

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

January 28, 2013

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Carl Etnier, Kim Swasey, Steve Sparrow (6:40); Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Additions to Agenda: Letter to Mike & Suzanne Liff

Public Comment: None

Finalization of FY2014 Budget

No changes were made to the FY14 budget as modified at the January 14, 2013 board meeting.

Motion: To adopt the FY2014 budget as presented. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Etnier. Passed unanimously.

Finalization of 2013 Town Meeting Warning

Board members discussed the possibility of adding a second farm contract article for the creation of an incentive grant program to encourage small, innovative farming efforts in East Montpelier. The Farm Contract Study Committee suggested a \$5,000 annual cap on total program grants. The board decided against adding an article this year, but will introduce the program concept during discussion on the farm contract article at Town Meeting. The board will research potential legal pitfalls in this type of incentive grant program prior to Town Meeting.

A petition drive for an effort to keep Vermont tar sands free failed to get enough signatures to reach the required 5% of registered voters threshold. The board declined to add the desired resolution to the Warning by the alternative method of Selectboard motion.

Motion: To set the 2013 Town Meeting Warning as presented. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Selectboard members signed the Warning.

Development of 2012 Annual Report

Board members reviewed the draft Selectboard report to be included in the 2012 Annual Report. After a series of edits, the document was deemed ready for transmission to Auditor Deb Fillion, the wonder woman in charge of our annual report creation.

Xerox/ACS Land Records Microfilm Project Order

The Chair presented two sales orders for microfilm services by Xerox/ACS: an order to microfilm all land records in Books 98 – 121 at an estimated cost of \$1,728; and, an order to

store all town microfilm in the Xerox storage facility at an annual cost of approximately \$80. The board discussed leaving the town's existing microfilm in the State's Middlesex storage facility (at no cost to the town), but decided the benefits, including ease of digital image creation, of having all the microfilm stored at the Xerox facility justified the small cost.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator Johnson to accept the two Xerox/ACS sales orders for microfilm services. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Excess Weight Permits

The Chair presented a 2012/13 excess weight permit application for Steven Parker.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator Johnson to issue a 2012/13 excess weight permit for Steven Parker. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

Selectboard members signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the January 14, 2013 Selectboard meeting.

Motion: To approve the January 14, 2013 minutes as presented. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Addition to Agenda: Letter to Michael & Suzanne Liff

Board members reviewed the draft letter to the Liffs detailing the expectations of the board regarding the numerous junk vehicles on the Liff property.

Motion: To authorize Chair Gardner to sign the letter to the Liffs. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report

- Don Tosi requested that the Selectboard allow a 5-10 minute tribute to Sylvia Tosi, our former town clerk who passed away in 2012, at the 2013 Town Meeting. The board agreed to support the presentation during or just after "Other Business." Mr. Tosi will need to arrange the specifics with Town Moderator Richard Brock.
- Constable Sandy Conti requested assistance with a situation involving a claim of mistreatment of horses. Chair Gardner agreed to work with Constable Conti to resolve the issue.
- Chair Gardner, Mr. Sparrow, and TA Johnson attended a meeting with VT Agency of Transportation officials regarding the potential alteration of the new Rtes. 2 & 14

intersection to a 4-way intersection to allow a drive access through the old Laperle property down to the new fire station. The board will discuss this meeting at its February 4, 2013 meeting.

- Road Foreman Mike Garand requested a new cellphone. The board agreed that the time was right to upgrade.

Zoning Administrator Report

- TA Johnson and the board discussed procedures for the creation of Development Review Board written decisions
- The East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative's senior housing facility DRB hearing is scheduled for February 5, 2013.
- The DRB's hearing on the East Montpelier Elementary School's expansion plans is expected to be held March 19, 2013.

Mr. Etnier proposed a meeting with Northstar Fireworks, the East Montpelier Fire Department, State Representative Tony Klein, and board members in an effort to formulate options to improve the current fireworks permitting scheme. Since the town's fireworks ordinance is essentially a restatement of state statute, a legislative fix appears necessary. The board will revisit this issue at a later meeting.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: February 4, 2013 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting