

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
Public Health & Safety Committee
Middlebury Police Dept Community Room
Monday, June 12, 2017* Draft Meeting Minutes

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Selectboard Member Nick Artim, Gary Baker, Don Keeler, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw and Health Officer Tom Scanlon. Others present: Assistant Fire Chief Myron Selleck, Main Street & Merchants Row Bridge Project Community Liaison Jim Gish Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay and Peg Goldman.

Call to Order. Chair Laura Asermily called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda. Gary Baker moved approval of the agenda. Nick Artim seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

Approval of April 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Tom Scanlon moved approval of the April 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments. None.

Derailment Response Preparedness Review. The Committee discussed the Town's 2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), Hazard Mitigation Plan, lessons learned from the December 6, 2016 emergency response exercise and response supply status. Police Chief Tom Hanley noted that train derailments happen all the time – it's the events that rarely occur during derailments – fires and hazardous material spills – that we need to be concerned about from a public health and safety perspective. Nick Artim noted that the Fire Department is thoroughly and well prepared to respond to these types of events.

After Community Liaison Jim Gish gave a brief update on the status of the Environmental Assessment for the Main Street and Merchants Row Bridge project and the installation of temporary bridges on Main Street and Merchants Row, he suggested that the fall might be a good time to get local first responders, Vermont Emergency Management and Vermont Rail together to develop a plan for emergency response to events occurring with new components of the rail corridor, specifically, the addition of the tunnel and the underground drainage system. Fire Chief David Shaw and Assistant Chief Myron Selleck said that Vermont Rail should provide the Town with a full supply of emergency response materials, dedicated to emergency response associated with the railroad, and keep the supply fully stocked, ideally at the Middlebury Fire Dept station on Seymour St where it will be in close proximity to the rail bridges.

Other Business

1. **Equipment Needs.** Fire Chief Shaw and Assistant Chief Selleck, joined the Board to discuss the purchase of equipment for the new ladder truck due to arrive

this fall. They want to purchase this now so it is here and ready to equip the truck as soon as it arrives. Shaw said they grouped the equipment into a package and put it out to 3 vendors to get a better deal. He said MES is the preferred vendor with a bid of \$36,840.77, and \$8,214 to Reynolds Corporation for the thermal imaging camera, and \$8,022.62 for radio equipment from Radio North.

Shaw said the next request was another thermal imaging camera to replace their oldest camera that has come less reliable. He said repairing the camera would cost more than it's worth, so he recommends replacing it with funds from the Capital Budget at a cost of \$8,214.

Shaw said the Department is also working on getting caught up with updating their turnout gear, and this year they are proposing replacing 5 sets and there is money in the Capital Budget to cover the cost of \$8,856.47.

Gary Baker moved that the Committee recommend the purchase of equipment and gear for the Fire Department to the Selectboard, as outlined above. The motion was seconded by Tom Scanlon.

Discussion: Don Keeler said that while he supports the recommendation, he doesn't feel comfortable evaluating the need for the equipment requested.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Cell Tower Update.** Chair Laura Asermily reported that she had called Jeff Meisterling, Verizon Wireless Construction Manager, and Jeff said the bids on the construction of the Chipman Hill Tower are coming in this week. Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay noted that she had received a proposed modification of the tower configuration. The configuration, which substitutes in a single pole for lattice work on the top 20' of the tower, is an improvement over the original configuration Chief Shaw, who had reviewed the proposal, said. Don Keeler, in his role as Addison County Sheriff, said that he had not heard from Jeff Meisterling on the Sheriff's Department's equipment needs for a seamless transition to the new tower and asked that Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay arrange for a face-to-face meeting soon. Keeler also said that he needs communication with other parties on the county radio system, and he will follow-up with the county fire group.

3. **Summer Parking & Traffic Management.**

Jim Gish said that traffic is flowing well through the downtown during the preliminary work for the installation of the temporary bridges so far, though the speed of southbound traffic coming off Route 7 down the hill on Main Street is too fast. The Committee suggested that perhaps "fines doubled in work zone" signs might slow traffic. The Committee also discussed the possibility of

directing through-traffic to other routes rather than through the downtown during construction.

The interim location of the ACTR bus transfer point on South Pleasant Street was also discussed, including the possibility of installing a three-way stop at the intersection of Cross Street to improve the functioning and safety of that intersection. Laura said that Middlebury Safe Routes is also considering an incentive program for people traveling to the downtown by walking or biking, similar to the Park & Win! Program for the Frog Hollow Parking lot, in order to reduce vehicle traffic and parking demand.

4. **Safe Routes Update.** Laura Asermily updated the Committee on recent and upcoming Safe Routes activities, including installation of walk bikes on the sidewalk stencils and the effort to insure they are properly installed. Don Keeler expressed concern about pedestrian safety in the crosswalk from the Middlebury Inn to Court Square – it's a dangerous crossing spanning three lanes of traffic, Keeler noted. Asermily said that perhaps the technical advice team from Local Motion, which is coming to Middlebury to take a look at the Creek Road/Court Street intersection and Elm Street/Exchange Street/Seymour Street intersection toward improving bike and pedestrian safety in these areas, might be able to offer advice on the Court Square crosswalk as well.

5. **Public Health:** Laura asked if there were any concerns. None were offered other than noting that the tick season is upon us and we may want to offer more social media outreach on protection against insect borne diseases, including a practical remedy suggested by Gary Baker. Laura noted that the keynote speaker for the Addison County Emergency Management Team annual meeting last year focused on public health risks associated with climate change, especially heat related ones like heat stroke, and also more insect borne diseases and asthma related to increased weed pollen.

Next Meeting. Monday, July 10, 2017, 4 pm at MPD, if there is a need for a meeting. An update on Airport construction might be one topic for the agenda.

Adjourn. At 5:05 pm, Tom Scanlon moved that the Committee adjourn. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Swinington Ramsay
Town Manager