

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (04/07/14) MINUTES  
March 17, 2014 at the Municipal Office**

**Selectboard members present:** Carl Etnier (minute taker), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey.

**Others present:** Bruce Johnson (town administrator), Don Welch (town treasurer), Vermont State Police Lt. Matt Nally, VSP Captain Paul White.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. DISCUSSION WITH VERMONT STATE POLICE; CONSIDERATION OF 2014 STATE POLICE CONTRACT**

Captain Paul White introduced his successor in charge of the Middlesex Barracks of Vermont State Police, Lt. Matt Nally. Mr. Nally said that he is interested in helping to clear up open cases and get more eyes helping them. He also emphasized the importance of reporting thefts, even small ones--what they don't know about, they can't investigate or put together into a pattern.

Mr. Etnier asked whether VSP has a policy on communicating the resolution of a reported crime or incident.

Mr. Nally said VSP cannot divulge information about an ongoing investigation. The person reporting is entitled to information once an arrest is made.

Mr. White added that VSP likes to be able to report to a victim when an arrest is made. It's unusual to recover stolen property and make an arrest.

Mr. Etnier said he reported two incidents last year of a motorist driving too close to him while he bicycled, and he would like to have heard back from VSP regarding the resolution or lack thereof. It makes a citizen more interested in reporting to police if they know the report is getting attention.

Discussion of hot spots. Mr. White and Mr. Nally could not identify current crime hot spots in EM. Mr. White said that VSP will respond to what you tell us about. Mr. Nally said that those who are doing the break-ins are using the roads, so it's helpful to be able to stop cars and get a look into their vehicle.

Mr. White added that Crimereports.com shows where crimes of a specified type have been reported. It may not be updated since reporting codes changed at beginning of year.

On the town's contract with VSP: Mr. White reported that a bill in the legislature would prohibit VSP from entering this sort of contract. It has passed the House and is in the Senate. If it becomes law, East Montpelier would have the option of the County Sheriff or a municipal police department for this sort of contract. He doesn't know of the motivation behind the bill.

Mr. White added that the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority may in the future be something that the town could join.

Questioned about the high turnover rates at the Middlesex barracks that Mr. White had previously reported to the Selectboard, Mr. White responded that in his new position overseeing three barracks, he has moved a position from Chittenden County to Middlesex, but Middlesex could use another five.

The VSP contract offer for 40 hours monthly is \$30,264, increased by 10% over last year. Mr. White and Mr. Nally said the number is based on a statewide average for overtime, without giving details about which factors have had the most effect on the rate jump. East Montpelier consistently pays less than the contract amount, as the officers assigned to the town are less experienced than average and have correspondingly lower pay rates.

**Motion: I move to renew the contract with Vermont State Police for the coming year. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

#### **E. TOWN TREASURER REPORT**

Mr. Welch distributed a report on the current state of spending. The town is in good shape with respect to the budget. Spending on gravel is a bit high. We have a little extra to use in paving. On taxes: The town billed about \$590,000 more last year than the prior year. So far the town has about \$220,000 more in taxes remaining to be paid than last year. Delinquent taxes are about the same as this point last year. He intends to send out a card this spring reminding people of the May 15 deadline for the second installment of taxes, in addition to notices on Front Porch Forum.

#### **F. CONSIDERATION OF CD OPTIONS FOR CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

There's currently about \$110,000 in the savings account, and \$136,000 in the capital reserve account CD. How much do we want to keep liquid? The difference between a 6-month and 12-month renewal is 0.3% v. 0.4%.

If the town both buys a new truck to replace the LoPro and need extra funds for paving, the \$110,000 will not be sufficient.

**Motion: I move to authorize the town treasurer to renew the certificate of deposit for the capital reserve fund for six months. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0.**

#### **G. CONSIDERATION OF CD OPTIONS FOR FOREST FUND**

No one has heard about any planned expenses to be taken from the forest fund.

**Motion: I move to authorize the town treasurer to renew the certificate of deposit for the capital reserve fund for 366 days. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0**

#### **H. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL AUDIT RFP SUBMISSIONS**

Four proposals from local firms were received in response to the town's request for proposals for financial audits. Mr. Welch and Mr. Johnson will speak with representatives of the firms and report back to the SB with a recommendation, ideally by April 7.

#### **I. DISCUSSION ON REPLACEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LO PRO TRUCK**

Mr. Northrup reported his research showed that the current Lo Pro has a motor with a spotty track record. The truck's low mileage (less than 70,000) is not an advantage, and it might even be a disadvantage.

Other towns and cities have reported using trucks for 10 or 15 years or more. We want our trucks to get

at least 10 years of use from now on.

Nonetheless, the SB accepts the arguments that the current Lo Pro has uncertain prospects for future years and notes the road foreman's strong interest in replacing it.

The bid from Clark's Truck Center does not include insta-chains, which are important for this vehicle. They cost an additional \$2,100, according to what Clark's has told the town.

**Motion: I move to authorize the purchase of an International 7400 SFA 4x2 truck from Clark's Truck Center per their offer of February 10, 2014, for a net sales price (including trade-in) of \$52,461 plus the cost of insta-chains. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

**Motion: I move to authorize the purchase of the Everest dump body and one-way plow and wing plow per the HP Fairfield quote #134916, for \$43,935. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

#### **J. CONSIDERATION OF RB TECHNOLOGIES CONTRACT FOR IT SERVICES**

The current contract with rbTechnologies expires on April 30. rbTechnologies has presented an offer for a one-year contract that lowers the monthly cost by using an offsite system to monitor and maintain the town's servers. The SB asked Bruce Johnson to ask rb to remove the monthly pre-paid hour of work; we'll pay as we go.

#### **K. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY CANDIDATES**

Four candidates asked to be appointed to the one vacant position. The SB will ask the planning commission for a recommendation.

#### **L. DISCUSSION ON REMAINING FARM CONTRACTS**

Mr. Johnson reported that there are five contracts active after March 31. The remaining contracts will expire over the following two years.

#### **M. 2014 TOWN MEETING REVIEW**

Charter committee: The Selectboard would like to keep the committee constituted and on hold, with no immediate agenda. Mr. Etnier will ask chair Edie Miller to poll the committee about who is interested in continuing.

Conflict of interest ordinance: Bruce and Carl will work on improving the language.

#### **N. 2014 SELECTBOARD ORGANIZATION**

**Motion: I move to elect Seth Gardner as chair. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 3-0, with Mr. Gardner recusing himself.**

**Motion: I move to elect Casey Northrup as vice-chair. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0, with Mr. Northrup recusing himself.**

**Motion: I move to authorize Seth Gardner as primary signer of payroll and vendor warrants and Casey Northrup as secondary signer. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.**

#### **O. 2014 SELECTBOARD RULES OF TRANSACTION**

The SB reviewed rules of transaction unchanged since last year.

**Motion: I move to approve the 2014 Selectboard rules of transaction. Made: Mr. Northrup.  
Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.**

**P. APPOINTMENTS**

The SB reviewed a list of proposed appointments. After discussion, the list was amended to include:

Animal Control Officer	
Sandy Conti, current officer	Term End: 03/2015
Assistant Animal Control Officer	
Elliott Morse, current officer	Term End: 03/2015
Development Review Board	
Kim Watson, current member	Term End: 03/2017
Steve Kappel, current member	Term End: 03/2017
Central VT Solid Waste Management District	
Ginny Callan, current representative	Term End: 03/2015
Town Service Officer	
Rachael Grossman, current officer	Term End: 04/14/15
Town Tree Warden	
Paul Cate, current warden	Term End: 03/2015
Emergency Management Co-Coordiators	
Bill George, current co-coordinator	Term End: 03/2015
Toby Talbot, current co-coordinator	Term End: 03/2015
Central VT Regional Planning Commission	
Transportation Advisory Committee	
Frank Pratt, current representative	Term End: 03/2015
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association Representative	
Carolyn Shapiro, current representative	Term End: 03/2015
Recreation Board	
Jan Aldrich, current member	Term End: 03/2017
Priscilla Gilbert, current member	Term End: 03/2017
Kathy Richardson, current member	Term End: 03/2017
Kris Jensen, current member	Term End: 03/2017
State Police Community Advisory Board	
Carol Welch, current representative	Term End: 04/2015
Don Welch, current representative	Term End: 04/2015
Forest Committee	
Mark Lane, current member	Term End: 03/2017

**Motion: I move to approve the 2014 proposed appointments, as amended. Made: Mr. Northrup.  
Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

**Q. EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS**

**Motion: I make the motion to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the excess weight permits. Made:  
Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.**

**R. WARRANTS**

Warrants were signed.

**S. MINUTES**

I move to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0.

**T. OTHER BUSINESS**

Town Administrator Report

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

- March 22nd VLCT Selectboard Institute  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Capital Plaza  
Carl & Kim have signed up
- March 31st State Government Municipal Day 2014  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at National Life  
Carl, Kim & CBJ have signed up
- April 2nd “Show Me The \$” Roads Scholar Workshop  
7:30 a.m. to Noon at VTC, Conant Hall Room 101  
Casey & Seth have signed up
- April 7th Selectboard regular meeting  
6:30 p.m. at town office
- April 17th EMFD quarterly budget presentation  
7:00 p.m. at ESF
- April 21st Selectboard regular meeting  
6:30 p.m. at town office

Zoning Administrator Report

The ZA distributed a list of pending permit activity.

Next DRB meeting April 15th

**U. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: I make the motion to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0 at 10:24 pm.