

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (03/30/15) MINUTES
March 16, 2015 at the Town Office**

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey; Bruce Johnson (town administrator).

Others present: Bill Pollock; Don Welch (Town Treasurer), Matthew Nally, Vermont State Police.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Forest Funds CD

Draft Minutes from Town Meeting

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**D. DISCUSSION WITH VERMONT STATE POLICE (VSP);
CONSIDERATION OF 2015 STATE POLICE CONTRACT**

Lt. Matthew Nally, Station Commander, Middlesex Barracks

East Montpelier hires VSP to provide 40 hours a month of patrolling, above and beyond responding to calls and driving through.

VSP was summoned here for 547 incidents for calendar year 2014. Traffic stops are not defined as *incidents* unless they lead to a citation for driving under the influence or something similar. Of those, 145 simply represent officers checking in to their shifts patrolling the town.

There were 500 written warnings and 280 written tickets in 2014.

Concerns from troops:

- There is vegetation on speed limit signs, particularly on County Road. Troopers would like to see them trimmed.
- Make sure that roads are properly posted; if signs get hit during the winter, for example, replace them.
- Burglaries in the area have gone down. VSP are getting fed more information more quickly on burglaries, which has helped them reduce their number. However, they anticipate a jump when summer comes.
- Five cruisers have been hit this winter in the Middlesex Barracks service area, two totaled. No troopers were hit.

The new contract for 40 hours a month is estimated at \$31,800, up 5% from last year's contract amount of \$30,264. Because Middlesex barracks has a lot of younger troopers, historically the annual cost to East Montpelier has been lower than the contract cost.

**Motion: I move to authorize Seth Gardner to sign the contract with Vermont State Police for 40 hours a month of patrolling in East Montpelier for a year, starting April 1. Made: Mr. Etnier.
Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0**

E. Consideration of the Forest Fund Certificate of Deposit (CD)

Motion: I move to authorize Treasurer Don Welch to roll over the Forest Fund CD into another one-year CD. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

F. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION PLAN TO CONSOLIDATE ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

Jean Vissering, chair of the Planning Commission (PC), has requested that the SB refrain from further action on the zoning regulation changes that they sent the SB in 2014. PC member Julie Potter explained that the PC is working on more changes and would like to treat all the changes in the same set of hearings in the future. The SB assented to refraining from further action on the changes received.

Ms. Potter further pointed out that the PC was planning to discuss the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) and whether it continues as a PC committee or becomes a SB committee. The SB expressed no strong feelings on which committee appoints the CIC. However, more than one person noted that it is helpful to have both SB and PC members on the committee, with their different perspectives.

G. DISCUSSION ON REMAINING FARM CONTRACTS

The town is in the process of phasing out farm contracts, at the direction of the voters. Farm contracts provide property tax relief to land in agriculture or forestry. Land owners with farm contracts have been offered help in transitioning to the state's current use program, which serves a similar function. Mr. Johnson reported that only one farm contract remains in effect.

H. VTRANS HIGH RISK RURAL ROADS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION OPTION

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) submitted County Road as a potential target for the High Risk Rural Roads program this year; it and a road in Waterbury were chosen in Central Vermont.

The town's part is for Road Foreman Mike Garand and at least one board member to participate in a site visit/meeting. VTrans will produce a report with recommendations. The town will have the opportunity to reject the report or offer amendments. Once the report is accepted, we'll need to agree to maintain whatever work is performed. VTrans will then contract with a firm to do the actual work (generally in the following year, so 2016 in this case).

Mr. Etnier offered to be the SB member working with Mr. Garand and VTrans.

Motion: I move to authorize Bruce Johnson sign the 2015 High Risk Rural Roads Program Participation Form. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Etnier.

I. 2015 SELECTBOARD ORGANIZATION

Motion: I move to elect Seth Gardner as chair. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 4-0 (Mr. Gardner recusing himself.)

Motion: I move to elect Casey Northrup as vice-chair. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 4-0 (Mr. Northrup recusing himself.)

J. 2015 SELECTBOARD RULES OF TRANSACTION

The same rules of transaction as last year were proposed. Ms. Swasey proposed that the SB use the

most recent edition of Robert's Rules, which came out in 2011. The rest of the SB agreed.

Motion: I move to adopt the 2015 Selectboard Rules of Transaction as amended. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

K. 2015 TOWN MEETING REVIEW

Town Clerk Terri Conti distributed the Town Meeting Minutes to the SB today and asked for the SB's signatures and comments. The SB will review the minutes and revisit the issue at a future meeting.

L. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I move to make the following appointments:

Animal Control Officer

Sandy Conti, current officer Term End: 03/2016

Assistant Animal Control Officer

Elliott Morse, current officer Term End: 03/2016

Development Review Board

Rich Curtis, current member Term End: 03/2018

Mark Lane, current member Term End: 03/2018

Ken Santor, current member Term End: 03/2018

Central VT Solid Waste Management District

Ginny Callan, current representative Term End: 03/2016

Town Service Officer

Rachael Grossman, current officer Term End: 04/14/16

Town Tree Warden

Paul Cate, current warden Term End: 03/2016

Emergency Management Co-Coordiators

Bill George, current co-coordinator Term End: 03/2016

Toby Talbot, current co-coordinator Term End: 03/2016

Central VT Regional Planning Commission

Lead Representative

Julie Potter, current representative Term End: 03/2016

Transportation Advisory Committee

Frank Pratt, current representative Term End: 03/2016

Four Corners Schoolhouse Association Representative

Carolyn Shapiro, current representative Term End: 03/2016

State Police Community Advisory Board

Carol Welch, current representative Term End: 04/2016

Don Welch, current representative Term End: 04/2016

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

Charles Johnson, current member Term End: 03/2018

Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0

M. EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

Motion: I move to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to sign the excess weight permits for SD Ireland Concrete Construction Corporation, Scott Brown Trucking, Marlin, Bourne's Energy, Spafford & Sons, Barrett Trucking Co., Lajeunesse Construction, Donald Giroux's Trucking, Alfies General Contracting, Gillespie Fuel & Propane, and Rice Lumber

Company. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

N. WARRANTS

Signed.

O. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 as presented. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

P. OTHER BUSINESS (Town Administrator update)

North Street dogs update

Mr. Johnson reported that Animal Control Officer Sandy Conti said there was another complaint from a resident about dogs on North Street that apparently belong to Amy Thornton. Around March 4, a visiting male friend (from White River area) jogging on North Street was nipped by one of the dogs (broke skin; no medical attention received; no desire to file formal complaint). Mr. Conti followed up. The SB would like to know more.

Fire Extinguisher Annual Contract

The town has previously had Vermont Fire Extinguisher do the annual servicing of extinguishers, for a total cost for both the town office and town garage of less than \$160. FireProTec would like an opportunity to handle the service. The SB decided the cost of putting a contract out to bid would exceed any potential savings, and the town is satisfied with the current contractor.

Mold Inspection Services

Town Clerk Conti has been hinting again that she would like a mold inspection of the town office. The building was last inspected after the mold remediation work in 2011 and passed. The town office does not exhibit at least 8 of the 9 "top signs of a mold problem" in the flyer of a local firm soliciting mold testing business.

Ms. Conti has also commented on space constrictions in the vault. The SB discussed alternatives, including setting up a committee to get an overview of needs for the town office.

Road Foreman Update

There was an accident with the town pickup; it was backed into a state truck. A report was filed with the town insurance provider, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).

There's been water flowing over Sodom Pond Road for the past week. It needs material to raise the area. RF Mike Garand is trying to find gravel. The SB wondered whether raising the road would alleviate the problem but did not object to the gravel being applied.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Sparrow. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.