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**Regular Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

6 **NOTE: Due to the need for separation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus,  
7 the meeting was held remotely via video conferencing with participants.**

8  
9 Members Present: Brian Carpenter, Heather Seeley, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Victor  
10 Nuovo, Dan Brown, Nick Artim and Farhad Khan.

11  
12 Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Assistant Town Manager Chris  
13 English, Chief of Police Tom Hanley

14  
15 Others Present: Addison County Economic Development Corporation Executive  
16 Director Fred Kenney; Howard WidELITZ and members of the Middlebury Energy  
17 Committee; Nancy Malcolm of Neighbor's,Together; and Kate Rothwell, Interim  
18 Director, Middlebury Regional EMS.

19  
20 The meeting was streamed live on the MCTVVT YouTube channel.

21  
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23

**1. Call to Order**

24 The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Brian Carpenter.

25  
26  
27

**2. Approval of Agenda**

28 Khan moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Fuentes-George. There were no  
29 changes to the agenda, so the motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

30  
31  
32

**3. Approval of Minutes of July 28, 2020**

33 Nuovo moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020, and Khan seconded. The  
34 minutes were approved as presented with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

35  
36  
37

**4. Citizen Comments**

38 There were no citizen comments.  
39  
40

**5. Local Emergency Management Director/Chief of Police,  
Update on Pandemic Response**

Chief Hanley reported that compliance with the face mask requirement has improved, and he thinks people are serious about not wanting the spike in cases as in other nearby states. He said there is plenty of hand sanitizer and paper products available now, and you can get face masks just about anywhere. He said they did put out a warning about the danger of hand sanitizers made with methanol, and he put in an order for face masks to the State Emergency Operations Center to distribute them to local businesses to handout to people who don't have one. He said we had not had any Governor's Orders violations for a couple of weeks, so that is an indicator things are settling in. He said the Police Department had also received an order of N95 masks for the officers, since their supply was running low.

He said since March the Police Department has been tracking their extraordinary expenses for COVID-related overtime and enforcement, so when we apply for reimbursements they'll have the records.

Hanley said the good thing about schools opening is that we're in a good area, unlike Georgia, which had 260 kids that had to be quarantined because they had the virus. He said he thinks confidence is high from the Health Department and Emergency Management District that we're in good shape in Addison County.

Artim asked about the officers and if they were well and their shift change was working. Hanley said all the safety measures they established at the very beginning have worked and they're all well, and they actually like the change in the shifts.

**6. Fred Kenney, Executive Director of the Addison County Economic  
Development Corporation (ACEDC),  
Update on Pandemic Recovery: Review of State and  
Regional Efforts for Economic Recovery and Follow-Up on Revolving Loan Fund**

Kenney said on the Federal level, the new COVID relief bill has stalled in Congress, and he hopes they get that passed since it has some good provisions in it. He said on the State level, most of the funds they allocated have been activated and are up and running, so there is assistance available for many. He said the Federal unemployment bump of \$600 per week for the unemployed ended last week, and the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) time period has ended. He said ACEDC has filed the response so they would be able to administer the funds for technical assistance for businesses for help

80 with finances or website development. He said if they are approved, they would hire a  
81 “navigator” to help businesses find the technical assistance they need.

82

83 Kenney said establishing a Revolving Loan Fund is one option available to the Town,  
84 and eligible uses are pretty, but must benefit low- or moderate-income residents. He  
85 said he’s talked to the Director of Housing and Community Affairs, and their position is  
86 they’d like to see the towns and other entities with revolving CBDG funds utilize them,  
87 and as long as the proposals meet the broad criteria, they will find a way to make it  
88 work. He said they’re actually encouraging towns to use this money and will work with  
89 towns to find an appropriate use for them. He said the Board would need to create a  
90 policy that states goals and objectives of the use of the funds, but whatever structure  
91 the Town decides to use, ACEDC is willing to help set it up.

92

93 Khan asked about the Loan Forgiveness for the PPP funds, since he was unable to find  
94 anything on the website. Kenney said that’s because there is no clear guidance on that  
95 yet, but the banks are in hopes of getting clear guidance in the next few weeks. Brown  
96 said his bank had already begun accepting applications.

97

98 Seeley said the agenda notes had mentioned one of the possible uses for the funds  
99 could be for something in connection with the new Downtown Master Plan, but she  
100 would prefer to see the funds used to aid businesses coming out of this pandemic  
101 before they are directed to support the Downtown Master Plan.

102

103 Carpenter asked if anyone on the Board was ready to make the move to create the  
104 Revolving Loan Fund. Artim said he’s still not ready and would like the department  
105 heads to suggest thoughts on how to use these funds for economic development.  
106 Ramsay said she’d brainstormed with Town Planner Jennifer Murray on potential ways  
107 to use these funds, and thinks there may be an intersection between the Downtown  
108 Master Plan and some business recovery efforts, and has also discussed with Kenney  
109 ways to leverage other programs with these funds. Artim said he’ll be most interested  
110 to hear Murray’s ideas as a planner, but also looks forward to hearing from the other  
111 department heads.

112

113 Carpenter said they’d hold off on this until the Board hears back from the staff, and  
114 Ramsay said they’re looking at coming to the Board with a report on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

115

116 **7. Howard Widelitz, Chair of the Energy Committee, with the**  
117 **Committee’s Recommendation on Solar Net Metering**

118

119 Widelitz said the Town was approached with a net metering project and the Energy  
120 Committee suggested looking at the bigger picture, so the Board tasked them to come  
121 up with a recommendation. He said committee members Van Barth and Steve Maier  
122 were also available to answer questions.

123  
124 Widelitz said the Committee established a set of criteria for evaluating solar net  
125 metering proposals, and they looked at net-metering options available to the Town and  
126 came up with a recommendation for the Board.

127  
128 He said the evaluation criteria include: upfront costs; lifetime costs; location;  
129 implementation time; ownership structure; and, efficiency of investment. He said there  
130 are two main options for the Town to pursue net-metering: when some company builds  
131 the project and sells the credits to the Town at a discounted rate, and the second option  
132 would be where the Town partners with a co-op project. He said by law the Town is  
133 limited to 500 kW of net-metering and the Town already has used 153 kW between the  
134 project behind the Police Department and the one in New Haven, so that only leaves  
135 347 kW for a new project.

136  
137 Widelitz went over the differences between buying net-metering credits at a discount  
138 with no financial investment, and being a co-developer, where the Town would actually  
139 invest in the project. He also went over the implementation timelines for the projects  
140 proposed by Bullrock, Solarsense and Acorn, as well as the net savings over the next  
141 25 years. He said based on the Acorn project showing over twice as much savings as  
142 the Bullock or Solarsense projects, the Energy Committee is recommending the Acorn  
143 project. He said the Acorn project would provide the greatest benefit to the Town and if  
144 this were to be a 500 kW array, after the Town takes their limit of 347 kW, it leaves  
145 remaining kW opportunities for businesses and households in Middlebury. He said one  
146 other factor is the Town would own the array after 6 years, and Acorn provides all the  
147 resources.

148  
149 Seeley said the Town was supposed to get solar credits from the project that was  
150 proposed on Middle Road and wondered if they knew the status of that project and how  
151 that factored into this recommendation. Widelitz said he's not sure where that project  
152 stands at the moment, and that was not taken into consideration. Steve Maier said that  
153 hasn't been an active project for a year or two now, and had problems getting someone  
154 interested in buying the power since GMP was not interested at the time.

155  
156 Artim asked with the 500 kW limit, is this exclusively for solar or is it for any renewable  
157 source? He said solar has its place, but he's still not convinced it's the most reliable for  
158 our area of the country, so maybe we should consider other options such as methane or

159 hydro. He said he's not sure how much he wants to support solar until he sees some  
160 numbers on these other options and the potential to expand our energy portfolio. Artim  
161 said he's also wondering what happens if the Town invests in these projects for the  
162 long-term and then better technology comes down the road in the next few years and  
163 we're locked into these other projects. Widelitz said he isn't sure if the 500 kW limit is  
164 limited to just solar or if it includes other alternative sources. Chris English said Energy  
165 Committee member Ross Conrad had responded in the Zoom comment section that the  
166 500 kW limit includes all renewable energy options, not just solar. Artim said he still  
167 hopes the hydro power by the falls will be developed, and it sounds like we'd be unable  
168 to take advantage of that if we used all our kW hours for solar. Maier said the Energy  
169 Committee would look into that and get back to the Board. He said there was a  
170 proposal in Montpelier to increase the limit, but that did not move forward this year.

171  
172 Ross Conrad said the Legislature could choose to expand the 500 kW limit, but right  
173 now the Town is spending more money for electricity than is necessary. He said all of  
174 these options delivering savings, over varying time periods, and these savings are  
175 significant, so he wonders why we'd want to spend more for electricity when we could  
176 get it at a discounted rate. Artim said he isn't disputing that, but wonders if we would  
177 have more savings when better technology comes along in 5 years.

178  
179 Fuentes-George asked if this 500 kW limit was for the Town as a municipality, or for the  
180 town as a community, and Maier said it was as a municipality. Fuentes-George said  
181 she wondered if we did buy into the Acorn project for the next 25 years, and Artim's  
182 theory of better technology happens in the next 5-years, could the Town sell a portion of  
183 its credits from the Acorn project to others and then take advantage of the better  
184 technology. She said she would hate to pass up something good, on the possibility  
185 there might be something better in the future, because taking advantage of the Acorn  
186 project would provide us with immediate savings.

187  
188 Carpenter said he appreciated the Energy Committee's work on this, and he thinks if  
189 there are renewable options we need to explore what they are if they bring significant  
190 savings to the Town. He said Ramsay has suggested staff could look at what this might  
191 look like if we were to take advantage of the Acorn project, and then the Board can run  
192 it through their project prioritization process. The Board was in agreement, so  
193 Carpenter asked Ramsay to look into more details on this.

194  
195 **8. Nancy Malcolm, Neighbors Together, Regarding the Updated budget for the**  
196 **VTrans Grant for Marketing/Promotion for the Downtown Bridge Replacement**  
197 **Project and a Request for Purchase Order for Tents for Events**

198

199 Malcolm said they'd met with Jon Griffin of VTrans back in May to look at their budget  
200 since things had changed with the pandemic. She said Griffin had suggested the  
201 possibility of purchasing tents that could be used to help with some of the programming,  
202 such as with Bundle since they're no longer in a physical space. She said the Town  
203 would own them, so even after the railroad project was complete, the Town could  
204 continue to use them for other things, but they have to be purchased and used before  
205 the completion of the railroad project. She said they've ordered 3 tents that were under  
206 the \$3,000 threshold needing Board approval, so they're asking for the Board for  
207 approval now for five additional tents at a cost of \$3,356.45.

208  
209 Artim asked who would have the long-term responsibility of care and maintenance of  
210 these tents. Malcolm said the Town would own them, and Director of Public Works  
211 Operations Bill Kernan is looking into storage options and is in favor of their purchase.

212  
213 Fuentes-George asked about the life expectancy of these tents if they are taken care of,  
214 but Malcolm was unsure of that. Khan thought it was a good idea to have them for  
215 other uses with the Parks & Recreation Department.

216  
217 Khan moved to approve Neighbors, Together's request to use VTrans grant funds for  
218 the purchase five canopy tents for a total cost of \$3,356.45. Nuovo seconded the  
219 motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

220

221 **9. Discussion of Interest in Joining the Addison County**  
222 **Communications Union District, which was formed to expand**  
223 **communication infrastructure, including broadband**

224

225 Carpenter said Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is seeking the  
226 Board's support for the formation of the Addison County Communications Union District  
227 (CUD). He said ACRPC Executive Director Adam Lougee is working with several  
228 towns in the region to create a Communications Union District (CUD) for the Addison  
229 Region, that can operate a communications network. Carpenter said it works like a solid  
230 waste district or fire district to aggregate capital to build infrastructure for a public good,  
231 in this case broadband, and also serves to separate municipalities from any liability that  
232 might arise from the operation of that system. He said Lougee plans to move fast to try  
233 to take advantage of some changes to Vermont law and some funding opportunities  
234 created by the State and federal government to respond to the needs created by the  
235 COVID-19 epidemic, and to date, the towns of New Haven, Monkton, Ferrisburgh,  
236 Leicester, Salisbury and Ripton have agreed to support the formation of the district, and  
237 positive responses are also anticipated from Shoreham and Waltham, as well.

238

239 Brown asked if there was anything negative about this proposal, because it seems that  
240 this is all positive, and does it take away any of our efforts or our staff responsibilities of  
241 the Town. Carpenter said he thought it actually supported some of efforts we didn't  
242 have the time to do, and Ramsay agreed. She said this might be a possibility for some  
243 of the use of the CBDG funds discussed earlier in the meeting.

244  
245 Ross Conrad said it does seem it's a win-win situation and the Town wouldn't have any  
246 responsibilities. He said the CUD would own and run the system, and there will be no  
247 tax dollars needed and there are grant funds available for a feasibility study for  
248 broadband build out here in Addison County, and if the study looks positive, then the  
249 second payment of the grant will cover a high-level business plan to identify vendors  
250 and a sequence of events. He said in light of the pandemic and the need for broadband  
251 in certain areas of Middlebury and the county, this is a potential way for the Town to  
252 address this without any effort by the Town. Carpenter asked Ross if he would support  
253 this as our representative on the governing board, and Ross said yes, because for the  
254 first three months there wouldn't be much for the governing board to do. He said it  
255 makes sense for someone from the ACRPC Board to be on the CUD Board to keep the  
256 flow of information facilitating that in a way that works well and feedback from the Board  
257 when necessary.

258  
259 Khan moved to approve the Selectboard resolution supporting the formation of the  
260 Addison County Communications Union District. Fuentes-George seconded the motion.  
261 The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

262  
263 Khan moved to appoint Ross Conrad as Middlebury's representative to the Governing  
264 Board of the Addison County Communications Union District. Fuentes-George  
265 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

266  
267 **10. Follow-up on Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Service's**  
268 **request for Increased Funding from the Town**

269  
270 Carpenter said this is a follow-up discussion regarding the request for increased funding  
271 from the Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS) in the last budget  
272 year. He said while other priorities took over in the past few months, it was time to  
273 discuss it prior to the beginning of the budget season for next year.

274  
275 Artim said first he wanted to say the professionalism of the MREMS staff is outstanding,  
276 and his comments are not meant to say anything about negative about them, but as  
277 caretakers of the taxpayers money it is the Selectboard's responsibility to see that it is  
278 well spent. He said this \$63,000 plus budget request came rather late in the budget

279 cycle, and others on the Board felt the same way, so while he wasn't in favor of the  
280 idea, the voters approved it for a year which gave us a chance to look at it in more detail  
281 before the next year. He said this is the largest amount of money given to any  
282 organization that is not under the control of our Town Manager, so we need to make  
283 sure it is being well spent. He says he has a number of questions he'd like answered  
284 before he feels comfortable with continuing this, such as how it's being spent, the fiscal  
285 stability of the organization and what is the hospitals role in this, and is there anything  
286 specifically as providers of these funds that the residents of Middlebury should expect,  
287 such as reduced ambulance rates. He said he has a list of questions, and maybe they  
288 could ask Ramsay to compile everyone's questions into a list to send to MREMS with a  
289 30-day period to review the questions, then have some Selectboard members and  
290 Ramsay meet with MREMS to go over these questions, so if we do continue to fund  
291 them at this amount we can do so confidently.

292  
293 Carpenter asked the Board if they felt this was a good way to handle it. Seeley said she  
294 knew when the Board met with them prior to the Town Meeting, they were suppose to  
295 supply more reports and she asked Ramsay if we'd received any. Ramsay said she  
296 hadn't, but if their fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, it would be too early to have their  
297 report for last year finalized. She said Kate Rothwell from MREMS was attending this  
298 meeting this evening if the Board had questions.

299  
300 Khan asked the deadline for organizations to ask for funds. Ramsay said we typically  
301 have the requests in by November 1<sup>st</sup> and if there are increases in request they meet  
302 with the Board in December.

303  
304 Kate Rothwell said their fiscal year did just end on June 30<sup>th</sup> and they'll be happy to  
305 provide their report when it's complete. She said the MREMS will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
306 of this month, so if they could get the questions to them prior to that Board meeting they  
307 can schedule a time to meet. Seeley said previously Rothwell had mentioned having a  
308 Selectboard member participate in the MREMS Board meeting, and asked if any  
309 progress had been made on that, and Rothwell said there was not. Seeley said maybe  
310 it was up to the Selectboard to participate more, and Rothwell said they would welcome  
311 anyone who would like to join and hear how things are going. Fuentes-George asked  
312 Rothwell if she would send a link to their next meeting for anyone who wanted to  
313 participate, and their meetings are open to the public.

314  
315 Artim said those are all things to explore going down the line, but we need to have the  
316 answers to our questions to be sure this money is being well spent. He said it's our  
317 obligation to try and understand the organization better to make sure this is a wise  
318 investment at the core.



319  
320 Carpenter said he supported developing a list of questions to hand to Rothwell for their  
321 response, as well as learning how to participate in the MREMS Board meetings going  
322 forward. Ramsay said if she had all questions by August 19<sup>th</sup>, she could compile them  
323 and give them to Rothwell for the MREMS meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

324  
325 **11. Set the Municipal Tax Rate and the**  
326 **Downtown Improvement District Tax Rate for FY21**

327  
328 Ramsay said on March 2, 2020, voters approved the General Fund operating budget of  
329 \$11,503,680 for FY21, with \$7,498,204 to be raised by taxes and \$583,745 to be  
330 allocated from annual local option tax receipts in excess of debt and maintenance  
331 requirements of the Cross Street Bridge to offset spending for Capital Improvements.  
332 She said the voters also approved \$63,720 in additional funding for Middlebury  
333 Regional EMS, and new appropriations of \$5,000 for Turning Point Center of Addison  
334 County and \$5,000 for Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO),  
335 resulting in an amount to be raised to \$7,571,924.

336  
337 Ramsay said by dividing the amount to be raised by the Grand List for FY21 of almost  
338 \$9.7 million, which is a little over a 1% increase over the previous fiscal year, you get a  
339 tax rate of \$ .7821. She said by adding in the local agreement for veterans exemptions,  
340 it brings the tax rate to \$.7834 and the addition of the \$.02 cents for the Fire Equipment  
341 Fund brings the final tax rate in at \$.8034.

342  
343 Khan moved to set the FY21 Municipal Tax Rate at .8034 per hundred dollars of  
344 assessed property value. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in  
345 favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

346  
347 Khan further moved to set the FY21 Downtown Improvement District Tax Rate at .0532  
348 per hundred dollars of assessed property value. Nuovo seconded the motion. The  
349 motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

350  
351 **12. Approval of Grant Agreement with State of Vermont Department of Housing**  
352 **and Community Development for Library Window Restoration Project, Phase I**

353  
354 Carpenter said the Board was briefed on this previously by IIsley Library Director Dana  
355 Hart, and this is the request to approve the grant agreement with the VT Department of  
356 Housing and Community Development. He said this grant requires a 50/50 match from  
357 the Town and work must be completed on Phase I of the restoration project by  
358 December 31, 2021.

359  
360 Seeley moved to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the grant  
361 agreement with the VT Department of Housing and Community Development for Phase  
362 I of the Library Historic Window Restoration Project and further authorize the Town to  
363 provide matching funds of \$5,350. Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with  
364 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

### 365 366 **13. Preliminary FY20 Year-End Budget Results**

367  
368 Ramsay said the FY20 year end results showed that most everything was well within  
369 budget, and the revenues were very solid. She said going forward we will be watching  
370 expenses and revenues, with anticipated reduced revenues in the Local Option Tax, as  
371 well as the Parks and Recreation and Ilsley Library fees. She said due to the pandemic  
372 some maintenance projects were delayed, so those funds might need to be added to  
373 FY21, and we'll need to cut back where we can to come in on target at the end of FY21.  
374 She said we should see the next Local Option Tax report any day now, so will report the  
375 figures when they arrive.

### 376 377 **14. Appointments to Selectboard Subcommittees and** 378 **Board Representative Positions**

379  
380 Carpenter said new Board member Dan Brown indicated he'd be interested in either  
381 Infrastructure Committee or Health & Safety Committee. He asked if there were any  
382 members that wanted to be moved off any committees. Artim said he'd be willing to  
383 come off the Public Health & Safety Committee as a regular member and serve as  
384 alternate.

385  
386 Committee Appointments:

387  
388 Expenditure Review Committee – Board members will continue to rotate on approval of  
389 expenditures.

390  
391 Personnel Committee – Carpenter explained this committee meets on an “as-needed”  
392 basis to review new positions and any upgrades to positions.

393 Appointed: Brian Carpenter, Victor Nuovo and Dan Brown.

394  
395 Town School Committee – Seeley said the last time this committee met was just before  
396 the union merged and at that time they didn't think they could meet as a unified district  
397 with just Middlebury and not offer it to the other towns, so she isn't sure there's a need  
398 for this committee now. Ramsay said she'd discuss this with the school and report to

399 the Board. Artim said it may have a place in the future, so thought there was no harm in  
400 keeping it. Appointed: Victor Nuovo

401  
402 Economic Health Committee – Khan, the current representative to this committee, said  
403 as of now there are 4 members of the committee that have left (Boise, Dayton, Capra  
404 and Gemignani), and he has no idea when the committee is going to meet again. There  
405 was discussion on the status of this committee and the fact they hadn't met since last  
406 November and hadn't reported any of their findings to the Board, and how to move it  
407 forward. Appointed: Farhad Khan

408  
409 Creek Road Task Force – Seeley, who chaired this Task Force, suggested holding off  
410 on this until they had a better sense of where the discussions with the landowners was  
411 going, and then maybe then we can look at different membership. Ramsay said  
412 invitations to meet had been sent to the landowners, and they're looking to do that on  
413 September 1<sup>st</sup>.

414  
415 Infrastructure Committee – Fuentes-George said she does enjoy serving on this  
416 committee, but is willing to rotate off if someone else has a strong desire to serve on it.  
417 She said there is a lot to learn on that committee so any Board member would benefit  
418 from serving on it, but she is fine either way. Artim said he didn't think a Board member  
419 needed to Chair this committee, and that the members of the committee should elect  
420 the chair like the Public Safety Committee did last year.  
421 Appointed: Heather Seeley and Lindsey Fuentes-George

422  
423 Further Appointments:  
424 Public Health & Safety – Dan Brown Alternate: Nick Artim  
425 Parks & Recreation Committee – Farhad Khan  
426 Better Middlebury Partnership – Farhad Khan  
427 Downtown Improvement District Commission –Dan Brown  
428 MCTV – Farhad Khan  
429 Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) – Victor Nuovo  
430 Middlebury Energy Committee – Lindsey Fuentes-George  
431 Middlebury College Energy Committee – Lindsey Fuentes-George

432  
433 Policy Review Committee – it was decided there hadn't been a Selectboard member on  
434 this committee and they felt they were working well and didn't see the need to appoint  
435 one now.

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### 15. Approval of Check Warrants

Nuovo said under the authority granted by the Selectboard on April 28, 2020, I have reviewed and approved, on behalf of the Board, total expenditures in the amount of \$436,449.87 consisting of \$322,651.75 for accounts payable, and \$113,798.12 for payroll, for the period July 29, 2020 through August 11, 2020, and move the Board's approval of payment of these expenditures. Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

### 16. Town Manager's Report

Ramsay reported that now that the Board had set the tax rate, the process to create tax bills will begin and they'll go out in the mail in mid-October. Due dates will be November 16, 2020, and January 15 and March 15, 2021.

### 17. Board Member Concerns

Seeley said she's been thinking about the Revolving Load Fund discussed earlier in the meeting, and she likes Ramsay's idea of using some of that money to help form the CUD. She would also like to consider funding the BMP plan for supporting downtown businesses next year, since this year the COVID situation didn't allow us to do some of the things downtown that we'd planned to do.

Artim said the construction on the railroad project is progressing incredibly well, the tunnel is complete and they're now in the processing sealing it and they're starting to fill in and grade the area as well.

Artim also asked what the policy was on political signs, since they've popped up all over the place. Ramsay said there are State statutes on political signs in the public right-of-way and this has been discussed with the zoning enforcement staff.

Fuentes-George said she had some anxiety before the close of the downtown on how the traffic situation would be, but she's heard nothing but positive comments on the way things are going and everyone said they thought it was going to be worse than it is. She said that says a lot about Kubricky and the job Jim Gish has been doing, and commended them all.

Fuentes-George also said she'd like a report from agencies that are providing support to our most vulnerable population, since you read so much about people facing losing housing and she wants to know if that's impacting our town or not. She said she

479 doesn't want the most valuable population to get lost in the shuffle while we talk about  
480 supporting downtown businesses. Ramsay said she'd been meeting with the Addison  
481 County Recovery Team, which includes child care representatives and low-income  
482 advocates, so she thinks it's a good idea to get some type of report from them.

483  
484 Brown said he knew the Charter House Coalition is going through a lot of struggles and  
485 limitations due to the virus, and they typically get 5 families, but now there is an  
486 overabundance of people struggling with that and they're being put up in hotels.

487  
488 Carpenter said there are so many issues going on and he wondered if there would be a  
489 need to do a mid-year priority list, since so much has happened since they did the list  
490 earlier in the year. He asked how do we tackle all of these, and what are our objectives,  
491 knowing the limitations of our staff to take on additional work? He asked how do we  
492 focus on coming out of the railroad bridge project and also try to figure out how the town  
493 engages in the Black Lives Matter movement, all during the middle of the COVID crisis?  
494 Artim said that made a lot of sense, since it was a different world now than when the  
495 Board originally made the priorities and he'd really like to know how the staff is doing.

496  
497 Carpenter said he and Ramsay would come up with a date and time and notify the  
498 Board on when they'd meet.

499

## 18. Adjourn

500

501

502 The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. upon motion by Khan, seconded by Fuentes-  
503 George.

504

505 The next regular meeting of the Middlebury Selectboard will be Tuesday, August 25,  
506 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

507

508 Respectfully submitted,

509 Beth Dow

510