

East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (02/03/2014) MINUTES
January 27, 2014 at the East Montpelier Municipal Office

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (minute taker), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey.

Others present: Bruce Johnson (town administrator), Julie Love, Rob Chickering, Deb Fillion.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

* Access permits

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Love brought a number of issues

* Drugs--She says there's lots more happening in East Montpelier than we're aware of. She says there are three drug labs in Sandy Pines, and the fumes are all over. She has expressed her concerns to the state police, but they have dismissed her concerns, as she was the only one reporting the labs. Mr. Gardner said that we would tell the state police of her concerns when we meet with them and tell our representative on VSP's community advisory board, with a request that he brings it up.

* Police--why drugs aren't being taken care of.

* Accessibility at town meeting. She said that she would be bothered by fluorescent, LED, or halogen lights. Mr. Gardner said that we'll put up a tent for her to sit under.

* Beach access for disabled at Wrightsville--she's wondering what's happened. Mr. Gardner said he's been informed that they have done a lot of work to improve it. He will give Ms. Love the contact information for the person he has spoken with.

* Sandy Pines Homeowner Association. She would like to start such an organization.

* Attack safety at the elementary school. She has information from her background in anti-terrorism work that could be helpful.

* Smart meters. She thinks people are unaware that there's a law enabling people to take out wireless smart meters with just a phone call, if their utility is Green Mountain Power.

D. DISCUSSION ON PLACEMENT OF ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS ON THE
TOWN WEBSITE

Mr. Gardner reported that all the towns in the surrounding area have all the information that Deb Fillion and other auditors objected to including at the previous meeting. Mr. Northrup said VLCT and the Secretary of State's office recommends including.

Ms. Fillion reiterated that she is uncomfortable with the web site containing photos from the past. She received permission for use of the photos in the town report, without asking for permission for it to be posted on the internet. She would also like certain pages of the published report to be deleted going forward from what is posted at the web site.

Mr. Gardner said he would not be part of withholding parts of the town report for the internet.

Mr. Chickering said he had no strong feelings about what should or should not be on the web, but maybe the SB could put out a survey at town meeting. Mr. Gardner said that the SB has already conducted a lot of outreach on this issue.

Mr. Northrup noted that the Mr. Johnson has asked for feedback on the web site on Front Porch Forum, and not much has come in.

Nobody reported any negative feedback from anyone about putting the town report on the web site, with the exception of the letter from the auditors and some concerns from lister Ross Hazel.

Mr. Johnson asked whether there is any place to congratulate East Montpelier Fire Department on its 50th anniversary. Ms. Fillion will look at putting it on the Appreciations page, and Mr. Etnier will contact Toby Talbot for possible photos.

E. FINALIZATION OF FY2015 BUDGET

The budget presented is unchanged since our discussion last week. The impact of the budget is to increase the municipal tax rate from \$0.5611 to \$0.5637.

The SB also discussed the breakdown of what affects school tax rates. Mr. Johnson reported four things that affect our school taxes:

- * The common level of appraisal increased
- * The number of students at U-32 decreased
- * The EM share of total U-32 students increased
- * The number of students at East Montpelier Elementary School decreased.

The total school tax rate will not be clear until we receive numbers from the state in June.

Motion: I move to include the budget as presented on the 2014 Town Meeting Warning. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

F. FINALIZATION OF 2014 TOWN MEETING WARNING

The SB reviewed the changes in the articles of warning.

Motion: I move to accept the town Articles of Warning for Annual Town Meeting as presented. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0

G. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion: I move to authorize Mr. Johnson to sign excess weight permits through March 31, 2014 for Catamount Forest Products LLC and Daniel Brick. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

Mr. Johnson reported on the progress of preparations for town meeting in the new location (U-32) and candidates for election.

Mr. Johnson reported that he has held further discussions with Eric Obeldobel, Monica Urquhart, and

Alex Brown on the state of culverts on Johnson Road. The upper culvert has now been removed; Mr. Obeldobel and Ms. Urquhart are unhappy that the lower culvert is still in place.

Mr. Johnson reported on the state of the North Montpelier village water system, which the town has no connection with. Two of the clients have water now; two do not.

The SB's pre-town forum work session will start 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 27.

H. ADJOURN

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0 at 8:01 pm.