

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

APPROVED 1/20/14

January 6, 2014

SB Members Present: Seth Gardner (Chair), Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Town Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Don Welch, Karen Andreson, Lindy Biggs, Tom McKone, Mike McCarty

Call to Order: 6:34pm

Additions to the Agenda: Update on dog issue; postpone Delinquent Tax Collector report

Public Comment: None

Kellogg-Hubbard Library (KHL) 2014 Town Meeting Article

Discussion with Karen Andreson, KHL Board President, Lindy Biggs, EM Representative and Tom McKone, Interim Executive Director.

- KHL is asking for level funding this year
- EM accounts for 10% of the active users of the library
- 25% of circulation is DVDs
- Average of 800 people coming to the library every day
- 2nd largest municipal/town library in the state
- Currently looking for a permanent executive director, need administrator experience
- Unfair labor practice suit brought against KHL by the union, was settled amicably
- KHL has an endowment of \$4 million, draws down 5% annually, heavily weighted towards bonds
- Long-term interest in matching fund requests to population instead of users
- Library is now hooked up to the city's new heating system

Motion: I move to put the Kellogg-Hubbard Library funding request on the Town Meeting ballot. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Ms. Swasey

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Update on Dog Issue

A dog walking with its owner on a trail on its own property was attacked on New Year's Day by Amy Thornton-Kelly's dogs. SB has received numerous reports of attacks by these dogs over a period of years. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Etnier will visit the owner.

Access Permits

The access for the Kaiman lot on Jacobs Road is 15 feet from the neighbor's existing driveway; sharing may be an option later on. Some ledge will have to be blasted in order to get onto the property. SB would have to grant this as a non-conforming access and a seller would have to disclose this to a buyer.

Motion: I move to approve the access permit #13-044 as a non-conforming access with the condition that the seller discloses this to the buyer and all subsequent buyers. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Delinquent Tax Collector Report – tabled to a future meeting

Funding Request Article

Motion: I move to accept the recommendation from the Funding Request Committee and set the Town Meeting article for 2014. Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

East Montpelier Signpost 2014 Town Meeting Article

The SB reviewed the draft article 9, which provide \$9,000 for 6 issues in 2015. The town is paying for the Town Meeting article; would the SB be willing to pay \$1,500 to fund another issue in 2014? SB would like to wait until after the Town Meeting vote and will keep Article 9 as written.

Motion: I move to include Article 9 regarding \$9,000 for the Signpost on the Town Meeting ballot. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Ms. Swasey

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Motion: I move to appropriate up to \$1,500 for the final issue of EM Signpost in this fiscal year contingent on the Signpost article passing at Town Meeting. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

2014 Town Meeting Warning Development

The SB discussed a Reserve Fund and a Fund Balance Reserve Policy, which would give the town a more formal policy. The policy would preserve the fund balance, capped at 5%. The SB agrees to explore the issue further.

Consideration of Contract with CVRPC for MPG Services

Motion: I move to approve the contract with CVRPC for fluvial erosion regulations and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Ms. Swasey

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

FY2015 Budget Development

The SB reviewed the preliminary budget. The current draft budget is based on using \$150,000 from the fund balance. The SB will earmark funds for specific purposes. The tax rate based on the current draft is up 2%. There was a general discussion on where the numbers came from. Some decisions:

- Public records – keep budget at \$15,000
- Repayment of reappraisal – remove \$2,250
- EM Village grant match – cut in half from \$25,000 to \$12,500
- Paving – consider reducing from \$280,000 to \$250,000

Common Level of Appraisal is closer to 1.0% at 98.98%.

Warrants

Signed

Review of Minutes

December 8, 2013

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as presented. Made: Mr. Sparrow, second: Mr. Etnier

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

December 16, 2013

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Mr. Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Other Business

Town Administrator (TA) Report

- Liff – no progress so far, promised progress by 5/1
- Grader – yes, it can be and it outfitted with a snow plow, generally used late at night

Upcoming schedule:

- January 13 – Town Charter & Conflict of Interest Ordinance hearing – 6pm at ESF
- January 16 – EMFD Quarterly Budget Presentation (tentative) – 7pm at ESF
- January 20 – SB regular meeting – 6:30 pm at town office
- January 27 – SB special meeting to finalize warning & FY15 budget – 6:30pm at town office
- February 3 – SB regular meeting – 6:30pm at town office
- February 15 – Site inspection of Class 4 roads – 10am at Johnson Road
- February 17 – SB hearings on Class 4 roads, regular meeting after hearing – 6pm at town office
- March 1 – Town Forum – 9:30am at U-32 cafeteria
- March 3 – SB regular meeting – 6:30pm at town office
- March 4 – Town Meeting – 9:30am at U-32 theater
- March 17 – SB regular & organizational meeting – 6:30pm at town office

Zoning Administrator Report

- See complete list of 2013 activity
- DRB hearing on January 7 for a change of use to Blueberry Hill Commons to allow Twin Valley Senior Center to take over the first floor

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mr. Etnier; seconded by Ms. Swasey. Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary