

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

February 18, 2013

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

Public Attendance: Jewel Love

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Discussion on Accessibility for All at Town Meeting

Jewel Love, a local resident, presented her concerns regarding various issues:

- Ms. Love lives in the Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park, owned and operated by the VT Housing Authority (VHA). She is concerned that the VHA has ignored requests to remove dangerous trees and improve drainage. She would like the town to either take over grounds maintenance in the park or pressure the VHA to do the job properly.
- Ms. Love suffers from fluorescent light poisoning and is very sensitive to emissions from cellphones, smart meters, and other wireless equipment. She would like the town to move Town Meeting to a less harmful environment or, at the very least, provide some level of protection for those who suffer from these issues. She suggested putting a tent over a section of chairs in the East Montpelier Elementary School's gymnasium.
- Ms. Love expressed her outrage over the dumping of garbage and old cars, supposedly by certain landlords, along the banks of the Kingsbury Branch in North Montpelier Village.
- Ms. Love detailed her concerns regarding the town providing funds for some social organizations. In particular, Ms. Love stated that the Kellogg-Hubbard Library has, for many years, failed to provide adequate handicap-accessible external book slots. She also is upset that Wrightsville Beach Recreation District will not provide improved access for disabled patrons to the swimming area.
- Ms. Love expressed her displeasure with Town Administrator Johnson. She accused him of verbal abuse of her.

Town Treasurer Report

Town Treasurer Don Welch was unable to attend the meeting. He provided a budget status report along with a listing of bank accounts merged into a single savings account. Internal and external auditors for the town have been requesting for many years that the town consolidate its numerous small bank accounts. Treasurer Welch has now taken that step and will track the various funds through the town's accounting software.

The first loan payment on the 2013 Mack truck is due April 10, 2013. This \$30,593.72 payment is an unbudgeted expense for FY2013. The SB decided last spring to use the Capital Reserve Fund for this first payment.

Motion: To authorize the expenditure of \$30,593.72 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the 2013 Mack truck loan payment due April 10, 2013. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Etnier. Passed unanimously.

Land Conservation Fund CD Renewal

The \$22,548.54 Land Conservation Fund CD matures February 19, 2013. Treasurer Welch requested permission to renew the CD on the best terms available.

Motion: To authorize the renewal of the People's United Bank Land Conservation Fund CD on such terms as Town Treasurer Don Welch deems appropriate. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Selectboard Work Session for Town Meeting & Forum

SB members continued work on a variety of items for presentation at Town Meeting and Town Forum.

Warrants

Selectboard members signed the warrants.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the February 4, 2013 Selectboard meeting.

Motion: To approve the February 4, 2013 minutes as amended. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report

- Road Foreman Mike Garand and TA Johnson are investigating grant opportunities to upgrade both the Mallory Brook Center Road culvert and the undersized Quaker Road culvert near the Brown's house.
- Mr. Etnier reported that he had spoken with Dave Swenson, owner of Northstar Fireworks, about the possibility of proposing legislative action to amend the state statute controlling fireworks permitting to ease the waiting period requirements currently mandated by the statute. Mr. Swenson, who participated in the legislative process when the current statute was developed in 2003, would prefer not to become involved with any amendment effort at this time. Mr. Etnier will update Representative Tony Klein on this matter.
- There have been renewed complaints about the use of the untraveled sections of Old Trail Road and Foster Road by partiers. The town previously approved placing blocks to prevent access to Old Trail Road. The SB authorized Chair Gardner to install a gate at Green's driveway in an effort to prevent further abuse.

- VT State Police Lt. Paul White will come to the March 18, 2013 SB meeting to present a service contract renewal and to discuss policing concerns.
- The Planning Commission will hold a final draft town plan hearing on March 21, 2013. The PC expects to present the draft plan to the SB sometime in April.

Zoning Administrator Report

- Chair Gardner, Mr. Northrup, and TA Johnson met with East Montpelier Elementary School representatives, the architecture team, and the site engineer regarding the storm water control plans for the proposed renovation of the school. There are concerns with the need to construct a retention area for runoff near the intersection of the school grounds, the recreation field, and Vincent Flats Road. There is a possibility that the runoff could be piped under the recreation field out to the adjacent wetland area. The EMES team will continue to study the alternatives and update the SB as plans develop.

Personnel Matters

Motion: To enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

SB entered executive session at 8:50 p.m.; exited at 9:08 p.m. No action was taken.

SB members agreed to hold a special meeting on March 1, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. to prepare for Town Meeting and Town Forum.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: March 4, 2013 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting