

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (01/16/17) MINUTES  
January 9, 2017 at the Town Office**

**Selectboard members present:** Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey, Gene Troia; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

**Others present:**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:35 pm, Chair Seth Gardner called the Selectboard meeting to order.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

The SB discussed the Charter Committee's work and some potential changes to the draft charter amendments they submitted. The Charter Committee's draft is warned for discussion at a hearing on Monday, January 16. Mr. Johnson will draft a modified version based on tonight's discussion and circulate it.

**E. REVIEW OF LETTER TO VT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION REGARDING EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DISTRICT #1 PROPOSED MERGER WITH TOWN**

The Town is in the midst of an effort to merge the East Montpelier Fire District #1 with the Town. The fire district was formed with state encouragement to procure and operate Crystal Springs Water System. As negotiations to purchase the system have been fruitless, the fire district would like to dissolve and merge with the town. That would involve the town taking on the liabilities of the fire district: repayment of a water planning loan used for a feasibility study. The letter requests either a forgiveness of the loan or a delay in the repayment schedule.

**Motion: I move to authorize Chair Seth Gardner to sign the letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

**F. DISCUSSION ON FY2018 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

The Selectboard discussed measures to reduce the budget and keep tax increases in check.

**G. DISCUSSION ON 2017 TOWN MEETING WARNING**

Mr. Etnier reported that he had drafted a short resolution for a discussion and non-binding vote on East Montpelier declaring itself a sanctuary town and welcoming immigrants. He has sent out the language to interested residents for review and comment.

**H. WARRANTS**

Signed.

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0. 8:27 p.m.**