

1 **Regular Selectboard Meeting**

2  
3 **Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

4 **Meeting Minutes**

5  
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  
10 Members Present: Brian Carpenter, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Heather Seeley, Dan  
11 Brown, Farhad Khan and Nick Artim.

12  
13 Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Assistant Town Manager Chris  
14 English, Chief of Police Tom Hanley, Ilesley Library Director Dana Hart, Fire Chief David  
15 Shaw and Director of Public Works Planning Dan Werner.

16  
17 Also Present: David Silberman, Esther Thomas, Andy Hooper, Laura Asermily, David  
18 Pistilli and Fred Dunnington.

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

21  
22 **1. Call to Order**

23  
24 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Brian Carpenter.

25  
26 **2. Approval of Agenda**

27  
28 Artim moved to approve the agenda, and Fuentes-George seconded the motion.  
29 Carpenter said item 13a had been added to the agenda regarding the request by Chief  
30 Hanley for the purchase of two rooftop heat exchanges. The agenda was approved as  
31 amended with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

32  
33 **3. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2020**

34  
35 Khan moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2020, and Seeley seconded the  
36 motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor and the minutes were approved as  
37 presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

38  
39 **4. Citizen Comments**

40

41 There were no citizen comments.

42

## 43 6. Nominations to Fill Vacancy on Selectboard

44 (item taken out of order)

45

46 Carpenter said there were 3 letters of interest and the interested parties were present to  
47 introduce themselves and answer questions.

48

49 Andy Hooper said he had been in politics for a long time and is a programmer at Cabot  
50 Creamery in their Waitsfield office. He said he served on the Montpelier City Council for  
51 8 years before moving to Middlebury and he enjoyed the work. He said he liked  
52 working with a team on the common goal of improving the community and getting  
53 people to work together, feel invested, and feel they're being heard.

54

55 Khan asked Hooper if he was interested in running for the seat in March, and Hooper  
56 said he was likely to run, but he wanted to see what the climate was in January.

57

58 Esther Thomas said she moved here a year and a half ago and works at Middlebury  
59 College. She said she feels she can bring a new perspective as a single, working mom.

60

61 Khan asked her if she was interested in running for the Board in March, and she  
62 responded she was.

63

64 Laura Asermily, a former Selectboard member, said she isn't interested in running for  
65 the seat in 2021, but she knows the process and is willing to help in the meantime and  
66 she looks forward to a lively election in March.

67

68 Carpenter said traditionally they nominate the full slate and make the appointment at the  
69 next Board meeting.

70

71 Artim moved to nominate Andy Hooper, Esther Thomas and Laura Asermily for the  
72 vacancy on the Board left by Victor Nuovo's resignation until the 2021 Town Meeting  
73 elections. Fuentes-George seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor.

74 **MOTION PASSED.**

75

76

77

## 78 5. Local Emergency Management Director/Chief of Police,

79 Update on Pandemic Response

80

81 Hanley said they have been doing compliance checks on businesses, beginning with  
82 the ones they'd received complaints on, to make sure they're aware of the latest  
83 requirements. He said most businesses were appreciative and thanked the officers for  
84 the information, and they'll continue to do this. He said the State has indicated they will  
85 be reimbursing the Police Department for the cost of doing these compliance checks  
86 going all the way back to May, so they will be submitting for reimbursement and for  
87 additional funds for the work going forward.

88  
89 He said there is a lot of COVID out there right now, with over 2,000 active cases spread  
90 out over the state; however, they think this is just the tip-of-the-iceberg since there are  
91 probably a lot of others that are asymptomatic. He said Middlebury has had 30 cases  
92 since the beginning of the year, but they know there are more out there. He said there  
93 were some officers exposed recently when responding with MREMS to known COVID  
94 cases, so while they were wearing PPE, extra precautions are being taken in-house and  
95 they will be tested and they have tightened up their rules within the police offices.

96  
97 Hanley said what they're seeing throughout the state is that multi-household gatherings  
98 and failure to follow quarantine rules are what's fueling the increase in cases. He said  
99 for the most part around Middlebury people are following the rules and wearing masks.

100  
101 Seeley asked Hanley if the post offices, as Federal buildings, followed different rules  
102 than everyone else. Hanley said the Governor doesn't have authority over the post  
103 offices, but said he didn't have a problem speaking to them if there was a problem.

104  
105 **7. Appointment of the Town's Representative to the**  
106 **Addison County Economic Development Corporation**

107  
108 Carpenter said no new applicants stepped forward in response to the advertisement,  
109 but Jeff Olson, our current representative, has expressed interest in continuing in this  
110 role for 2021. Carpenter said if the Board is amenable to reappointing Olson, a  
111 notification letter confirming his selection has been prepared for Ramsay's signature on  
112 behalf of the Selectboard.

113  
114 Olson said he loved serving on the ACEDC board and they're doing very important work  
115 in regard to the COVID funds and the advice they've provided area businesses. He said  
116 next year they'll be working on the regional economic development plan and he's on  
117 that committee, so he wants to continue this work. He also reminded the Board that he  
118 lives in Weybridge, but owns two properties and a business in Middlebury, so he feels  
119 he can represent Middlebury very well.

120

121 Khan moved to appoint Jeff Olson as Middlebury’s 2020 representative to the Addison  
122 County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and authorize Town  
123 Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the notification letter on the Board’s behalf. Artim  
124 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

125  
126 Laura Asermily asked Olson if his committee was aware that the Climate Economy  
127 Action Center had plans to develop a plan as well, so it might be good to incorporate  
128 this with the regional plan. Olson said he had received an email from them and it will be  
129 considered going forward.

130  
131 **8. Consider request from David Silberman regarding the addition of an**  
132 **Article to the Town Meeting Warning to permit cannabis retail in Middlebury, by**  
133 **Selectboard initiative rather than by citizen petition.**

134  
135 Carpenter read the proposed Article, which states, *“Shall the Town of Middlebury permit*  
136 *the operation of cannabis retailers and Integrated Licensees which are licensed by the*  
137 *State of Vermont pursuant to Act 164 of 2020, subject to such municipal ordinance and*  
138 *regulation as the Selectboard may lawfully adopt and implement?”* He said the Board  
139 had discussed this at the last meeting and seemed divided on the issue, so while he’s  
140 not promoting it or condemning it, he believes the Board should provide a robust  
141 opportunity for education, discussion, debate and an opportunity for persuasion through  
142 the Addison Independent or Front Porch Forum prior to voting. He said he thinks they  
143 should move forward and agree to warn this item and schedule a public meeting so  
144 more people in town have the opportunity to be educated to get maximal voting results.  
145 He said if this comes in via a petition at the last minute, it will short circuit the  
146 opportunity and he’d like the Selectboard to be sure we’re controlling this and providing  
147 an opportunity for everyone to have their say. He said if the vote is in the affirmative in  
148 March, it gives a longer window for planning for this and for the Town to consider what  
149 regulations are needed for control.

150  
151 Brown said he’d like to emphasize that all the Board is doing is voting to put this on the  
152 ballot, not whether they’re for or against this item.

153  
154 Khan asked how far ahead of Town Meeting would the public meeting be, or would  
155 Town Meeting be the public meeting. Carpenter said it would be held prior to Town  
156 Meeting for people to comment and to focus just on this topic, perhaps some time in  
157 February.

158  
159 Artim said in light of the State’s adoption of Act 164, I move to warn a Town Meeting  
160 article in 2021 to determine the will of the voters in regard to permitting the operation of

161 cannabis retailers and Integrated Licensees in Middlebury that are licensed by the  
162 State, thereby providing Town officials and staff ample time to create appropriate zoning  
163 regulations, as needed, should there be an affirmative vote. I further move to warn a  
164 public information session prior to Town Meeting to give the community an opportunity  
165 to fully explore the question they will be asked to vote upon. Khan seconded the  
166 motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

167  
168 Fred Dunnington said everyone seems to think zoning is the way to regulate this, and  
169 based on his career in zoning, the police are far more effective at enforcing these  
170 regulations than zoning. He said he has done some research on this and has reached  
171 out to Town Manager Ramsay, Director of Planning and Zoning Murray and Chief  
172 Hanley, on what potential tools are available to govern regulations.

173  
174 **9. Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager, Review of Major Budget Drivers Based on**  
175 **First Draft Budget; Review of Budget Requests for Administration, Employee**  
176 **Benefits & Debt Service**

177  
178 Ramsay said the Board had before them the first draft of the FY22 budget and she  
179 thanked the department heads for bringing in some bare-bones budget requests this  
180 year. She said the total budget request is for \$11.7 million, with \$7.8 million to be raised  
181 by taxes. She said the budget increase vs. FY21 is \$147,599, and due to a major hit on  
182 the revenue side, the amount of property taxes to be raised is an increase of \$219,071.

183  
184 She went over the major budget drivers, which included wages, employment benefits  
185 (health insurance and retirement), workers compensation insurance, property and  
186 casualty insurance and the addition of the Police Department Re-Use Project Bond and  
187 the first-year interest on the Flood Resiliency Project Bond. She said Public Works  
188 Director of Operations Bill Kernan has worked with Director of Planning Dan Werner to  
189 push off some of our planned equipment purchases, which will be reviewed by the  
190 Infrastructure Committee at their December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

191  
192 She said on the revenue side, tax collection fees are down, which is attributable in part  
193 to the Board's decision on how to charge the penalty on late tax payments. She said  
194 zoning permit fees are down, and the plan to have Ilsley Library be a "fine free" library  
195 will impact revenues. She said the Recreation Department fees are down as well, and  
196 there was a decrease in interest fees on the General Fund and the Cross Street Bridge  
197 Fund.

198  
199 Ramsay said there is some good news on the revenue side: the Town Clerk's fees have  
200 increased, the Current Use payment is increased as well as the State's payment-in-lieu

201 of taxes payment. She said we've begun the phased increase in the water and sewer  
202 fund administrative charges to reflect changes made in staffing that are dedicated to this  
203 fund. She said school tax collection fees increased, as well as the School Resource  
204 Officer salary, which varies based on the officer assigned.

205  
206 She said the total of these major drivers, many of which we don't have any control over,  
207 is \$210,982 and our Grand List for the coming year is estimated at \$9.6 million, so this  
208 will result in a \$2.18-cent increase. She said the budget as presented is a \$2.25-cent  
209 increase.

210  
211 Fuentes-George asked what the Current Use payment was, and Ramsay explained that  
212 when a farm is enrolled in the State Current Use program, there is a reduction in their  
213 property tax bill and the State reimburses the town for that tax.

214  
215 Ramsay began the overview of the Administrative Budget. She pointed to a couple of  
216 decreases in the budget beginning with the Town Office Maintenance. She said we've  
217 transitioned from having a full-time maintenance person to a contract service. She said  
218 the full-time person has been redeployed to the Public Works and Recreation  
219 Departments, which has resulted in a \$20,700 decrease in the Municipal Building  
220 Budget. She said also the Legal Services budget has decreased, and Elections has  
221 decreased because there are no national elections in the upcoming year.

222  
223 Brown asked about the increase in wages in the Lister's Office, Ramsay said previously  
224 we had an Assessor on staff and he retired, so we transferred those wages to a part-  
225 time employee. She said in FY19 we had a reappraisal, so a lot of our assessing office  
226 expenses were covered under that, but we're also looking to provide additional part-time  
227 help in this office now that we're post-reappraisal and in normal operations.

228  
229 **10. Dana Hart, Ilsley Public Library Director, Budget Request for Libraries**

230  
231 Joining Hart for this presentation was President of the Ilsley Board of Trustees, Joe  
232 McVeigh. Hart began by saying it's been quite a year for the Library with all the  
233 changes to the regular schedule due to COVID, but she's hoping regular operations will  
234 resume in the summer of 2021, so the proposed budget is remarkably similar as last  
235 year's budget. She said other than the wage increases, there are no new positions  
236 planned. She said the big change next year would be when the Library goes to a "fine  
237 free" policy.

238  
239 Laura Asermily said she knew the Library had been doing a lot of improvements, so  
240 wondered if they were seeing any savings as a result of these improvements. Hart said

241 there had been work on the historic windows and this has made the building tighter, but  
242 with the weather just turning cold they haven't seen any savings yet, but it definitely is  
243 more comfortable in parts of the library and she can update the Selectboard as the  
244 winter goes on to see if there is a drop in heating expense.

245  
246 McVeigh pointed out that the Library budget undergoes several reviews by the Trustees  
247 before it is presented to the Selectboard, and the Library does have a number of needs  
248 for improvements to the building. He said the most pressing of those is the HVAC  
249 system which has been considered by the Infrastructure Committee, and the present  
250 plan is to defer that to the following fiscal year.

251  
252 **11. Thomas Hanley, Chief of Police, Budget Request for Police Department**

253  
254 Hanley asked the Board to look at the budget worksheets, which helped explain the  
255 figures in the budget. He said there is an overall budget increase of \$51,287 and there  
256 are some specific drivers, one being the Equipment Fund, which is over half of it. He  
257 said our cruisers are purchased on a 2-1-2 basis, and we'll be getting into a two-cruiser  
258 purchase year next year, so that's why there is a sudden increase in the FY22 budget.  
259 He said the other increases will be for heat and electricity in the old buildings that have  
260 been restored. He said the costs are based on what they used to be in these buildings  
261 before, but he believes they'll be decreased, since these buildings are mostly for  
262 storage, so it's fairly residual. He said there is a fee from the State for dispatching  
263 services for overnight and on Sunday that we've never paid for before. He said the first  
264 year it will be \$5,000, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$15,000 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year it will be \$20,000, and after  
265 that it will be inflationary increases. He said we've never paid for this before, but the  
266 only alternative would be to hire 3 full-time dispatchers which would be a lot more than  
267 the State charges. He said this also includes dispatching for the Fire Department and  
268 after-hours Public Works dispatching as well but does not include 911 service, which is  
269 provided at no charge.

270  
271 He said the next big one is patrol salaries, and with the union contract ending in June  
272 30<sup>th</sup>, they're guessing the increase to be 2%, but that will be decided in negotiations that  
273 the Board will be doing with the union. He said patrol salaries are more than ½ of the  
274 budget.

275  
276 Seeley asked if he'd put anything in the budget for radar speed detection, and Chief  
277 said they hadn't. His understanding that revenues are down, so he hadn't included  
278 them in the budget but had provided information on what these speed signs cost if that  
279 is an option. He said the State is also looking at mandating body-worn cameras and  
280 that would be a huge expense, almost \$75,000 to \$80,000. He said it requires full-time

281 management of this data that all needs to be redacted. He said the equipment is cheap  
282 and probably we could get a grant for it, but it's the management and storage of the  
283 data that is expensive.

284  
285 Ramsay said in regard to the driver feedback signs, she will have that in mind when  
286 finalizing the Capital Budget and we can talk more about traffic calming in general.  
287 Hanley said the signs he quoted are just "dummy" machines that only show the drivers  
288 speed and don't produce data for studies and analysis.

289  
290 Brown asked what Incentive Pay was. Hanley said there were two incentives, one was  
291 for fitness level and the other was for education. Brown also asked about the tuition  
292 reimbursement line item, and Hanley said it's in the union contract that officers be  
293 reimbursed for tuition for any criminal justice-related courses they take; however, he  
294 said, most officers come to us with degrees in hand.

295  
296 Brown asked about the \$200,000 in overtime pay and could that be reduced by hiring  
297 more employees. Hanley said overtime pay doesn't increase the health insurance  
298 benefits, and is something needed to staff 24-7. He said this number goes up and down  
299 based on whether there is a vacancy or if an officer is injured.

300  
301 Seeley asked for an update on the canine program. Hanley said the officer that ran the  
302 canine program was out due to an injury for about a year, but he's back and the dog has  
303 been an asset in a number of ways. He said they work at night, so the dog offers an  
304 extra sense of security for the officers when searching in the dark. He said the dog is a  
305 patrol dog, she is not a service dog, but she is able to do limited tracking.

306  
307 Fuentes-George asked about the difference between the State dispatch and the 911  
308 dispatch. Hanley said 911 calls are answered and sent to a dispatcher who then  
309 dispatches the police. He said 911 is strictly emergency, so it's two different levels of  
310 service. Artim asked if they dispatched EMS, and Hanley said if it's medical they would  
311 send the call to MREMS and depending on what the call is, they would also send it to  
312 police. Carpenter asked if it was worth looking into having MREMS dispatch for us to  
313 keep the funds local. Hanley said there are confidentiality issues since we're connected  
314 with Federal and State systems, and that connectivity is the problem. Hanley said they  
315 have looked at other avenues for regional dispatching, but without any kind of county  
316 government to corral these all in, it's a problem.

317  
318 Fuentes-George asked if Hanley meant we'd need to hire additional staff with the  
319 mandate of having body cameras, and he said yes because it would be an incredibly  
320 data-intensive program.



321  
322 Laura Asermily thanked the Chief for his bulletins and updates on COVID, and said he'd  
323 recently mentioned about the mental health crisis and that officers were cross-training  
324 with the Counseling Service and said it might be helpful to know more about this.  
325 Hanley said a few years ago they started cross-training with the Counseling Service and  
326 when it began a clinician and police officer traveled together. He said every officer has  
327 gone through basic mental health training and has had de-escalation training and they  
328 have tried for years to get someone to work with the department on a more regular  
329 basis for even non-emergency mental health cases, but it's a funding issue and the  
330 State has not helped with this in our area.

331  
332 Asermily said one of the benefits with the new garage at the Police Department will be  
333 that in the winter cruisers don't have to be left idling, so there might be a potential for  
334 fuel savings. Hanley said the department has one hybrid cruiser that was delivered in  
335 August, but they've been unable to get it outfitted due to COVID. He said when the new  
336 bids go out they hope to get two more hybrids, so they should see substantial fuel  
337 savings.

338  
339 David Pistilli said he'd feel better having the speed sign included in the Police Budget,  
340 and if it gets cut in an upcoming review or by body camera he'd understand, but he'd  
341 feel better having it included in the budget to begin with. Ramsay said one of her ideas  
342 is to have the Infrastructure Committee include the driver feedback sign in the Capital  
343 Budget and she has an idea that something could be trimmed to include these signs in  
344 there if the Committee agrees.

345  
346 Artim said he's curious how the hybrids will perform and asked the Chief if he's  
347 confident enough to order 2 more. Hanley said he is based on feedback from other  
348 agencies that have them, but it remains to be seen what the long-term maintenance of  
349 the vehicle will be.

350  
351 **12. David Shaw, Fire Chief, Budget Request for Fire Department**

352  
353 Fire Chief David Shaw said it's been a busy and stressful year in the volunteer fire  
354 service with COVID. He said they finished the year with 230 calls for service and  
355 experienced COVID exposure at 4 of those calls. He said the budget is basically the  
356 same as last year and just realized prior to the meeting that some of the figures were  
357 from old information and went over the changes. Ramsay said the net total of the  
358 changes Chief pointed out was \$1,700.

359

360 Artim asked about the big drop in heating fuel at Station #2, and Shaw said he thinks  
361 the bills haven't caught up to the cost, but they have turned the heat down quite a bit  
362 and they have done that at Station #1 as well.

363  
364 Brown said it amazes him that on a budget on \$240,000 you can have over 230 calls  
365 per year, so he's very appreciative and compliments them on what they do on such a  
366 small budget. Artim said they're one of the most professional units out there, and he's  
367 impressed with what they do with such a small budget.

368  
369 Carpenter asked about the impact of COVID on their training, and Shaw said it has had  
370 a tremendous impact, and there has been more online training and only small groups  
371 can train together at any one time. Artim asked about the College student firefighters  
372 we've had in the past, and Shaw says they haven't been able to utilize them, which has  
373 impacted the department; however, they're at every Zoom meeting, he said, so they're  
374 still active in that sense.

375  
376 Carpenter asked about the virus impact on the construction of our new fire truck, and  
377 Shaw said they're saying it's still on schedule, but that area of the country where it's  
378 being built is getting hard hit hard with the virus, so they'll have to wait and see.

379  
380 **13. Tom Hanley, Chief of Police, Request for Purchase Order for Network Server**  
381 **Update**

382  
383 Hanley said this is part of their regular network upgrade in the Police Department  
384 Capital Budget. He said this will include a new firewall and a number of new drives and  
385 other technical pieces that go with it.

386  
387 Brown asked whether using the Cloud storage system was an option for them, and  
388 Hanley said they do all their backup in the Cloud, but part of the issue is the  
389 confidentiality of the information and the ability to control it and redact as needed, so not  
390 all of it can be sent to the Cloud. He said there is a backup system in the Town Offices.  
391 Brown said he understood the Cloud was more secure, and Hanley said their regular  
392 records are combined with other agencies through Valcour, but they need to have a  
393 robust network to interface with State and Federal servers, and that's what this is about,  
394 as well as building a new firewall.

395  
396 Fuentes-George asked how long this server would last, and Hanley said they usually  
397 plan on about 4 years. He said this server is larger than the one they currently have  
398 because they have to upgrade from Windows 7.

399

400 Seeley moved to approve the purchase of network server equipment and software for  
401 the Police Department from Top Floor Business Computer Solutions, under the Sole  
402 Source Exceptions provision of the Town's Purchasing Policy, at a total cost of \$8,155.  
403 Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**  
404

405 **13a. Request by Chief Hanley for the Purchase of two Rooftop Heat Exchanges**  
406

407 Hanley said these two heat exchangers were replaced about 7 or 8 years ago, but some  
408 cracks have been found on them so they need to be replaced. He said the system still  
409 works but not as efficiently as it should. He said this is within his budget to replace  
410 these.

411  
412 Khan moved to approve the purchase and installation of two replacement heat  
413 exchangers for the Police Department from VHV under the sole source exception  
414 provision of the Purchasing Policy at a total cost of \$3,657. Artim seconded the motion.  
415 The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**  
416

417 **14. Approval of Amendment to Grant Agreement with the Vermont Department of**  
418 **Public Safety for the East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project. The amendment**  
419 **provides funding for construction of the project.**  
420

421 Ramsay said we had been previously awarded design and planning money for the East  
422 Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project, and after being fully permitted and designed,  
423 FEMA has finally, 10 years later, decided to award us the final amount of money for  
424 construction. She said hopefully this will happen in 2021.

425  
426 Seeley moved to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the Agreement  
427 Amendment to the grant agreement with the VT Department of Public Safety for Phase  
428 II construction of the East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project. Fuentes-George  
429 seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**  
430

431 Seeley also moved to authorized Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the  
432 Agreement Amendment to the grant agreement with the VT Department of Public Safety  
433 for management costs for construction of the East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project.  
434 Fuentes-George seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION**  
435 **PASSED.**

436 **15. Approval of Amendment to Grant Agreement with the Vermont Agency of**  
437 **Transportation for the Exchange Street Sidewalk/Path. The amendment extends**  
438 **the period of performance under the grant.**  
439

440 Ramsay said the current grant agreement with the Agency of Transportation for the  
441 construction of the Exchange Street sidewalk expires on December 15, 2020 and they  
442 have offered us an extension. She said hopefully we can move forward and be in  
443 construction in 2022.

444  
445 Khan moved to authorize Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to sign the amendment to  
446 the grant agreement with VTrans for the Exchange Street Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path,  
447 extending the performance period to December 31, 2022. Artim seconded the motion.  
448 The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION PASSED.**

449  
450 **16. Race Equity & Inclusion: Agree on a common source of information to explore**  
451 **and discuss how to continue the Board's work on race equity & inclusion and**  
452 **give the Board a more robust framework for discussion.**  
453

454 Carpenter said after the last Selectboard meeting, Fuentes-George sent an email  
455 suggesting it would be good for the Board to agree upon a common source of  
456 information to continue its discussion and pointed to an August 4th interview on NPR's  
457 program *Fresh Air* with author Isabel Wilkerson as a possibility for all the Board to agree  
458 to listen to advance its discussion. Carpenter said he has listened to it and liked it.  
459 Fuentes-George said one of the benefits of picking some shorter things would be to be  
460 able to hear a variety of opinions and thoughts rather than going with something that's  
461 maybe a bigger investment. The Board agreed to listen to this podcast and be prepared  
462 to discuss it at the next meeting.

463  
464 Seeley said she had received an email from the President of the Vermont Community  
465 Foundation about them underwriting a free screening of the documentary *Coded Bias*  
466 that culminates with a live panel on Saturday, and she will see if it's anything the Board  
467 might be interested in. Fuentes-George said there is a local group that will be meeting  
468 to discuss this as well. Brown said he ran across something on PBS called *Driving*  
469 *While Black* and it's an extensive history of racism that he recommends.

470  
471 **17. Approval of Check Warrants**  
472

473 Artim said by the authority of the Selectboard granted on April 28, 2020, he had  
474 reviewed and approved total expenditures of \$483,300.68 consisting of \$215,899.14 for  
475 accounts payable, and \$267,401.54 for payroll, for the period November 18, 2020  
476 through December 8, 2020, and he moved the Board's approval of payment of these  
477 expenditures. Khan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor. **MOTION**  
478 **PASSED.**

479 **18. Town Manager's Report**

480

481 Ramsay said she had nothing further to add and she'll be sharing items from the current  
482 correspondence list to the Board members who have requested them.

483

484

### 19. Board Member Concerns

485

486 Brown said he's still staying in touch with the restaurants and at least one lodging facility  
487 in town, and he said the occupancy at the Inn is at the lowest it's been since the closure  
488 in March and April, and the restaurants have seen a significant loss in business, and it's  
489 getting really serious. He said if the State is coming up with a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of grants he's  
490 concerned that it will not be enough to allow these businesses to survive and we need  
491 to be aware of how critical it is.

492

493 Brown said there was an article in the Addison Independent about local citizens  
494 organizing patrols on the College campus at night because many of the students on  
495 campus, particularly students of color, didn't feel comfortable walking on campus or  
496 around town at night for fear of being harassed. He said he feels that this sends a  
497 message that has an impact on our community and our economy and we need to be  
498 watching this and talking to the College about it. Fuentes-George said she believed that  
499 specific concern arose because of the election and how the community might respond  
500 to it. Brown said it might have been a one-time thing, but we should be able to make  
501 the students feel more comfortable while in town.

502

503 Artim said that in spite of the fact that COVID is trying to take every bit of joy out of life,  
504 it's impressive to see all the decorations in the neighborhoods this year and thanked  
505 everyone for doing a little extra to make things more festive.

506

507 Fuentes-George said she had received questions on the potential anaerobic digester on  
508 Exchange Street and so wondering if it was a good idea to do an update prior to Town  
509 Meeting. She also went on to say her family was recovering from COVID that her  
510 daughter caught in school, but wanted everyone to know the safeguards in place at  
511 Mary Hogan prevented the spread to other classes and that within minutes of getting  
512 the call they'd tested positive, they received a call from the State to begin contact  
513 tracing, so the system is working. She also said she's been ordering from local  
514 businesses online and found it to be really easy and some offered to deliver the items to  
515 her home.

516

517 Seeley mentioned the lighted falls downtown and the tree in the Marble Works and  
518 suggested people make the time to go see them, and thanked Karen Duguay and the  
519 BMP for their efforts.

520

521

## 20. Adjourn

522

523 The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. upon motion by Khan, seconded by Fuentes-  
524 George.

525

526 The next meeting of the Selectboard will be Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

527

528 Respectfully submitted,

529 Beth Dow

530

531

532