

1 **Regular Selectboard Meeting**
2 **Tuesday, October 11, 2022**
3 **Meeting Minutes**

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5 Members Present: Lindsey Fuentes-George, Isabel Gogarty, Andy Hooper, Dan Brown,
6 Farhad Khan and Heather Seeley. Brian Carpenter was absent.

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8 Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay and Chief of Police Tom Hanley

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10 Also Present: Leon Smith

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12 **1. Call to Order**

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14 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Fuentes-George.

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16 **2. Approval of Agenda**

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18 Khan moved to approve the agenda and Seeley seconded the motion.

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20 The motion carried with 6 in favor, 1 absent and the agenda was approved as
21 presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

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23 **3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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25 Hooper moved to approve the consent agenda, and Khan seconded the motion.

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27 3.a. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2022 Regular Selectboard Meeting
28 were pulled from the consent agenda to discuss separately.

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30 3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2022

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32 3.c. Agenda Placeholder

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34 3.d. Agenda Placeholder

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36 3.e. Town Manager's Report

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 - E-Mail from Ethan Murray with Skatepark Background – includes his proposal
39 and a request for Town assistance with maintenance and financial
40 administration.
 - Current Correspondence – Received September 23 – October 5

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44 The consent agenda was approved as amended with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION**
45 **PASSED.**

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47 **4. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2022 Regular Selectboard Meeting**

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49 Gogarty asked to change the reference on Line 348 from Act 37 to Act 127.

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51 Khan moved to approve the minutes, Hooper seconded, and the minutes were
52 approved as amended on a vote of 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

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54 **5. Citizen Comments**

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56 Leon Smith said he had some concerns with the way the Parkers had posted their
57 property off Washington Street Extension so it appears that the Town right-of-way at the
58 end of the driveway is now off limits to the many pedestrians and bikers that use it. He
59 said he thinks the width of that legal trail should be identified and asked about what the
60 rights of the public that use it are. He said some of the trails on that property connect
61 with the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) and in posting that property, he wondered if the
62 trails were still open to the public, so he's looking for clarification on those trails and to
63 see if there's any agreement with the Town for access to them. Ramsay said she would
64 follow up with Middlebury Area Land Trust and the Addison County Bike Group.

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66 **6. Chief of Police Tom Hanley with an Update on Police Dispatch Issues**

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68 Hanley said as of right now Middlebury's dispatch was moved from Westminster to
69 Williston and service has improved, but he said this is a band-aid since the State still
70 wants us off the system. He said we were given 90-days to get off the system and we
71 are now past that deadline and we have nowhere to go. He said in the State's haste to
72 get emergency response agencies off their system, they put out \$6.5 million in grants to
73 11 agencies seeking to set up regional dispatch, but it hasn't fixed the problem. He said
74 agencies are getting large amounts of money but are only picking up a handful of other
75 agencies to service, and out of the 9 agencies that received funding, they're only picking
76 up 21 of the 100+ agencies that are currently depending on their dispatching from the
77 State, and 17 of those are police departments that have not been picked up by any
78 regional dispatch.

79
80 He said Chief Thomas from the Shelburne Police Department said they might be able to
81 pick up Middlebury's dispatching between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when we don't have our
82 own dispatcher on duty, but he doesn't know how much this would cost, but it might be
83 \$35,000 to \$50,000.

84
85 He said there is a Regional Dispatch Committee that was supposed to design the
86 regional dispatch structure and make sure that every agency had a home to go to, and
87 that Committee isn't due to give their report in December and they are nowhere near
88 ready. He said when he was asked if Middlebury wanted to be a regional dispatch
89 center, he said it would take at least a year to do the planning, since this involves
90 significant engineering and planning, and he did not have adequate time to gather the
91 data in 30 days to apply for the grant funds that were available.

93 Hooper asked if this was the State’s way to avoid covering local policing, and Hanley
94 said they will continue to cover the towns that don’t have their own police departments,
95 but eventually they would like to get out of that and become regional.

96
97 Hanley said to increase our dispatching to 24 hours would mean hiring 3 more full-time
98 dispatchers, at a rough estimate of \$350,000 and that’s a lot of money. Hooper
99 suggested adding Bristol and Vergennes and consolidating the dispatching personnel
100 into a 24-hour call center. Hanley said the Bristol Police Chief said if they had to pay
101 \$25,000-\$35,000 per year they could conceivably just shut down the police department
102 and let the State Police cover the town, and Chief Merkel in Vergennes has said they
103 couldn’t pay that amount either.

104
105 Hanley said he will talk further with Chief Thomas in Shelburne to see what can be
106 worked out with them.

107
108 Fuentes-George asked if Middlebury was the only dispatch agency in Addison County
109 and Hanley said we were other than MREMS, which acts as a call center for EMS and
110 come fire departments. He said even the Addison County Sheriff is dispatched from
111 Rutland.

112
113 Hanley said he would keep the Board updated on the status.

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115 **7. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for Churchill Property Located**
116 **at the east end of Forrest Lane**

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118 Following a brief discussion Seeley moved to authorize Kathleen Ramsay, duly
119 authorized agent, to sign the Quit Claim Deed for Churchill Property located at 1 Forrest
120 Lane. Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 1 absent.
121 **MOTION PASSED.**

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123 **8. Final Report from Policy Review Committee and Acceptance of**
124 **Updated Polices**

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126 Ramsay said the Policy Review Committee – consisting of Gary Baker, Donna
127 Donahue, Chris English and Beth Dow – did a wonderful job of going through the policy
128 book and pulling out ones that weren’t current and recommending what should be
129 retained.

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131 Hooper asked if this was a Selectboard committee, and if so, why weren’t there any
132 Selectboard members on the Committee. Ramsay said when the Committee was
133 formed in 2014 and began work on this Baker and Donahue were on the Selectboard.

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135 Khan moved to accept the Policy Review Committee’s final report and draft update of
136 the Selectboard Policy Book. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in
137 favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

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9. Approval of Check Warrants

Brown moved to approve total expenditures in the amount of \$496,828.84, consisting of \$383,306.61 for accounts payable, and \$113,522.23 for payroll, for the period September 28, 2022 through October 11, 2022. Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

10. Board Concerns

Gogarty said she's been happy to connect with people in the community as they welcome her into this position.

Hooper said the Library Board reviews all their policies on a 3-year plan, and suggested the Town be a little more pro-active on reviewing policies

Seeley said she wanted to wish Chris English well on his retirement and thanked him for all his years with the Town.

Brown asked about the schedule for paving Colonial Drive. Seeley said the paving plant usually closes the second week in November, so there's still a month left to get it done.

11. Adjournment

Khan moved to adjourn, and Seeley seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

The next meeting of the Middlebury Selectboard will be Tuesday, October 25, 2022 in the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Dow