

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (03/07/2016)  
February 15, 2016 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:** Shawn Bryan (state chair; Vermont Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve); Mike Garand (road foreman); Brian Lusignan (Conservation Fund Advisory Commission); Julie Potter (Planning Commission; town representative to Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission); Gina Tron (Times Argus).

**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. CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF EAST MONTPELIER STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE** (Shawn Bryan, Vermont Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chair)

Chair Seth Gardner signed the statement of support, as authorized by the SB.

**E. DISCUSSION WITH JUSTIN HOY, HALOGEN MEDIA WORKS, ON PROPOSED "EAT MORE KALE" FESTIVAL AT MORSE FARM JUNE 18, 2016**

Mr. Hoy gave word that he would not be at the meeting. We'll try to arrange another date. The date of the event has been changed to June 25.

**F. DISCUSSION WITH CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Brian Lusignan)**

We discussed issues we would like to see covered at the town meeting/town forum when discussing further appropriations for the Conservation Fund. The SB is interested in a long-term plan for land conservation in town. Mr. Lusignan will work with the rest of committee to send us a suggested set of goals for conservation and affordability.

**G. DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR NEW 10-WHEELER TRUCK**

One of the town's two 2008 International 10-wheeler trucks is due to be replaced, according to the town's capital investment plan. Mr. Garand presented a wide range of options. The SB decided to purchase a high-quality Mack truck with a Tenco body, at a cost of \$147,839.

**Motion: I authorize the purchase of the Mack truck with the Tenco body, an extended warranty, and the trade-in, as presented. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

The SB will finance the truck on a five-year lease, with the first payment upfront, at 2.45% interest.

Mr. Garand also took the opportunity to update the SB on the Templeton Road Fire Station. He said the road crew has begun renovation of the interior of the east wing, to make room for winter storage of the excavator. We want to leave office area intact; Mr. Garand thinks it's possible to get the storage area we

need with the office there, and the road foreman may want to use the office in the future.

Mr. Gardner said he would once more contact the contractors he had previously talked to about the reconstruction.

#### **H. DISCUSSION WITH JULIE POTTER, TOWN REPRESENTATIVE TO CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (CVRPC)**

A new senior planner, Eric Vorwald, was hired in November. He brings ten years experience. This increases the capacity of CVRPC to help the town.

Office manager Laurie Emery, who has worked 34 years there, is planning to retire in April. Candidates are being interviewed.

Bonnie Waninger, the new executive director, has made the finances more transparent. She is also organizing the staff to work more in teams, which Ms. Potter believes will lead to better planning.

Ms. Potter noted that the dues from the towns, about \$75,000 a year, leverages about \$800,000 in state and federal funds.

The big planning initiative is updating the 2008 plan. It has been amended to bring it into compliance with new statutory requirements and runs until September. However, the updating process may not be completed by then; if that is the case, the 2008 plan would be temporarily re-adopted, probably until sometime in 2017.

A feature of the regional planning that assigned new housing goals to each of the member towns is causing problems for most or all of the towns. The regional plan steering committee has recommended that it be removed from the plan.

There are expectations that the RPCs will take more of a role in meeting water quality requirements and in energy planning. Details as yet are unclear.

A bill in the legislature, H.249, would enable formation of "regional councils of government." This would make cooperation between towns in various areas to occur more recently. Under the current draft, the RPC would vote whether to transform into a council of government. If the vote is successful, then the planning functions would be folded into the RPC. Under current draft, the council would have no legislative, taxing, or eminent domain authority.

#### **I. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED 2016 MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT (MPG) AGREEMENT WITH CVRPC**

The town has received the requested 2016 MPG in the amount of \$22,435 (state \$17,623; town match of \$4,812) to create a master plan for East Montpelier Village. The Planning Commission (PC) would like to contract the work to the CVRPC. The PC and CVRPC have developed an agreed-upon scope of work. CVRPC provided a contract for \$21,500, which has been vetted and tweaked by the PC, Town Administrator Bruce Johnson, and Town Attorney Bruce Bjornlund.

The Planning Commission has signed off on the contract, including its scope of work. The SB's concurrence is required.

Ms. Potter invited SB members to come to the meetings in connection with the development of the Village Master Plan.

**Motion: I move to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the Agreement for Planning Services with the CVRPC to complete a Village Master Plan. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.**

**J. CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTS TO OPEN ACCOUNT WITH NORTH COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AND TAKING OUT CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT FOR CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUNDS**

Treasurer Don Welch has found a CD with an interest rate over 1%, which is better than the 0.3% rate the fund has been earning at TD Bank. He would like authorization to put the cemetery perpetual care funds into said CD.

**Motion: I move to authorize Town Treasurer Don Welch to open a savings account on behalf of the Town of East Montpelier at North Country Federal Credit Union in the initial amount of \$22,234.85. Signatories on the account shall be: Town Treasurer Don Welch; Town Clerk Terri Conti; Municipal Assistant Denise Brown; and, Town Administrator Bruce Johnson. Further, the board authorizes Treasurer Welch to use \$21,500 of the initial deposit to take out a NCFCU certificate of deposit on such terms as he deems appropriate with a maximum term of two years. Made: Ms Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.**

**Motion: I move to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the letter to Mr. Welch informing him of the above motion. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.**

**K. WORK SESSION FOR 2016 TOWN MEETING**

The SB planned its presentation at town meeting.

**L. WARRANTS**

Signed.

**M. MINUTES**

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 Selectboard meeting as submitted. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.**

**N. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Town Administrator Report*

One resident has indicated interest in the vacancy on the Development Review Board. We will further advertise the vacancy.

Guests at Upcoming Meetings:

Sheriff W. Samuel Hill & Lieutenant Bret Meyer of the Washington County Sheriff's Department will be at the February 29th SB meeting.

Vermont State Police Lieutenant Matt Nally will be at March 7th meeting

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Town Representative Ginny Callan will be at the March 7th meeting.

Hudson Superior Court Quiet Title Action on Town Hall Property:

Town has filed an answer and a request to produce

BDE EM Lazar Solar, LLC Proceedings before the Public Service Board for a Certificate Of Public Good:

Planning Commission filed post-deadline comments after meeting with BDE representatives; concept was to show PSB where the parties were in agreement and where issues remained.

**Meeting Schedule:**

February 18th 7:00 pm	Kick-off meeting for Village Master Plan effort
February 27th 9:30 am	Town Forum @ EMES
February 29th 6:30 pm	Special SB meeting
March 1st 9:30 am	Town Meeting @ EMES
March 7th 6:30 pm	Regular SB meeting
March 21st 6:30 pm	Regular SB meeting
March 30th 6:00 pm	VTrans Village Bridge Forum @ U-32

*Zoning Administrator Report*

No new permit applications since February 1, 2016. The next DRB meeting is unscheduled at this point.

Applications are anticipated for the town park 'n ride facility, Orchard Valley Waldorf School pre-school on Coburn Road, and Dion business use of residential property on Fair Road.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0. 9:40 pm.**