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Regular Selectboard Meeting
Large Conference Room – Town Offices
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Brian Carpenter, Susan Shashok, Laura Asermily, Heather Seeley, Victor Nuovo, Nick Artim and Farhad Khan.

Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Assistant Town Manager Chris English, Director of Public Works Planning Dan Werner, Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Murray, Community Liaison Jim Gish and Town Clerk Ann Webster. Also present were Amy Sheldon of Landslide Natural Resource Planning and Roy Schiff of Milone and MacBroom, and several members of the public.

The meeting was televised on MCTV by Jim Corbett.

1. Call to Order

Chair Brian Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Carpenter said prior the meeting, the Board had been at Fire Station #1 to inspect the new ladder truck, and he said they were impressed with the truck and the group efforts of the entire Department that resulted in the delivery of a fine truck.

2. Approval of Agenda

Asermily made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Shashok seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2018 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Khan moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2018, and Seeley seconded the motion.

Seeley noted several changes to the minutes:

Line 93: Change it to read "...as it impedes the sidewalk plow" and strike "from going around it".

Line 284-285 Change wording "...approve the Town..." to "..authorize the Town Manager...".

Line 392 Change wording "...to see the new ladder truck."

The minutes were approved as amended with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Citizen Comments

47 Lindsey Fuentes-George introduced herself and said she was running for the
48 Selectboard and since she entered the race a little late, some people didn't know who
49 she was. She mentioned there had been a nice article on her in the Addison
50 Independent, she'd had a letter-to-the-editor in the paper, and she also has a Facebook
51 page for those who want to know more about her.
52
53

54 **5. Assistant Town Manager Chris English with the Policy Review Committee's**
55 **Report on the Six-Month Review of Town Personnel Policy**
56

57 Assistant Town Manager Chris English joined the Board and said that, on behalf of the
58 Policy Review Committee, he was requesting the Board adopt the proposed
59 amendments to the Personnel Policy proposed by the Committee as a result of their six
60 month review, and to consider the Committee's supplemental recommendation to
61 consider phasing out two sections of the Policy. He said since the Committee realizes
62 the phasing out of these provisions is a potentially a controversial issue for staff, the
63 Committee is simply asking the Board to authorize them to work with Town Manager
64 Ramsay and Department Heads to explore the feasibility of it and the possibility of
65 replacing these two items with something else.
66

67 English went over the substantive changes to the Personnel Policy with the Board.
68 Seeley said it was a good job and it made sense to have something that was up-to-date,
69 was clear and made sense, and thanked English and the Policy Review Committee.
70 English said it had been very worthwhile for the Committee to go back and review the
71 Policy and reconsider some of the decisions made in the comprehensive update last
72 year.
73

74 Town Clerk Ann Webster said she wanted to point out that there is a change in how
75 holiday pay has been calculated compared to the past. She said now that the part-time
76 employees are eligible for holiday pay and will be paid for the time they would work on
77 that holiday, it is important to grandfather in the current part-time staff. She said while
78 her office staff will not be following these policies and will be bargaining a separate
79 agreement for her office, she just wanted to be sure that the grandfathering statement is
80 in the policy.
81

82 Nuovo wondered why the Committee had stricken language stating that part-time
83 employees were not eligible to for Bereavement Leave, but had not replaced it with a
84 positive statement saying that they now are eligible. English said that such a statement
85 had been left out intentionally after much debate so that it wasn't prescriptive, but allows
86 for supervisory discretion. Nuovo felt not having anything in there about them receiving
87 it left it open for abuse and felt there should be some type of positive statement about
88 them being eligible for Bereavement Leave so it isn't totally discretionary. He didn't
89 want there to be a chance of any unfairness.
90

91 Carpenter asked about the budget implications of adding in holiday pay for our part-time
92 staff, and English said the Committee hadn't explored the question but could look into it.

93 Carpenter said while this may be a benefit to part-timers, he'd like to know the budget
94 implications.

95
96 Ross Conrad asked about the language regarding employees being allowed to take
97 time off to attend their Town Meeting being removed, and English said it had been
98 removed because it's covered under State Statute. Conrad asked how employees
99 would know this if it isn't in the Policy, so English said it would be added back to the
100 Policy.

101
102 Webster said, in response to Carpenter's concern regarding budgetary impacts for
103 holiday pay to part-timer staff, that when she develops her payroll budget for the year
104 she calculates her part-time staff pay for the same number of hours every week of the
105 year, so if the employee is allowed a holiday, she has it covered. Carpenter said if you
106 add in the vacation time as well, that is a lot of lost time so there is a cost and he'd like
107 to know what it is.

108
109 Artim said if it weren't for the cost question on paid holiday time for part-time
110 employees, he'd say to approve the amendments with the suggested changes, but until
111 there is an answer on what it will cost, he thinks the Board should wait. Webster
112 pointed out that the holiday pay for part-time staff was approved in the Policy update a
113 year ago, so the only change in this version is the way it accrues.

114
115 English said he'd add in the positive statement regarding Bereavement Leave for part-
116 time employees and the unpaid time-off for Town Meeting back into the Policy, and
117 return to the Board for approval, along with the budget impacts on the holiday pay for
118 part-time staff.

119
120 English said the two provisions of the policy the Committee is suggesting phasing out
121 have been around for a very long time and may have out-lived their original purpose.
122 He said the Committee thought this is an opportunity for the Board to consider phasing
123 them out over a period of time and to replace them with a merit-based model tied to the
124 performance management program that we are looking to put in place. He said the two
125 provisions are the Sick Pay Buy-Back provision and Longevity Pay.

126
127 English said Town Treasurer Sullivan thought the Sick Pay Buy-Back had been around
128 since the 80's, and this provides that full-time employees get paid for 1/3 of any sick
129 time accrued over and above the 15-day maximum they can accrue in a year. He said
130 at the time this provision was put in place the Town was paying employees for unused
131 sick time when they left the Town's employment, but that no longer happens, yet the
132 provision remains so has become an entitled benefit for employees. He said the
133 Committee felt there was some valid argument against continuing this since it
134 encouraged employees to "bank" these sick days, rather than using them when needed,
135 in anticipation of a cash payment at the end of the year. He said instead of this
136 entitlement, the goal would be to shift more towards a merit system based on
137 performance.

138

139 English said the Longevity provision has also been in the Policy for a very long time,
140 and is an entitlement in the sense that, once an employee crosses a certain threshold of
141 time with the Town the employee receives this pay every year, regardless of
142 performance or contribution to the Town. He said this might be an opportunity to also
143 tie this benefit into the merit-based performance system. English said that proposing to
144 phase out these entitlements is controversial and he understand the push-back that's
145 been received so far, so the Committee is asking the Board's permission to allow them
146 to begin working over the next year or so with the Town Manager and Department
147 Heads to explore if this is feasible for the culture we have here now, or if we can make it
148 work in a performance based system.

149
150 Artim and Carpenter thought this was worth exploring and liked the idea of tying it to a
151 merit-based performance program.

152
153 Artim made the motion to authorize the Policy Review Committee to work with Town
154 Manager Kathleen Ramsay and staff to explore options for phasing out the Sick Pay
155 Buy-back and Longevity Pay provisions in the Personnel Policy and to transition to a
156 performance-based compensation model. Shashok seconded the motion. The motion
157 carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

158
159 **6. Project Manager Amy Sheldon, of Landslide Natural Resource Planning, Inc.,**
160 **and Roy Schiff, PE, PhD, of Milone & MacBroom with an update on the East**
161 **Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project.**
162

163 Sheldon gave a brief introduction and description of the flooding events that have
164 impacted the East Middlebury village for many years, including the flooding of 1989, the
165 2008 flood that took out the Lower Plains Bridge, the 2011 flooding from Irene and the
166 most recent flooding this past July 1st. She said a Hazard Mitigation Plan had been
167 drawn up for the East Middlebury area, making them eligible for the FEMA funds for the
168 2011 damage. She said the last time the Board met to see the plans was before the
169 July 1st flooding in 2017 when they were just getting into final design plans. After the
170 flooding event in July, she said they walked the area with residents who witnessed the
171 flooding that day and with people from the State to discuss design options.

172
173 Schiff, a water resource engineer, said their new plan for the river has four elements.
174 The first is to remove the sediment from the flood chutes. He said these are like high
175 pressure relief valves, and in the 2011 flooding and again in July, these inlets got
176 clogged with sediment and wood, so when the flood water rose it went towards the
177 neighborhoods and not into the meadows. He said one of the new elements of the
178 project is to remove the bars of sediment that have been created. He said the water
179 wants to spread out, but it can't because there isn't enough area because of the
180 sediment. He said the State has allowed the removal of sediment in certain high-risk
181 areas of around the state, and described the process involved that does not impact the
182 fish habitat at all.

183

184 Schiff said they are also proposing to armor a couple of areas that appear to be eroding
185 on the berm constructed along Ossie Road following the 1989 flooding. He said the two
186 other components of the project will be to reinforce the flood wall and to rebuild a piece
187 of about 150 feet of the flood wall downstream that failed in previous floods.
188

189 He said these plans have been refined based on things learned in the most recent flood
190 and there has been a shift in the thinking of the State in allowing material to be removed
191 from the water so long as you are not impacting a habitat. He said tree removal along
192 the river would be minimal and any removed would be replaced. He said this will also
193 establish a bench mark for monitoring sediment in the future should there be another
194 flooding event that dumps huge amounts of sediment.
195

196 Artim said Schiff mentioned this was a medium to long-term fix, and what exactly does
197 that mean. Schiff said based on history, it could be a 2-5 year fix or if lucky it could
198 stretch out to 10 years, but it would be likely that there would be some sediment buildup
199 in these areas that you'd want to clean out if you reach that threshold where the velocity
200 starts eroding the berm or going over the berm. He said the waters were higher along
201 the berm in this small flood last July due to the higher level of materials in this area. He
202 said if the Town can give it a little maintenance it might be possible to keep the
203 sediment moving through naturally.
204

205 Schiff said both the State and the Army Corp of Engineers have supported this
206 approach in high risk areas, and while a permit is still needed, the river engineers and
207 field agents are relying on the modeling done previously to approve the work.
208

209 Seeley said in the Infrastructure Committee meeting, Schiff had indicated the sediment
210 would be brought down to a 1-year flood level, so it would still be higher than the river.
211 Seeley said he had also mentioned that someone within Public Works would be shown
212 how to measure and be able to monitor this, so that we can evaluate it and maintain it
213 on our own. Schiff said they will set benchmarks to use in measuring to know the
214 levels. He said the Grist Mill Bridge area is also one that will need to be monitored
215 closely and they will set "caution" levels and "action" levels. He said the caution level
216 means you really need to monitor it closely because one good sediment event could
217 increase the risk, but the action level means any flooding event will cause the bridge to
218 fail or the water to overflow into the village.
219

220 Shashok said this will be a new project for the Infrastructure Committee and they asked
221 for a more defined idea of what the maintenance plan looks like and how much will it
222 cost us to plan for this in the Capital Improvement budget. Shashok said this also
223 needs to be brought back to the East Middlebury residents and the fishing community
224 and get feedback, especially since the plans have been revised. Sheldon said she had
225 sent the new plans the Vermont Emergency Management today and they will be
226 sending them to FEMA and move forward on the second phase of the archeological
227 assessment, and then went over the remainder of the steps involved prior to applying
228 for funding.
229

230 **7. Downtown Bridge Replacement Project**

231
232 **7.a. Update from Community Liaison Jim Gish.**

233
234 Jim Gish said that the State Senate and House Transportation Committees held a
235 public hearing on the project and voted unanimously to support VTrans project and to
236 advance the project. He said following the vote, Senator Mazza and Representative
237 Brennan had a letter in the Addison Independent stating the reasons for their decisions,
238 and letters by Nuovo and Carpenter, as well as an editorial by Angelo Lynn, have
239 “closed a chapter” on this project. He said 2 key focal points for this next year are the
240 Town’s efforts to support our business, cultural and religious community and getting this
241 project underway.

242
243 Gish said at the February 28th Selectboard meeting he will be joined by representatives
244 of the Neighbors Together Community Action Group and the Better Middlebury
245 Partnership to talk about steps taking place in 2018 to support the downtown. He said
246 these events will be paid for by one of three grants from the State to support these
247 efforts, and the first one is for \$75,000. This year’s events will be a trial to see what
248 works and what doesn’t, so they will know what to plan for going into the next two
249 construction seasons. He said a Grant Agreement is being worked on and will come
250 before the Board.

251
252 He said construction will begin in March and Kubricky has been asked to come back to
253 the Board on March 27th to go over what the project will look like in 2018.

254
255 **7.b. Consideration of Acceptance of Printers Alley from**
256 **the National Bank of Middlebury**

257
258 Gish said the Board had before them a Warranty Deed from the National Bank of
259 Middlebury to the Town for Printer’s Alley, consisting of approximately 973 square feet.
260 He said the Bank will keep a 5-foot buffer along the Bank, but the remainder of the area
261 will become the Town’s. He said this will give the Town control over this area and a
262 voice in the design of this area as part of the project. He said the Department of Public
263 Works has reviewed and approved the deed before the Board. He said while they are
264 looking for approval of the deed at this meeting, the signing of the deed will not happen
265 until after the State and the Bank have finalized their easement agreement underneath
266 part of this property. Ramsay said we are also waiting for approval for some conditions
267 added to the Warranty Deed.

268
269 Shashok moved that the Town of Middlebury accept the conveyance from Middlebury
270 National Corporation of a strip of land consisting of 973 square feet, more or less,
271 underlying a portion of Printers Alley in downtown Middlebury; that the Town accept the
272 conditions set forth in the proposed Warranty Deed, the final form of which must be
273 acceptable to the Town Manager and Town Attorney; and that the Town Manager,
274 Kathleen Ramsay, be authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to

275 complete said transaction, contingent upon the Bank accepting the proposed revisions.
276 Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

277
278
279 **8. Infrastructure Committee Chair Susan Shashok & Director of Public Works**
280 **Planning Dan Werner with a Report on and Recommendations from the**
281 **Infrastructure Committee Meeting of February 8, 2018**

282
283 **8.a. Authorize Signature of Agreement with the**
284 **DuFresne Group for the Water System Evaluation.**

285
286 Dan Werner reminded the Board that the DuFresne Group was the firm chosen to do
287 the Water System Evaluation, and the agreement with them is ready for approval. He
288 said the agreement is in two parts, the Basic Services is the hydraulic study work and
289 the second part is the Special Services that is a not-to-exceed amount for the Water
290 Gems software used in the study and training our staff to use it in the future. He said
291 the State has reviewed and given the okay for this agreement and once it is approved
292 we need to submit the Water Revolving Loan Fund Application. Werner said the
293 amount of the Engineering Agreement is \$68,000.

294
295 Shashok moved to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the Dufresne
296 Group Engineering Services Agreement for preparation of a Water Model and
297 Calibration Report for the Middlebury Water System, for a cost not to exceed \$68,000.
298 Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

299
300 **8.b. Authorize Planning Loan Application for Water System Upgrades**

301
302 Werner said the next step is to sign the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund loan
303 application to fund the water system engineering study. He said the financial
304 information provided in the application is needed for the State to secure funding from
305 the Vermont Bond Bank. Werner said the Town could have gone directly to the Bond
306 Bank, but this program gets a slight discount in rates.

307
308 Shashok made the motion to sign the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund loan
309 application for \$68,000 to fund the upcoming Town water system engineering study.
310 Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

311
312 **8.c Award Contract for Purchase and Installation of Propane-Fired High-**
313 **Efficiency Boiler for Public Works Building**

314
315 Werner explained that the boiler at the Public Works facility is original to the building,
316 runs off of diesel fuel and has been leaking water on the floor. He sought and received
317 cost proposals from two companies for purchase, installation and removal of the old
318 boiler. Werner is recommending a combi boiler, which provides both domestic hot
319 water and hydronic space heating on an on-demand basis He said this is a better option
320 for Public Works given that the facility operates only 9-to-10 hours a day and is vacant

321 on weekends. In light of this, Werner recommends awarding to low-bidder Plouffe's
322 Boiler & Mechanical Service for the Bosch Greenstar Combi Boiler for \$8,338.00. The
323 other bid was from W & DE Ryan for a NTI Combi Boiler for \$11,900

324
325 Artim asked about the availability of natural gas at Public Works. Werner said it runs in
326 front of the building, but it is not piped to the building yet, although he has spoken with
327 Vermont Gas about service. He said until they can get natural gas, the boiler would be
328 piped to an existing propane line used to heat the shop area.

329
330 Ross Conrad asked if any thought had been given to biomass or a wood chip system,
331 and Werner said it had not. Conrad thought it would be prudent to at least get some
332 pricing and to move away from fossil-based fuels. Artim said that might be relevant
333 when we are looking at what to do for Public Works space in the future, but this is an
334 immediate issue. Carpenter told Conrad that his idea was something that could be
335 looked at when planning for future expansion and space for Public Works.

336
337 *Shashok made the motion to award a contract to Plouffe's Boiler & Mechanical Service*
338 *for the purchase and installation of a Bosch Greenstar 131 Combi Boiler, for a total cost*
339 *of \$8,338. Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION***
340 ***PASSED.***

341
342 **9. Authorize Signature of Finance & Maintenance Agreement with State of**
343 **Vermont for Railroad Crossing Improvements at Morse Road**
344

345 Town Manager Ramsay said they have a Finance & Maintenance Agreement with
346 VTrans regarding improvements being made to the at-grade rail crossing at Morse
347 Road, however Public Works Director of Operations Bill Kernan had some requests for
348 changes. She said VTrans has agreed to these minor changes, but we have not yet
349 received the revised agreement, so she asked the Board to considered authorizing her
350 to sign the agreement pending satisfactory return from the State.

351
352 Seeley moved to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign a Finance &
353 Maintenance Agreement with VTrans regarding recently completed improvements to the
354 at-grade rail crossing at Morse Road, pending approval from VTrans. Khan seconded
355 the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

356
357 **10. Request from Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc. for Deed of Gift of**
358 **Artifacts Recovered from Native American sites on Town Land During**
359 **Archaeological Field Work in 2010 and 2012**
360

361 Ramsay said that a January 22, 2018 letter from Robert Bartone, Director of the
362 Northeast Archaeology Research Center (NE ARC) in Farmington, ME, requested the
363 Town's permission to bring more than 700 recently-cataloged Native American artifacts
364 recovered from three archaeological sites on Town-owned land along Otter Creek to the
365 Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center, where they will be permanently housed and
366 made available for research, education and public interpretation. She said the

367 recovered items were part of archaeological field work that NE ARC conducted in 2010
368 and 2012 on behalf of Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power as
369 part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydroelectric relicensing process.
370 She said by signing the Deed of Gift to the Archaeology Heritage Center, the Town
371 would waive all present or future rights to the recovered artifacts, their use or
372 disposition.

373
374 Asermily made the motion to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the
375 Deed of Gift allowing the transfer of 710 Native American artifacts recovered from
376 Town-owned land in 2010 and 2012 to the State of Vermont Archeology Heritage
377 Center in Barre. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor.

378 **MOTION PASSED.**

379

380

381 **11. Prepare for Public Hearing on Amendments to Middlebury Zoning &**
382 **Subdivision Regulations at the**
383 **Wednesday, February 28th Special Selectboard Meeting**

384

385

386 Ramsay reminded the Board of the Public Hearing on the Amendments to the
387 Middlebury Zoning and Subdivision Regulations would be at their February 28th
388 meeting. She said Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Murray was present if they
389 had any questions, and if they had any suggestions for consideration on changes, they
390 would need to submit them to Murray by Friday, February 16th.

391

392 Seeley had a suggestion for Murray that the next time they prepare a summary of the
393 amendments and changes, it would be helpful to note the page numbers where the
394 changes could be found.

395

396

397 **12. Review First Draft of Agenda for Town Meeting.**

398

399 Carpenter said everyone had been contacted by Ramsay regarding their presentations,
400 and it would be much like last year which he felt worked well.

401

402 Town Clerk Webster asked about setup for the community reception they were planning
403 between 6:15 and 6:45 p.m., and Seeley said they would do whatever worked best for
404 Webster and the voter check in.

405

406 Webster also commented on the draft agenda prepared for the meeting and the
407 protocol. She said she believed the Town Meeting is a meeting of the townspeople and
408 it is run by the Town Moderator, it is not a Selectboard meeting. She said she would
409 like to request that the opening after Article 1, be changed. She said usually the
410 Moderator opens the meeting and reads the Warning, and then will introduce the Board
411 and anyone else, and request that non-residents be allowed in for certain items. She
412 would like to see the Moderator introduce Carpenter for the welcoming remarks and
highlights.

413
414 Asermily asked Webster about a display at the Town Meeting and the Polls the next
415 day. Webster said it will depend on what they are asked to display.

416
417 Asermily asked the Board to take another look at her draft Town Meeting Survey, so
418 there was some discussion on the questions. Ross Conrad said the Energy Committee
419 has wondered how many homes in town had converted to LED lighting, so he asked if
420 perhaps there could be a question asking that.

421 422 **13. Approval of Check Warrants**

423
424 Khan said he had reviewed the checks and all was in order, so he made the motion to
425 approve total expenditures in the amount of \$395,035.94, consisting of \$292,875.47 for
426 accounts payable, and \$102,160.47 for payroll, for the period January 24, 2018 through
427 February 13, 2018. Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 7 in favor.
428 **MOTION PASSED.**

429 430 **14. Town Manager's Report**

431 432 **14.a. Update on Net Metering (Hartford RFP and Contact with Vermont Law 433 School's Vermont Community Solar Team)**

434
435 Ramsay reported that she and Assistant Town Manager Chris English recently met with
436 Kevin Jones, of Vermont Law School, and his Vermont Community Solar Team, to
437 discuss the Town's interest in developing a net metering RFP and/or exploring potential
438 renewable energy projects on Town-owned land. She said Jones and the team
439 underscored the rapidly-evolving and complex rules governing the renewables market
440 and, based on their experience working with other municipalities, strongly
441 recommended that the Town take the time to develop a renewable energy strategy for
442 municipal facilities before issuing an RFP. Ramsay said she accepted Jones' offer to
443 make a presentation here in Middlebury on this subject, and has scheduled a meeting at
444 the Town Offices on Thursday, February 22nd from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. so interested
445 parties can learn more about developing a renewable energy strategy. She said she'd
446 also extended personal invitations to the Energy Committee and other interested
447 parties.

448 449 **14.b. Discuss Legislative Updates.**

450
451 Ramsay said as noted in the January 19 and January 26 issues of VLCT's Weekly
452 Legislative Report, the House Government Operations Committee took testimony
453 recently on a committee bill that would make substantial changes to the Open Meeting
454 Law. She said among these proposed changes is a narrowing of the definition of what
455 constitutes a meeting to include any communications of a "serial" nature between at
456 least two members of a board, either directly or through intermediaries, to discuss or
457 take action on any business of the public body, even if the individual communication
458 does not involve a quorum of the public body. She said this proposed legislation would

459 also create a new Open Government Ombudsman position that would be empowered to
460 investigate alleged violations of the Open Meeting Law and mediate disputes between
461 public bodies and individuals alleging violations. Ramsay said both of these actions
462 underscore the increased scrutiny that municipalities could be under in regard to
463 compliance with the Open Meeting Law, and VLCT will continue to report on the
464 proposed legislation as it moves through committee.

465

466 **14.c. Reception for Departing Parks & Recreation Director Terri Arnold**

467

468 Ramsay reminded the Board there will be a public reception to say farewell to Terri
469 Arnold on Thursday, February 15th, here at the Town Offices from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

470

471 Referring back to the Net Metering item, Seeley asked what did “renewable energy
472 strategies for municipal facilities” mean. Ramsay said the Town has been interested in
473 net metering, in biomass at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, solar on the Recreation
474 Center roof and there is interest in hydro on the falls or in the water lines. She said we
475 have a limited, but large, electric demand we’d like to offset, so we want to quantify how
476 our demand matches up to all these renewable energy projects we have in mind.

477 Ramsay said this study is done by the Vermont Community Solar Team, which is a
478 group of graduate students who will help us with this.

479

480 Seeley asked about the proposed Open Meeting Law legislation, and if it is approved
481 she would like someone from VLCT to come and give some training. Webster urged
482 them to contact their Legislators and tell them these proposed changes are very
483 excessive. Nuovo said he’s a little concerned about these changes.

484

485

485 **15. Board Member Concerns**

486

487 Asermily mentioned several local events going on and about how pleased she was to
488 see 9 bicycles in the racks at MUMS on a 9 degree day, proving the walk and roll to
489 school effort is working. She also mentioned the Winterfest on February 24th.

490

491 Nuovo congratulated Carpenter on his editorial in the Independent. He said it was well
492 written and set the record straight.

493

494 Artim, spoke about how sorry he was to see Recreation Director Terri Arnold leave and
495 spoke of her level of professionalism and experience she brought to the job in respect to
496 programming and the building of the new Recreation Center. He wishes her well on her
497 next venture.

498

499 Shashok said she saw in the paper that the work at the airport is coming to an end, yet
500 VTrans has not yet addressed the cut trees on Forest Ridge Drive in an acceptable
501 manner. She thinks they’re ignoring us and the situation, or are talking to someone not
502 connected to the Town and coming to conclusions, so she’s concerned they’re wrapping
503 up and nothing is happening. She doesn’t think the Board should just let it go and she’s
504 disappointed that they’re not working with us. Ramsay said that Tree Warden Chris

505 Zeoli had originally specified that the understory be retained as much as possible, and
506 when that didn't happen, he suggested they plant some seedlings to restore some dust
507 and noise barrier. She said she and Zeoli had met on the site with VTrans
508 representatives and they said they were going to do some survey work and look into the
509 request. Ramsay said she's requested this survey so we can figure out what's in the
510 ROW before continuing the conversation, but she has not received it yet. Shashok is
511 afraid they may not do that if the work at the airport is complete. Ramsay will do a
512 formal request for the survey work results.

513
514 Seeley thanked Ramsay for arranging to have the Board see the new ladder truck and
515 also thanked Chief Shaw and Assistant Chief Selleck for meeting the Board at the
516 station. She thinks the community should be very proud of the Fire Department and
517 equipment.

518
519 Khan also spoke highly of Terri Arnold and she will be missed.

520
521
16. – 17. Executive Session – None

522
523
18. Adjourn

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526 The Board voted to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. upon motion by Shashok, seconded by Khan.

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528 The next meeting of the Middlebury Selectboard will be on Wednesday, February 28,
529 2018 in the Town Offices at 77 Main Street.

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531 Respectfully submitted,
532 Beth Dow
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