a heat pump system can help with that. He said he will be meeting with the architect and their HVAC consultant, and electrician/HVAC contractor Dennis Newton to see if they can figure this out.

**Memorial Sports Center** – Werner said the Energy Committee is planning to use some of their funds to hire Knight Consulting Engineers, Inc. to assess the structure for possible solar collector installation on the roof. He said the Committee also wants to fund a man-lift so a testing company can take samples of the girders and purlins (steel supports for roof) so they can be tested.

82           **6. East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project – Markowski Change Order**

83

84 Werner said this change order from Markowski is to spray the existing flood wall with a  
85 4” cap of cement coating at a cost of \$98,325. He said this is 4” of material covering  
86 approximately 110 linear feet of wall (2,300 sq. ft) of the existing wall to fix cracks. He  
87 said the Committee would need to recommend the Selectboard approve this change  
88 order.

89

90 Tenny said he understands the original wall is deteriorating, but thought the cost was  
91 “staggering” and questioned if the material would adhere. Werner said that the wall will  
92 need to be “clean”, which he imagines involves pressure washing and maybe some  
93 chipping away of loose debris. He said this process is recommended by the engineers  
94 and there is money in the budget to cover this. He said this work needs to be  
95 completed by the end of September since they need to be out of the river by October  
96 1<sup>st</sup>.

97

98 Baker moved to recommend the Selectboard approve the Markowski change order for  
99 \$98,325 to apply a cementitious topping and sealer to 2,300 s.f. of the existing retaining  
100 wall, as recommended by the engineer. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion  
101 was approved with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

102

103

**7. Truck Bid**

104

105 Bill Kernan said this is a scheduled replacement of the 2005 Tandem Truck. He said  
106 the bid package was sent to 3 dealers and they received only one bid, from RR  
107 Charlebois, for a Western Star 4700SF for \$100,567 (including extended warranties).  
108 He said the Body Build bid package was sent out to 3 bidders, and 2 bidders  
109 responded: HP Fairfield for \$96,865 and Viking Cives for \$89,250. Kernan said he is  
110 recommending purchasing the Western Star truck with extended warranties from RR.  
111 Charlebois and the Body Build package from Viking Cives for a total of \$189,817. He  
112 said that there is \$227,965 in the budget for this purchase, so this is a savings of  
113 \$38,148.

114

115 McLaughlin asked what the “Body Build” was. Kernan explained you purchase the truck  
116 with the rails and axles, and then the dump body and plow package are installed on the  
117 truck.

118

119 Tenny mentioned that the \$50,000 trade-in allowance was very good, and Kernan  
120 agreed. Kernan said he thought we might have only received one bid on the truck due  
121 to reduced inventory and availability of vehicles in the country right now.

122

123 Wiger-Grohs moved to recommend the Selectboard award the truck bid to RR  
124 Charlebois for \$100,567, and the Body Build Package to Viking Cives for \$89,250, for a  
125 total of \$189,817, and McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved  
126 with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

127

128

### 8. Pulp Mill Bridge Fire Alarm Repair

129

130 Kernan said this fire alarm has been problematic for a while now, and we have  
131 previously had to replace the mother board after a lightning strike at a cost of \$4,000-  
132 \$5,000, and the cost was shared with the Town of Weybridge per the maintenance  
133 agreement. He said there has been another lightning strike, so the mother board needs  
134 to be replaced again, and this time they will install a surge protector for a total cost of  
135 \$4,930.46. Kernan said we have filed an insurance claim, so the final cost may not be  
136 this high if we receive an insurance reimbursement. Following payment of the bill, we  
137 will issue a bill to the Town of Weybridge for their portion of the expense.

138

139 Baker moved to recommend the Selectboard approve the quote from the Royal Group  
140 of \$4,930.46 (less any insurance received) to replace the Mother Board and to install a  
141 surge protection system in the Pulp Mill Bridge fire alarm system. Wiger-Grohs  
142 seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION**  
143 **PASSED.**

144

145 Luther Tenny said they have this problem with the alarm system at the ski area, which  
146 has frequent lightning strikes, and he said a surge protector does not guarantee  
147 protection, but does offer a layer of protection, and Kernan and Werner agreed.

148

149

### 9. Fire Truck Sale

150

151 Chief Shaw said this is a request for the Selectboard to authorize Town Manager  
152 Kathleen Ramsay to sign a contract to sell Engine #1. He said they would like to list it  
153 with multiple agencies through the Brindle Mountain Fire Apparatus. He said they are  
154 asking \$32,000 for the 25-year old truck, which is around \$7,000-8,000 more than  
155 market. Ramsay said we've tried to sell fire trucks ourselves in the past and we weren't  
156 able to sell them for what the trucks were worth.

157

158 Baker moved to recommend the Selectboard authorize the Town Manager to sign a  
159 multi-listing agreement with Brindle Mountain Fire Apparatus, LLC. Thomas seconded  
160 the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 2 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

161

162 Shaw also informed the Committee that the new ladder truck has had a safety recall  
163 and has to go back to the manufacturer, and it will take 90 days to make the repair. He  
164 said they have asked to have this happen after Memorial Day 2022 since the College  
165 students will have gone home and felt it would be a good time. He said the truck will  
166 come back fully certified.

167

168

### **10. Main Street Sidewalk Repair**

169

170 Werner informed the Committee of the repair that needed to be made to the newly  
171 installed sidewalk and curb in front of the former Wild Mountain Thyme on Main Street.  
172 He said the bid specifications had called for a 2% slope to the sidewalk, but it was  
173 constructed almost flat, which caused water to go under the doorway of the Wild  
174 Mountain Thyme property when there was a driving, hard rain. He said the threshold of  
175 the building has always been below the sidewalk, but the new owner has agreed to  
176 elevate the threshold. He said Green Mountain Engineering adjusted the design and  
177 Champlain Construction came back and removed two sections of the new sidewalk and  
178 curb and reconstructed them with the 2% slope, and there has not been any water  
179 going under the doorway since then.

180

181 Werner said Champlain Construction's Change Order to redo the sidewalk was  
182 \$19,940, and he feels that Green Mountain Engineering owns a great deal of the liability  
183 of that bill for the design. Ramsay pointed out that Champlain Construction had to drop  
184 everything they were doing and come do this work so it would be done prior to VTrans  
185 paving Main Street, so that comes at a premium. She said any possible liability should  
186 be discussed with an attorney with some knowledge of construction.

187

188 Following further discussion on the design and liability, Tenny cautioned about pushing  
189 too hard for this since we want to be good partners going forward with future projects.

190

191 Werner reported that the other segments of new sidewalk installed this summer had  
192 some issues, as well, with the concrete quality. He said only 3 sections passed the  
193 4,000 psi at 28 day standard, and two sections had failed completely by the 56 day test.  
194 He said he will be dealing with Champlain Construction on this matter since they were  
195 the contractors.

196

197

### **11. Budget and Capital Improvement Timeline and Upcoming Schedule**

198

199 Ramsay said there was a draft timeline for the budget and capital budget process in the  
200 Committee packet.

201

202 She said there will be a need for a short Infrastructure Committee meeting on Thursday,  
203 September 23<sup>rd</sup>, to review and recommend bids for the Washington Street Water Line  
204 project to send to the Selectboard for their meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

205  
206 She said the Committee will need two meetings in October, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, to work on  
207 the Capital Budget. She said the next regular Committee meeting date is November  
208 11<sup>th</sup> and that is a Town Holiday, so she said the Committee might have to shift to earlier  
209 in the week or meet the next week to finalize the Capital Budget. She said if the  
210 Committee finalized the budget at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, then the November  
211 meeting would be brief.

## 212 213 **12. Committee Concerns**

214  
215 Baker asked if there would be solar panels installed on the roof of the new rail platform.  
216 Werner said he believed he heard that it was not possible.

217  
218 McLaughlin asked about the status of the Exchange Street sidewalk. Ramsay said the  
219 funding was in place, but there had been right-of-way acquisition issues, so work would  
220 not begin until next summer. She said the sidewalk is only planned as far as  
221 Catamount Park at this point.

222  
223 Wiger-Grohs mentioned all the trees that have come down on Rt 125 in East  
224 Middlebury. Kernan said he had submitted an application for a State Work in the Right-  
225 of-Way Permit to plant trees, but they are requiring a landscaping plan and locating all  
226 the utilities. He said since we don't own the utilities and don't know the location, he  
227 would contact Jason Larocque at Otter Creek Engineering for assistance with this.

228  
229 Tenny said since the tops of the fire hydrant had been painted to reflect their pressure  
230 flow, he wondered if the Water Department would be painting the remainder of the  
231 hydrants to improve their appearance. Kernan said it's on the schedule, just not on the  
232 table at the moment.

233  
234 The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m. upon motion by McLaughlin and seconded by  
235 Wiger-Grohs.

236  
237 Respectfully submitted,  
238 Beth Dow

239  
240  
241