

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (02/06/17) MINUTES  
January 30, 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:** Karen Gramer (delinquent tax collector), Kimberly Jessup (state representative), Bill Pollock.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:37 pm, Chair Seth Gardner called the Selectboard meeting to order.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Pollock reported that his neighborhood group is very pleased with the service from the road crew and would like to donate to the town an annual sum to be used at the discretion of the road crew.

**D. DISCUSSION WITH DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REGARDING ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE FOR COLLECTION EFFORTS**

Ms. Gramer has received a letter of engagement from attorney Jim Barlow, following up on our discussion at the previous meeting. The SB judged the hourly rate and estimate of hours per tax sale to be quite reasonable. Mr. Barlow is a local attorney with long experience in Vermont municipal law.

**Motion: I move to accept the letter of engagement from attorney James Barlow written on January 23, 2017 to Delinquent Tax Collector Karen Gramer for proceeding to a tax sale on three properties: Parcel #s 08-013-100, 11-046-000, and 11-007-000. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0**

Before her May meeting with the SB, Ms. Gramer will propose more detailed criteria for choosing which properties to proceed to tax sale with.

**E. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EAST MONTPELIER CHARTER**

The amendments include conversion of the delinquent tax collector from an elected to an appointed position. Ms. Gramer raised questions regarding language about whether her term in the office would continue through 2019 Town Meeting, as proposed by the Charter Committee. The SB discussed various aspects of that possible decision with her.

The charter language is based on the work of the Charter Committee, input at the public hearing on the charter, and the SB's discussions.

**Motion: I move to approve the amendments to the East Montpelier Charter for submission to voters for approval on Town Meeting Day. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

**F. FINALIZATION OF FY2018 BUDGET**

The final numbers for expenses have been received.

**Motion: I move to accept the proposed FY2018 budget request to voters of \$1,681,597 as presented. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.**

**G. FINALIZATION OF 2017 TOWN MEETING WARNING**

**Motion: I move to approve the Articles of Warning for the March 2017 annual Town Meeting. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.**

## **H. WARRANTS**

Signed.

## **I. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Etnier relayed a discussion he had recently at Onion River Community Access (ORCA) about videotaping and/or streaming of SB meetings. ORCA has offered to do either. The SB will consider the proposal at a later time.

### *VTrans Forum on Village Bridge & Rtes. 2/14 Intersection Project*

A forum is set for Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at U-32. The proposal for the logistics of the bridge replacement has apparently changed.

### *VLCT Special Meeting & Local Government Day*

Local Government Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In conjunction with Local Government Day, VLCT has scheduled a special meeting for 1:30 p.m. to consider a bylaw amendment on how the municipal policy is discussed and adopted at the October annual meeting.

**Motion: I move to designate Carl Etnier as the town's representative at the special meeting of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns on February 15. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

### *Zoning Administrator Report*

Two permit applications have been received so far in 2017.  
No DRB meeting scheduled.

Kimberly Jessup said she had come to the meeting to learn more about the charter proposals, as they will come before the legislature if passed by voters on town meeting day.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0. 8:20 pm.**