

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (02/01/16) MINUTES  
January 18, 2016 at the Town Office**

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

**Others present:** Tony Klein (state representative), Kevin McCollister (town resident), Bill Powell (Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) Director of Products and Services).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. PARK 'N RIDE DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL LEVEL 2 CHARGING STATION**

The town now officially owns the WEC garage property. The Park 'n Ride is in the final design stage.

Mr. Powell is here to offer the town a Level 2 charging station for the park 'n ride facility, funded by a grant from VLITE, an affiliate of VELCO. There is no cost to the town for installation or the first five years of service and maintenance. At the end of five years, the town will have the option to either take over the costs or have WEC remove the station.

The town pays for the electricity used. If it chooses, the town could set up an agreement with ChargePoint, the station manufacturer, to provide any necessary network and billing services. If the town sets up a rate plan, ChargePoint would get 10% of the gross.

The town has many options for the web connection and the rates. For example, the rate can be different for EM residents and all others. The station doesn't need to be listed on the web, if we don't want. We can adjust as we go.

Type I chargers will be at the Park 'n Ride regardless. We'll pay for their electricity, without having the possibility of recouping the cost.

The SB is interested. We'll look at the agreement and plan to take it up next meeting.

**E. DISCUSSION ON RUTLAND TOWN RESOLUTION ON MUNICIPAL INPUT INTO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (PSB) CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD (CPG) PROCESS FOR SITING RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES**

At the SB's request, Rep. Tony Klein came to provide input on the resolution. Some of the points he made were:

- Solar is saving region money because of reduced need for transmission, according to VELCO.
- More solar means fewer transmission needs in future. At peak demand, solar is a lot cheaper than firing up a generator that uses fossil fuel.

- Build-out is going fast. Legislators are not turning a blind eye to the effects.
- The legislature passed a bill last year addressing issues towns have raised: 1) Towns have right to party status in the PSB's CPG process, for projects in town. 2) There are now standard statewide setback requirements for larger projects; towns can waive them. 3) Municipalities can adopt aesthetic screening bylaws that would be applied in CPG proceedings.

Mr. Klein summarized by saying that things have already been done to address the problems, and they haven't had time to take hold yet. There are towns that want the right of approval or veto; that's not going to fly. You wouldn't need the PSB any more, then.

Furthermore, the Senate Natural Resources Committee is drafting a bill that will give further attention to municipal concerns.

The SB declined to take action on the resolution.

#### **F. DISCUSSION ON BDE EAST MONTPELIER LAZAR SOLAR, LLC 500 KW SOLAR FACILITY PSB CPG APPLICATION ON CASSANI PROPERTY**

The town, through both its Selectboard and its Planning Commission, has the right to participate in the proceedings. The Planning Commission (PC) is considering the submission of motion to intervene due to potential negative effects of the project on East Montpelier Village. SB can participate in the process separately or in concert with the PC. Submissions to the PSB are due by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The SB will await the PC's decision.

#### **G. DISCUSSION ON CLARIFICATION OF PLANNING COMMISSIONER ROLE AS AVAILABLE ALTERNATE AT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARINGS**

Mr. Johnson asked the SB to clarify an ambiguity in the resolution creating the town's Development Review Board (DRB).

**Motion. I move to interpret the resolution creating a Development Review Board to mean that any Planning Commission member who is not a member of the DRB is *ex officio* an alternate member of the DRB. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0.**

#### **H. DISCUSSION ON PLANNING FOR WINSTON/SILBERBERG PROPERTY**

Earlier this month, SB members went on two tours of the property with townspeople. Most of the people on the tour would be willing to serve on a committee to plan for the property's use.

The SB decided to create a committee of seven people, out of the pool of those interested. Further solicitations of interest will be held through *The Signpost* and at Town Meeting, before the committee is appointed.

#### **I. CONSIDERATION OF FY2017 CAPITAL PLAN**

The plan absorbs the entire cost of the Winston/Silberberg property purchase in year 2016. Upcoming 10-wheeler vehicle purchases are presumed to be by 5-year lease to spread costs out. The SB moved some anticipated paving to later to avoid negative balances. The SB instructed Mr. Johnson to make the changes with Treasurer Don Welch.

**Motion: I move to adopt the amended FY2017 capital planning budget. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0.**

## **J. DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNPOST ARTICLE ON TOWN MEETING ISSUES**

The Signpost's Edie Miller has requested an article for the Town Meeting issue that includes the following:

- Blurb on Conservation Fund Warning article
- Blurb on Recreation Board Warning article
- Update on Winston/Silberberg property

The SB authorized Mr. Johnson to write the article.

## **K. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Johnson presented a draft article. The SB approved it with minor amendments.

## **L. DISCUSSION ON FY2017 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Johnson presented the budget with further adjustments since the previous SB meeting. Draft shows:

- Selectboard budget of \$2,111,578, up \$121,288 (6.1%)
- Fund balance use of \$75,000, up from \$0 last year
- Anticipated non-tax revenues of \$375,539, down \$51 (0.01%)
- Budget article \$1,667,039, up \$46,339 (2.86%)
- Separate voted articles of \$110,258, up \$12,150 (12.4%)
- Projected town tax rate of 0.5964, up 0.0172 from 0.5792 (2.97%)

**Motion: I move to approve the FY2017 budget as presented. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

## **M. DISCUSSION ON 2016 TOWN MEETING WARNING**

The SB reviewed the warning.

**Motion: I move to set the warning for the 2016 Town Meeting. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

Members signed the Warning.

## **N. WARRANTS**

Signed.

## **O. MINUTES**

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 as submitted. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes of January 9, 2016 as submitted. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

## **P. OTHER BUSINESS**

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) sent a letter responding to the Joint Town Letter of Concern. EMFD would prefer to table this issue until there is an actual proposal for the expansion of the ambulance service to additional towns

Meeting Schedule:

January 25th	Special SB meeting CANCELLED
February 1st 6:30 pm	Regular SB meeting
February 15th 6:30 pm	Regular SB meeting
February 29th 6:30 pm	Special SB meeting (post-forum/pre-town meeting)

*Zoning Administrator report*

Applications have been received for two new permits. The next DRB meeting is on February 2, 2016 and will consider the following applications: Orchard Valley Waldorf School tipi and platform; Laquerre 2-lot subdivision of recently purchased Rappaport woodlot.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0. 9:40 pm**