

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

February 6, 2017 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, and Gene Troia; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Ross Hazel, Renee Carpenter, Paul Erlbaum, and EM Road Foreman Mike Garand

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Liquor Licenses**
- **Email Sent to Board Members**

Public Comment: Paul Erlbaum commented that his wife, Rachael Grossman, would like to see flashing speed monitoring devices installed along Towne Hill Road on both sides of the intersection with Gallison Hill & Brazier Roads

Discussion with Friends of Coburn Pond

Renee Carpenter, representing the Friends of Coburn Pond, detailed recent discussions with VT Agency of Transportation regarding future plans for the VTrans-owned 74-acre Coburn Pond property, the site of the US Rte. 2 wetlands mitigation project. The mitigation project's 5-year study period is coming to a close in August 2017, after which VTrans may be willing to relinquish ownership. One possible scenario is for VTrans to transfer ownership to the town under a management plan that would include the existing Act 250 permit conditions. The Friends of Coburn Pond, a non-profit entity, could manage the property through an agreement with the town.

VTrans would like a letter of interest from the Selectboard. Ms. Carpenter will draft a letter for board consideration at a future meeting.

Road Foreman Report: Discussion on Potential Purchase of New 10-wheel Truck

Last year the town purchased a 2017 Mack to replace one of our two 2008 International 10-wheeler trucks. Now the second 2008 is due to be replaced, in accord with the town's capital investment plan. As requested by the board, Road Foreman Garand presented a proposal from Sheldon Trucks for essentially the same Mack truck, one model year newer. The main difference in cost is the fact that this year's 2008 truck trade-in value is significantly less (\$38,000 compared to \$45,000) due to added age and miles. The total cost of the 2018 Mack, including an upgraded plow and warranty, is \$154,922 (the 2017 Mack cost \$147,759).

Motion: I authorize the purchase of the 2018 Mack truck with the Tenco body, an extended warranty, and the trade-in of the 2008 International, as presented. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of 2017 Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage

The town is required to annually file a certificate of highway mileage to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The concept is to inform VTrans of any changes to the town's highway layout. This year the town had no changes.

Motion: To submit as presented the 2017 Certificate of Highway Mileage to VTrans. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Board members signed the certificate.

Legal Matters: Hudson Adverse Possession Lawsuit

Attorney Bruce Bjornlund represented the town at the pre-trial conference today. The case will be set for an expected one-to-two day trial later this year.

Access Permit: 17-003 Raul Additional Curb Cut; 940 Murray Road

Consideration of the permit application was tabled until the February 20, 2017 board meeting.

Warrants

Board members signed the warrant.

Minutes

Chair Gardner presented the draft minutes of the January 16, 2017 board meeting.

Motion: To approve the January 16, 2017 minutes as presented. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Chair Gardner presented the draft minutes of the January 30, 2017 board meeting.

Motion: To approve the January 30, 2017 minutes as amended. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Board members signed a clean copy of the approved January 30, 2017 minutes to complete the authorization process to enable Collector of Delinquent Taxes Karen Gramer to engage the services of Attorney Jim Barlow.

Liquor Licenses

Chair Gardner presented for consideration the annual license renewal applications from Plainfield Hardware and Morse Farm. The applications were approved by consensus. Board members signed the forms.

Email Sent to Board Members

Karen Gramer, the East Montpelier Collector of Delinquent Taxes, sent an email to board members requesting that the board issue a formal statement prior to the March 4, 2017 town forum regarding the status of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes position in light of the proposed amendments to the East Montpelier Charter. After receiving input from the public at the January 16th public hearing, the board finalized the language of the amendments at its January 30th meeting. A second hearing on the amendments will be held in conjunction with the town forum. For the time being, the board will allow the proposed charter language speak for itself.

Other Business**Town Administrator Report:**

- Auditor Review of Warrants:
 - The town auditors have decided that there is no longer a need for one of the auditors to review the warrants before the warrants are presented to the Selectboard for approval; they are comfortable with the procedures/controls in place and intend to do only spot checks of the warrants (more in the normal style of an auditor review); they would like to know if the board sees any reason to continue the practice
 - Board members are in agreement with the auditors that spot checks of the warrants is sufficient
- CVRPC Municipal Energy Survey:
 - Survey on town-specific energy mapping constraints and preferred sites for renewable energy development; survey due by March 6, 2017
 - The Selectboard, Planning Commission, Conservation Fund Advisory Committee, and Energy Committees have been requested to complete the on-line survey; paper copies have been provided so that the committee members can develop the answers and then each committee can submit the results on-line
 - Board members will review the survey in advance of the February 20th meeting
- Small Funds Offered to Town on Behalf of Highway Department
 - A neighborhood would like to do something in gratitude for the highway crew's efforts and has offered to donate cash; the board needs to determine if funds should be accepted in any form, and if so, how funds could be offered
 - VLCT recommends not accepting the cash as it would need to be restricted in use and properly handled through our accounting protocol; informal gifting of food items directly to the crew would be better
 - Board members appreciate the thought behind the proposed donation, but will decline the offer
- Meeting Schedule:

○ February 20 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ February 22 nd	6:30 pm	At U-32; VTrans Village Bridge project forum
○ March 4 th	9:30 am	Town Forum at EMES; hearing on charter amendments
○ March 6 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ March 7 th	9:30 am	Town Meeting at EMES

Zoning Administrator Report:

- 3 permit applications so far in 2017
- Upcoming DRB meetings:
 - February 21, 2017 for two subdivision sketch plan reviews
 - March 14, 2017 for subdivision hearings and any other matters that might arise

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: February 20, 2017 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting