

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (04/03/17) MINUTES
March 20, 2017 at the Town Office**

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner,, Kim Swasey, Gene Troia, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: Lt. Matthew Nally, Sgt. Ray LeBlanc, Vermont State Police (VSP); Don Welch, Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board representative.

A. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 pm, Chair Seth Gardner called the Selectboard (SB) meeting to order.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Annual tax map maintenance agreement

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DISCUSSION WITH VERMONT STATE POLICE; CONSIDERATION OF 2017 STATE POLICE CONTRACT

VSP contracts with East Montpelier to provide 40 hours per month of patrolling in town, over and above the work they do as the town's primary police service. This annual discussion of the contract was used to get an overview of their work in town over the previous year. Lt. Matthew Nally and Sgt. Ray LeBlanc presented statistics on the calls that VSP had responded to and the amount of traffic enforcement work they had done. In response to a question about the severity of the crime levels in East Montpelier, Lt. Nally said the crime statistics don't stand out as especially severe.

The SB questioned the troopers about the advantages of using VSP coverage over a local constable with law enforcement powers or the Washington County Sheriff. Advantages of VSP service that they listed include:

- VSP follows a case from beginning to end, including in court.
- The Sheriff deputy working in Calais does speeding only.
- All VSP troopers are full time and have best training available.
- The Middlesex barracks is pioneering in the state the use of "spiderwebbing" to connect dots between crimes and individuals and their groups, so as to make problems go away.
- Working in the barracks provides ongoing training and awareness of the crime situation in the region.

The 2017-2018 contract would be for the same hourly rate as last year, \$68.35.

Motion: I move to renew the Vermont State Police contract. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

E. STATE POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Mr. Welch reported that the Community Advisory Board is an independent non-profit, with the goal of being a conduit between VSP and the town.

He has been struggling with ways to pass the information from the VSP presentations at these meetings to town residents. The SB encouraged him to ask VSP to make these presentations in public, with residents invited. He will look at the roadblocks and see what can be done.

F. DISCUSSION ON 2017 ROADSIDE MOWING, 2017 LAWN MOWING, AND 2017/18 WINTER SAND PROCUREMENT CONCEPTS

Road Foreman Mike Garand recommends:

- No roadside mowing bid; town will rent equipment and handle the job in-house this year.
- No winter sand changes; town will continue to self truck sand, preferably the granite sand from Northeast Materials.

The SB agreed with Mr. Garand's recommendations. The board will talk with Mr. Garand about the quantity of sand to be bought at the end of the winter.

The SB is satisfied with the lawn mowing by Creative Visions LLC (Tim Frazier) and the brush hogging done on the old LaPerle farm by Rick Barstow; the town will explore renewing those contracts this year.

G. WORK SESSION ON DRAFT CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATION PACKET

The Planning Commission (PC) has weighed in on the language in the packet. The SB used the PC's work as a starting point for a package of proposed revisions that will be sent to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee (CFAC).

Mr. Johnson will send the revisions to CFAC Chair Charles Johnson. CFAC will amend its document for presentation at the SB's April 3rd meeting.

H. 2017 SELECTBOARD ORGANIZATION

Motion: I move to elect Seth Gardner chair. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0 (Mr. Gardner abstaining)

Motion: I move to elect Gene Troia vice-chair. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0 (Mr. Troia abstaining)

Motion: I move to authorize Seth Gardner and Gene Troia to sign payroll warrants, payroll vendor warrants, and necessary expense warrants. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0 (Mr. Gardner and Mr. Troia abstaining)

I. 2017 SELECTBOARD RULES OF TRANSACTION

Motion: I move to adopt the 2017 Selectboard Rules of Transaction, with the change of removing the elementary school as a posting location for warnings and adding the Four Corners Schoolhouse. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0

J. 2017 TOWN MEETING REVIEW

No action taken.

K. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT 2017 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Postponed to April 3.

L. DISCUSSION ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ISSUE

Motion: I move to authorize Chair Seth Gardner to convey to our elected state and federal representatives the results of the town meeting vote on Presidential election candidate financial transparency. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

M. DISCUSSION OF IMMIGRATION POLICY

VSP is willing to come to the SB's May 15 meeting to discuss how their work with the state's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy dovetails with the language of the town's resolution from town meeting. The meeting will be held in the village fire station, with invitations to Calais, Marshfield, and Plainfield (who passed similar resolutions) to attend.

Mr. Johnson will ask the lawyers at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for advice on how to incorporate the intent of the resolution into town personnel policy.

N. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I move to approve the slate of proposed 2017 East Montpelier appointments. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

O. WARRANTS

Signed.

P. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2017 Selectboard meeting as submitted. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 5-0

Q. OTHER BUSINESS

Annual tax map maintenance agreement

This is the town's standard agreement for tax map updates, at \$1,950/year – increased from the \$1,830 rate for the past few years.

Motion: I move to accept the annual tax map maintenance agreement with Cartographic Associates, Inc. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

Murray Road Culvert Replacement Project Update

Mr. Johnson reported a pre-bid construction meeting will be held April 10th at 9:00 a.m. at the site; bids will be due May 1st and will be presented at the board meeting that evening.

Meeting with VTrans

The annual “make sure the town has its house in order” meeting with the VTrans district project manager will be held at the town office March 22nd, 9:00 a.m. The board will handle the standard annual financial plan, road standards certification, grant application decisions, etc. at its April 3rd meeting.

Agreement with rbTechnologies for Town IT Services

rbTech is offering to roll the current IT services agreement, which expires May 1st, for another year on the same rate/terms (\$267/month). The SB agreed.

EM Fire District #1 Loan

Ashley Lucht of the Department of Environmental Conservation has presented a new loan schedule to the EM Fire District that will alter the first payment due date to October 1, 2017 from March 1, 2017. Assuming the Fire District accepts this, the loan's first payment will now be due after the projected dissolution date of the district, which will make it the town's responsibility and will also open up new avenues for forgiveness of the loan (although that is still unlikely).

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont Outreach Event

An annual “Pinwheel Garden” event is slated for April (proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month in Vermont). The organization is asking the town to purchase pinwheels and “plant” them in a symbolic garden. The SB noted that the town has a process with the Funding Request Study Committee to request money for this sort of display.

Meeting Schedule

April 3rd	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
April 17th	6:30 pm	BCA workshop and Selectboard regular meeting at the ESF
April 20th	7:00 pm	EMFD quarterly budget presentation at the ESF
May 1st	6:00 pm	Invasive plant workshop and Selectboard meeting at the ESF

Zoning Administrator Report

7 permit applications so far in 2017

Upcoming Development Review Board meeting: March 21, 2017 for the Cherry Tree LLC subdivision hearing (as rescheduled)

R. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0. 9:26 p.m.