

1 **Regular Selectboard Meeting**
2 **Tuesday, September 22, 2020**
3 **Meeting Minutes**

4
5 **NOTE: Due to the need for separation to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus,**
6 **the meeting was held remotely via video conferencing with participants.**
7

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

11
12 Staff Present: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Assistant Town Manager Chris
13 English, Chief of Police Tom Hanley, Ilsley Library Director Dana Hart and Director of
14 Public Works Planning Dan Werner.

15
16 Also Present: Energy Committee members Howard WidELITZ, Richard Hopkins and
17 Ross Conrad, and interested citizens.

18
19 The meeting was streamed live on the MCTVVT YouTube channel.
20

21 **1. Call to Order**
22

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

25 **2. Approval of Agenda**
26

27 Nuovo moved to approve the agenda, and Seeley seconded the motion. Carpenter said
28 item #8 to appoint fence viewers and Sports Commission members was eliminated
29 because there were no applicants. The agenda was approved as amended with 6 in
30 favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

31
32 **3. Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2020**
33

34 Khan moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020, and Nuovo seconded the
35 motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor, 1 abstention (Seeley) and 1 absent, and the
36 minutes were approved as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**
37
38
39
40

41 **4. Citizen Comments**

42
43 Judy Wiger-Grohs asked when the Selectboard would weigh in on the clear cutting
44 being proposed on Munson Road by the Middlebury Airport. Ramsay said Fuentes-
45 George had discussed this with her today and it will be on the October 13th Selectboard
46 agenda to discuss the process and how the Town might be involved. Ramsay said the
47 Act 250 hearing would be on October 22nd and there would be an Act 250 prehearing
48 conference on October 8th and she would get the information out to the public.

49
50 **5. Local Emergency Management Director/Chief of Police,**
51 **Update on Pandemic Response**

52
53 Hanley reported they'd been getting some pushback on wearing masks and following
54 the Governors' order. He said he had an attorney representing some local businesses
55 call him and ask for help on getting them some proper procedures on how to deal with
56 this. He said he advised them on what to do, and had run it by the Attorney General at
57 their weekly conference and they're okay with that. He said if people are refusing to
58 wear a mask don't get into a conflict with them, but if the store owner gets a No
59 Trespass Order, then the police can be called for trespassing. Hanley said people don't
60 have the Constitutional right to assert their so-called right on private property against
61 the wishes of the owner.

62
63 Hanley reported there had been no complaints about College student activity, even
64 though they're out and about the town. He said our local schools are now going to
65 Phase III, but this is permissive, it's not a mandate, so schools can decide how far they
66 want to go in Phase III as far as school sports, and opening cafeterias and gymnasiums.

67
68 Hanley said bars can now be open provided patrons are seated 6' apart and there is a
69 Plexiglas barrier for the bartender, but this doesn't increase the capacity of the
70 restaurant by more than 50% of the Fire Marshall's capacity, it just means patrons can
71 move around more. Khan asked about hotels, and Hanley said hotels are now allowed
72 to open to 100% capacity.

73
74 He said there has been a total of 8 COVID cases in Middlebury since March, and he
75 isn't sure if this includes the false-positive. He said it's no time to be lackadaisical,
76 because elsewhere in this country and in Europe things are not good and they're seeing
77 large case growths, and we don't want to see that happen here.

80 **6. Appointment of Alternate Representatives to the Addison County**
81 **Communications Union District & a Representative and an Alternate**
82 **Representative to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's**
83 **Transportation Advisory Committee**
84

85 Carpenter said at the August 11th meeting, the Board appointed Ross Conrad as
86 Middlebury's representative to the Governing Board of the Addison County
87 Communications Union District at its August 11th meeting, but two openings remain for
88 First and Second Alternate to the Governing Board. He said residents Andy Hooper and
89 Hugh McLaughlin have expressed interest in being appointed as Alternates.

90 Carpenter said Jilly dos Santos, currently Middlebury's Alternate on the Regional
91 Planning Commission, has expressed an interest in being appointed as the Town's
92 Delegate to the Transportation Advisory Committee, so if the Board is amenable to this,
93 Kathleen Ramsay, the current Delegate, would move to Alternate.

94
95 Seeley moved to appoint Andy Hooper as First Alternate to the Governing Board of the
96 Addison County Communications Union District and Hugh McLaughlin as Second
97 Alternate. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 1 absent.

98 **MOTION PASSED.**

99
100 Seeley further moved to appoint Jilly dos Santos as Middlebury's Delegate to the
101 Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee
102 and Kathleen Ramsay as Alternate. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried
103 with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

104
105 **7. Recommendation of Local Health Officers to Vermont Department of Health**
106

107 Carpenter said the Town has received notification from the VT Department of Health
108 that Tom Scanlon's 3-year term of office as Town Health Officer will expire on October
109 31st, so the Board is now called upon either to recommend Tom's reappointment or
110 replacement to the Department of Health. He said Scanlon has indicated he is
111 interested in serving another 3-year term, if the Board is agreeable. Carpenter said the
112 Board also needs to take similar action in regard to the position of Deputy Health
113 Officer. He said Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dustin Hunt currently serves in that
114 role and he has also indicated his willingness to be considered for reappointment.

115
116 Nuovo moved to recommend to the Vermont Department of Health the reappointment of
117 Tom Scanlon as Town Health Officer and the reappointment of Dustin Hunt as Deputy
118 Town Health Officer. Seeley seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor,
119 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

120

121 Carpenter thanked both Scanlon and Hunt for serving in these positions.

122

123 **9. Howard Widelitz & Richard Hopkins, Middlebury Energy Committee, with a**
124 **presentation Carbon Emission Reduction Goals**

125

126 Widelitz said back in February he and Hopkins had presented the Board with the
127 strategies proposed by the Energy Committee to reduce municipal greenhouse gas
128 consumption. He said the take-away from that meeting was to get more feedback from
129 department heads and to determine if this was a feasible goal established by the
130 Committee. He said they received good feedback from department heads, and a lot of
131 it has to do with finances and how much can we realistically put towards this to get to
132 our goals. He said as a result, Hopkins has processed the data and from that some
133 adjustments have been made to these goals so the Committee feels they are much
134 more feasible and achievable. He said it's good to have a goal, so even if we fall short
135 we're still striving towards something, and he hopes the Board agrees.

136

137 Hopkins began by saying he's a retired epidemiologist and wanted to put his analytical
138 skills to work in addressing what he feels is the biggest single issue of our times, which
139 is greenhouse gasses and climate change. He said there's a phrase "think globally, but
140 act locally", so this is the local part of that phrase. He said personally he has insulated
141 his house and changed from natural gas to electricity and installed solar panels, and
142 he's proposing something similar for the operations of the Town of Middlebury.
143 Hopkins said the Energy Committee would like to see the Town set a goal for a specific
144 reduction in carbon monoxide by a specific date. He said the original proposal in
145 February was for an 80% reduction in 8 years, but their new proposal is for 80%
146 reduction in 10 years. He said if the Board sets this goal, then the Energy Committee
147 would be charged with measuring the Town's CO2 emissions each year to assess the
148 progress to reach this goal.

149

150 Hopkins said in February the Committee recommended converting all buildings to
151 electric heat pumps, to leave diesel vehicles alone for now, but to convert other vehicles
152 to electric vehicles, and they thought it was feasible. He said it's possible to replace
153 fossil fuels with electricity to reduce CO2 production, assuming Green Mountain Power
154 (GMP) electricity goes to zero by 2030.

155

156 Hopkins reviewed the CO2 savings on the various types of gas-power vehicles: fuel-
157 efficient, hybrid gas-electric, plug-in hybrid and all electric vehicles. He said a recent
158 article indicated hybrid vehicles could cost the same as standard vehicles in 3 years.
159 He said as the Town trades vehicles it could look at these options to reduce CO2

160 emissions. He said when it comes to diesel vehicles, the Town could move ahead by
161 replacing fossil fuel based diesel to biodiesel fuel, which has its origin in commonly used
162 domestic and commercial products and is based on oils and other lipids that are being
163 recycled. He said the price of biodiesel seems to remain consistent and it's competitive
164 with regular diesel fuel in price, and it has zero net CO2 and we could replace fossil fuel
165 diesel with biodiesel right away. He went on to say we do, however, have to move
166 away from diesel vehicles and at some point might be able to buy electric dump trucks
167 and fire trucks.

168
169 He said we don't need to economize on our electricity use as far as CO2 is concerned
170 since GMP is already doing this, but what does matter is the cost to the Town. He said
171 the Town can also generate its own electricity via solar farms or an anaerobic digester
172 at the wastewater treatment plant.

173
174 Hopkins said another way to reduce CO2 is by converting Town buildings to cold-
175 climate heat pumps. He said the Ilsley Library consultant recommended cold-climate
176 heat pumps as the sole source of heat for the library, and if that drafty old building can
177 be heated with these units, then other buildings could be as well. He said Town staff
178 helped identify in what years the various heating systems in the buildings were installed
179 and what year they might need to be replaced. He said by replacing these systems with
180 heat pumps based on when they need to be replaced, we can get to 80% in 10 years,
181 but if we convert some buildings sooner, we bring the benefits forward and savings
182 could be invested in other places. He said the heating systems in the library, police
183 station and wastewater treatment facility would be the ones to replace first with non-
184 fossil fuel systems, then we could reduce our CO2 by 49% by 2022. He said next
185 system to be replaced based on their installation dates would be the pool house and
186 teen center by 2025, the fire station (2032), the recreation center (2036) and public
187 works facility (2038). He said even though some wouldn't need replacement until after
188 the 2030 goal, there is a possibility of replacing the entire public works facility so that
189 system might happen earlier. He said the Energy Committee will hire a consultant to
190 make recommendations on replacing the police station with heat pumps and conversion
191 to heat pumps probably would not result in any changes in monthly fuel costs.

192
193 Seeley said a number of years ago there was an attempt to move into biodiesel and
194 there were some gelling issues, and of late she hasn't heard anything about the
195 availability of the product in our area or for our climate. Ross Conrad said she was
196 correct that biodiesel tends to gel much earlier than regular diesel, so that's why it's
197 blended with regular diesel and that helps to eliminate that. He said this reduces the
198 CO2, but you get even more of a reduction by adding an anti-gel additive every time you
199 fuel up. He said the only other issue is that it tends to clean out any sludge that's in the

200 fuel system, so you may have to replace the fuel filter more often as the sludge is
201 loosened up and removed from the system. He said any diesel vehicle could run on
202 biodiesel, although he wasn't sure about farm vehicles or large heavy equipment. He
203 said there are several companies in Vermont that supply biodiesel, but Bourne's Energy
204 is the largest and they make it from recycled cooking oil from restaurants around the
205 state. Carpenter said we'd have to check with manufacturers on the use of biodiesel in
206 heavy equipment, especially during the warranty period because they don't want to be
207 responsible.

208
209 Seeley asked the difference between a plug-in hybrid and an electric vehicle. Hopkins
210 said a plug in hybrid vehicle has both a gasoline motor and an electric motor, and it
211 uses the electric motor when it has enough battery power and when it's low it runs on
212 gas.

213
214 Brown wanted to know what the Board could do to move forward. Ramsay said since
215 there are some significant investments involved, one way forward would be take it to the
216 Infrastructure Committee for their review through a financial lens for the next capital
217 budget. Seeley said she wasn't sure if the Infrastructure Committee would have time to
218 look at the presentation until December.

219
220 Khan asked, if the monthly price wouldn't be that much different, did they factor in the
221 upfront cost for all of the equipment? Hopkins said they're only suggesting replacing
222 equipment with non-fossil fuel items when they need replacing. Widelitz said
223 sometimes the increased upfront cost balances out with reduced monthly costs over the
224 life of the item.

225
226 Brown said we need some type of process to look at what we want to do, and if there is
227 any possibility we can achieve this in the next 10 years, we need to figure out if we want
228 to set this goal. Nuovo said we have an environmental crisis on our hands and its
229 imperative we move in this direction, so the sooner we can begin setting ourselves
230 goals to reduce carbon emissions the better off the health of the community will be. He
231 said this proposal is a rational plan and we should be moving in that direction.

232
233 Fuentes-George said this plan takes out the ambiguity and it lays out a path forward
234 and provides different ways to get there, so even if we don't quite reach all the goals,
235 we can quantify what we've achieved. Carpenter said this process is really nothing
236 different from what the Town has been doing the last couple of years when items are
237 being replaced, but he does question the 80% reduction goal, but we have to start
238 somewhere. Brown said he likes the plan and felt the Board owed it to the Committee
239 to look at some goal. Nuovo said there's no question we have to move in this direction,

240 so maybe the staff should consider this since they're the ones operating the equipment
241 and it would be helpful for them to come back to the Board with some kind of
242 perspective on how it would look if we move in this direction. Hopkins said what gets
243 measured gets done, so the Energy Committee would like to see the Town committed
244 to doing an annual measurement of its progress to meet a numerical goal. Fuentes-
245 George thought another benefit of setting a goal and measuring it was so the people in
246 the town could see the progress we're making and feel invested in it

247
248 Ramsay said she thought the Energy Committee had done a great job laying out a
249 reasonable path, and while we're close to moving forward, we still have to track down a
250 couple of details about the heat pump replacements and the biodiesel and see where
251 we are with that. She said she thought the Infrastructure Committee and staff could
252 report back to the Selectboard by early December, so the Board could adopt a goal by
253 the end of the year. Carpenter suggested staff might also have some suggestions of
254 their own to add to these that would help meet our goal.

255
256 **10. Dana Hart, Library Director, and Representatives of the Ilsley Public Library**
257 **Board of Trustees Regarding their proposal for going "Fine Free"**
258

259 Director Hart said the "fine free" proposal is one she believes in deeply and that she
260 started talking about this with the Trustees a year ago, and the Trustees have now
261 endorsed this plan. Hart said fine-free means a library does not assess fines for
262 materials returned past their due date, and it's important to distinguish between fees
263 and fines. She said fees are what you pay if you lose a book or damage it beyond
264 being usable, and fines are what are paid when materials are returned late. She said
265 the fine-free trend has been going on for several years, and Ilsley is the only library in
266 Addison County that still assesses fines. She said studies have shown that fines are
267 actually a barrier to access by preventing people from using the library, and fines
268 particularly impact low-income families with children. She said at Ilsley when someone
269 reaches the threshold of \$5 in fines, your account is frozen and no new material can be
270 checked out until the fines are below \$5, even if you return the material. She said this is
271 a huge problem for a lot of people, because the people who can't afford the fines are
272 generally the ones who need to use the library the most, and they'll often just let their
273 card expire and stop using the library altogether, and often we never get the books
274 back.

275
276 Hart said there is usually better relationships between the patrons and staff by going
277 fine-free, because it's very hard to tell a young child who's excited to get their book that
278 they can't until their parents pay the overdue fines on the account. She said libraries
279 always see an increase in use during economic hardships, so it's safe to say over the

280 next few years as our economy recovers, there will be an increased need for the library
281 and perhaps less money to pay fines.

282
283 Hart said when the library closed back in March due to the pandemic, they stopped
284 assessing fines because they weren't accepting returns. She said they're now
285 accepting returns, they still aren't assessing fines because they're quarantining the
286 books and other library materials before putting them back on the shelf. She said fine
287 revenues for last year and this year will be down, but they will be able to offset that with
288 savings from other budget areas. She said when they go fine-free, the revenues from
289 fines will cease to exist, and they anticipate that to be about \$9,000 in revenues. She
290 said fine revenues have been declining anyway over the years due to the increased use
291 of digital materials relative to the circulation materials, and digital materials do not
292 accrue fines because they are automatically returned. She said it is possible to phase
293 out fines over a couple of years, or it could be delayed for a while and then phased out.
294 She said she's looking for the Board's opinion on what they think would be the best
295 option based on the budget projections.

296
297 Nuovo said he doesn't think the Board ever thought of the library as a revenue-
298 producing part of the Town, and he felt it should be left to Hart to determine the best
299 way to institute it.

300
301 Seeley said she supports the plan and thought Hart did an excellent presentation and it
302 was all laid out very well. She admitted that she's notoriously late returning items to the
303 library and always looked at her fines as a donation to the library, so she'll now need
304 another way to support the library and so suggested a public fund raising effort to help
305 replace that \$9,000.

306
307 Khan said if we're the only library left in Addison County charging fines, he feels it's
308 about time to catch up with them and he supports the plan.

309
310 Brown asked if this was a Selectboard decision or a Library Trustee decision. Joe
311 McVeigh, President of Ilsley Library Board of Trustees, said they're working on the
312 library budget and because it impacts the Town revenues, they wanted to give the
313 Board a heads up. Brown said he thinks this proposal is the way to go and is in support
314 of it.

315
316 Fuentes-George said the timing of this plan is perfect since there are people who really
317 need this now and she supports it and leans towards ending fines sooner rather than
318 later, and figure out how to make up the revenues.

319

320 Carpenter agreed to support it, but said it was premature to say we can give them
321 \$9,000 in their budget, so as the Selectboard looks at the budget that will be in the back
322 of their minds. He said if these fines are a barrier for low income members of our
323 community to use the library, then we need to figure out what we can do without to
324 make this happen, but we won't know until we look at the budget and see where it
325 comes from.

326

327 **11. Dan Werner, Director of Public Works Planning, with**
328 **updates and recommendations from the Infrastructure Committee**
329 **Meeting of September 10, 2020**

330

331 Werner started by providing the Board with updates on ongoing projects. He said the
332 Dow Pond water project on Rt 116 started about 2 weeks ago and they are almost done
333 laying the pipe and they've had good work conditions so it's going very quickly.

334

335 He said at the Police Department Reuse Project the old roof has been removed and
336 they're going to start insulating the roof and the windows will be installed soon. He said
337 the Infrastructure Committee will be looking at combining the paving with the water line
338 replacement. He said instead of doing trench paving for both projects they'll do a
339 complete asphalt replacement in the worst areas, and while it will be an additional cost,
340 it will be a much better project.

341

342 Werner said he had a few change orders for the Reuse Project for the Board to
343 approve, and they were all included in Change Order # 4. He said the first part of
344 Change Order #4 would be for reinforcement of the north wall of the cruiser parking
345 garage. He said there was an alternative cost in the bid for reinforcement of this wall
346 because it wasn't clear it would be needed until the roof came off, but they will be
347 reinforcing the wall with 1/2" pressure-treated plywood on the inside surface of the wall,
348 and while the alternate bid was \$17,000, the actual cost is \$4,344. He said the next
349 part of Change Order #4 is for strapping to go on the underside of the cruiser garage
350 roof for the plywood to be attached to so there will be more clearance for the overhead
351 door rails. He said that is a deduction of \$1,141. Werner said the third part of the
352 change order is a change to the roof structure over the south side of the Storage
353 Building (control building). He said the original design required a membrane on the
354 outside ceiling deck over a section of the digester basement with an integral floor drain
355 and construction of a roof over the old valve operating structure between the old
356 digester tanks. Dan said they've moved away from that design for several issues: it
357 eliminates a security and safety concern by removing an out-of-site access to the
358 building; it also eliminates a fall hazard for humans & animals and eliminates rain, snow,

359 and debris issues within that space. He said the cost for this change in the roof is
360 \$5,575, which results in a total net cost for Change Order #4 of \$8,778.

361
362 Seeley moved to approve Change Order #4 for a total net cost of \$8,778. Fuentes-
363 George seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION**
364 **PASSED.**

365
366 **11.b. Updates on projects, including the preliminary engineering report on the**
367 **Wastewater Treatment Facility, which provides a 20-year evaluation of the plant**
368 **and consideration of options for plant improvements**

369
370 Werner said Tata & Howard has prepared a 90+ page report on the wastewater facility
371 that was needed for the State to review, and for the Town to review as we make plans
372 for the future, and for any possible funding requests we may make. He said he wouldn't
373 go into detail, but the first 50 pages of this report are on the loads to the plant, the flows,
374 the BOD, and suspended solids, etc, and also, what do we have for process now and
375 how does it work. The second half of the report is about options for moving forward and
376 improvements to the plant, so that might be where the Board wants to spend more time
377 reviewing. Werner said this report was presented to the Infrastructure Committee at the
378 September 10th meeting and the minutes captured the presentation very well, so
379 referred the Board to the pages of these minutes that go through the process.

380
381 Werner said one of the main things we need to look at is a primary clarifier that moves
382 most of the higher organic solids that come in to the plant, and those can be taken out
383 and used for anaerobic digestion, so the primary clarifier is needed if you want to use
384 methane burning. He said the second thing is the process used for aerating the
385 wastewater and creating the environment for biological reduction, and they're proposing
386 aeration and settling, somewhat similar to what we have now, but instead of using the
387 labor intensive system we have now with 4 tanks that operate individually, they're
388 suggesting a flow-through tank that would use 2 tanks making it much easier to
389 manage. He said the other change suggested was to convert to a chlorine disinfecting
390 process rather than the UV process we currently use that is due for an upgrade, has
391 high energy costs, and the bulb availability is limited. He said while the cost of the
392 chemicals in the chlorine process would be high, they wouldn't be as high as the
393 electrical costs for the current UV system at about \$50,000 annually. He said they're
394 also looking at changing the sludge dewatering process from a belt filter that uses a
395 tremendous amount of water, to a fan press or screw press. He said the final piece is
396 the anaerobic digester to convert the solids to a Class A product, that would make the
397 wastewater plant self-sufficient.

398

399 He said the report needs to be finalized and Tata & Howard have indicated there is
400 nothing at the plant that is a critical need, and while we would like to do some of these
401 changes now, they need to be looked at as a package at some point in the future.
402

403 Seeley said she understands the need to get away from the UV disinfecting system, but
404 she has concerns about the use of chlorine and the safety of the staff and so asked if
405 we're moving in that direction can they look into some kind of automated systems to
406 limit the exposure to our staff. Werner said this was something that could be looked at
407 so everyone had a comfort level.
408

409 **12. Recommendation Regarding a 4th Sergeant Position for the Police**
410 **Department from the Personnel Committee Meeting of September 8, 2020**
411

412 Brown reported on the Personnel Committee's review of Chief Hanley's proposal to add
413 a 4th Sergeant's position. He said the Committee approved this position since it seemed
414 the logical thing to do to cover all four shifts and not put a burden on the other sergeants
415 to cover this shift.
416

417 Brown moved to approve Police Chief Tom Hanley's request to create a 4th sergeant
418 position in the Police Department. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried
419 with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**
420

421 **13. Jennifer Murray, Director of Planning & Zoning, Request for Authorizing**
422 **Resolution for a 2021 Municipal Planning Grant**
423

424 Murray said almost every year we apply for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) that
425 gives the Planning Commission the opportunity to take on a planning project or planning
426 study. She said while she'd hoped to use it for Route 7 south corridor master planning,
427 that idea wasn't scoring very high given the criteria in the funding application because
428 it's not in a designated downtown. She said this year the MPG program is saying they'll
429 fund a study related to COVID planning or COVID economic response, so while it's not
430 something she's used to, she thought it was a good opportunity. She said our
431 Downtown Master Plan is really our COVID plan, because it has so many great
432 economic recommendations in it, so she just took a few of these recommendations
433 related to marketing and promotion in the downtown and ran it by the funding agencies
434 and they thought it was in alignment with their funding priorities.
435

436 Khan moved to approve the submission of an application for a \$22,000 FY2021
437 Municipal Planning Grant application – including a local match commitment of \$2,200 –
438 to fund the development of marketing and promotional materials, including maps,

439 brochures, logo and branding, conference guide and promotional/marketing strategies,
440 as recommended in the Downtown Master Plan. He further moved to sign the Municipal
441 Planning Grant Resolution. Fuentes-George seconded the motion. The motion carried
442 with 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

443

444 Murray said she's looking forward to having the final Downtown Master Plan before the
445 Selectboard in November.

446

447 **14. Follow-up on Discussion of Community Engagement on Anti-Racism, with the**
448 **discussion focusing on how to solicit personal stories from members of the**
449 **Middlebury community about their experiences with racism**

450

451 Carpenter said they needed to discuss how to solicit personal stories from the
452 community on their experience with racism and hoped they'd all had a chance to look at
453 Jason Kaye's memo. He asked Ramsay if there were funds available anywhere so we
454 might hire someone to solicit these stories. Ramsay said the Vermont Community
455 Foundation has new grants available for up to \$3,000 for this type of effort, so she's
456 reached out to Kaye to see if they can coordinate on a grant application. Carpenter
457 thought that would be sufficient to cover the process of gathering these stories.

458 Fuentes-George said she wondered if this person we hired would be local, or were we
459 looking for someone not in the community. Ramsay said Kaye had suggested someone
460 from the Black or Indigenous community to collect the stories on the Selectboard's
461 behalf.

462

463 There was discussion on the process for hiring someone and it was decided to keep
464 moving forward with this. They also discussed the Selectboard retreat and what format
465 it would take, and if it should be combined with the community engagement. Fuentes-
466 George said she felt the retreat should come first with a speaker to educate and inform
467 the Board prior to moving to the public forum. Ramsay will work to arrange a retreat for
468 the last week in October.

469

470 **15. FY21 Year-to-Date Budget Reports as of August 31, 2020**

471

472 Ramsay reported although it's early in the fiscal year, we're still tracking on target. She
473 noted that our water line repairs are more than last year, but still within the budget so
474 far.

475

476 **16. Discussion of Options for Conducting Selectboard Meetings, including video**
477 **conferencing and "hybrid" models (the "hybrid" under discussion being the**
478 **option of in-person attendance for Selectboard members, and remote attendance**

479 via video conferencing for Selectboard members opting for remote attendance,
480 the staff and the public)

481
482 Carpenter said there has been interest within the Board to have some sort of hybrid
483 meeting format where some would attend in person, while allowing a Zoom component
484 for others. He said Ramsay and English have come up with some options to consider.

485
486 Khan said he would attend in person, because of his Internet connectivity issues the
487 present format is not working for him. Brown asked if there were any other boards
488 meeting in person, because he's worried about any pushback they may get from the
489 public about the necessary distancing to stay safe. Seeley said she is concerned about
490 the logistics and personally she's not ready to be in a room unless everyone is wearing
491 masks and that doesn't work well in a meeting, so she'll stay at home on Zoom.
492 Fuentes-George said she'd prefer to stay home as long as there is a need to use Zoom,
493 but would support others if they want to try the hybrid model. Nuovo said the
494 description of the hybrid meeting sounds like a monster, and unless the Board can meet
495 in person they might as well continue with the Zoom as they have been. Carpenter said
496 given the Governor's mask mandate, he doesn't believe there would be the spacing or
497 airflow needed in the Conference Room to justify to the public that the Board is in
498 accordance with the Governor's intent without having masks on. He said as long as
499 there is access to the Conference Room so Board members that have connectivity
500 issues can be there, that would be the next step, and if there are only a couple of
501 people in the room there would be sufficient space so masks wouldn't be needed.

502
503 **17. Approval of Check Warrants**

504
505 Fuentes-George said by the authority of the Selectboard granted on April 28, 2020, she
506 has reviewed and approved total expenditures of \$381,477.98 consisting of
507 \$265,507.46 for accounts payable, and \$115,970.52 for payroll, for the period
508 September 9, 2020 through September 22, 2020, and I move the Board's approval of
509 payment of these expenditures. Nuovo seconded the motion. The motion carried with
510 6 in favor, 1 absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

511
512 **18. Town Manager's Report**

513
514 Ramsay said in the Board's packet she provided a summary from the projects approved
515 by the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) in 2019 to show other
516 potential uses our Revolving Loan Funds. She said on this list there are some that
517 match some of the recommendations coming out of the Downtown Master Plan, so
518 keep in mind as the Downtown Master Plan is reviewed this is a source of funding and

519 could be used to leverage larger grants from the VCDP. She said in the past we've
520 used these revolving loan funds to leverage grants for affordable housing projects, so
521 there are of potential uses for that.

522
523 She reported that at the September 15th meeting of the Vermont Traffic Committee, with
524 thanks to East Middlebury resident Tim Page and others for preparing an excellent
525 presentation to the Traffic Committee and testimony by Chief Hanley, speed limits on
526 Case Street were reduced from 40 mph to 35 mph and on East Main Street from 35
527 mph to 30 mph.

528 529 **19. Board Member Concerns**

530
531 Fuentes-George said their household is now an all American household with 2 voting
532 members, now that her husband has been sworn in as an American citizen.

533
534 Seeley asked if the next Board meeting is going to last possibly 4 hours, could it start
535 earlier. Ramsay said she sees the October 13th meeting being a very long meeting, so
536 it was decided the meeting would start at 6:00 pm. Seeley also mentioned the opening
537 of the downtown rail project and how great it was to see people downtown and she's
538 looking forward to celebrating the end of the final project next summer. She said she
539 was also really pleased with the level of presentations she has seeing from committees
540 and staff, such as the Energy Committee and Library presentations this evening.

541
542 Carpenter agreed with Seeley on the professionalism of our staff and Ramsay's
543 leadership. He also thanked the community for coming out last Friday to make it a truly
544 special day and is looking forward to next year, and prays that COVID is behind us so it
545 can truly be what we envision it to be.

546 547 **Adjourn**

548
549 The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. upon motion by Seeley, seconded by Fuentes-
550 George.

551
552 The next regular meeting of the Middlebury Selectboard will be Tuesday, October 13,
553 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

554
555 Respectfully submitted,
556 Beth Dow

557
558