

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

May 2, 2016 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Gene Troia, and Kim Swasey; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Delinquent Tax Collector Karen Gramer; CVRPC Executive Director Bonnie Waninger; East Montpelier CVRPC Representative Julie Potter

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Update on BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC 500 kW Solar Facility PSB CPG Application**
- **Murray Road Culvert Project Update**
- **Templeton Road Fire Station Project Update**
- **Center Road “Speed Bump” Option**
- **Conservation Fund Advisory Committee Potential Appointee**

Public Comment: None

Delinquent Tax Collector Report: Karen Gramer, Delinquent Tax Collector

Ms. Gramer presented the board with her 2016 Collection Policy, which will become effective May 17, 2016. No changes to the previous policy beyond updating dates.

Remaining delinquent tax outstanding for this year is on par with previous years: 25 properties with a total of \$63,745 outstanding. Last year at this time the figures were 28 properties and \$66,737; in 2014, 27 and \$38,091; in 2013, 22 and \$41,258.

Ms. Gramer is moving forward with a tax sale for the Estate of Reginald Laundry property at 2726 Horn of the Moon Road.

Meeting with Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC Executive Director

Ms. Waninger introduced herself to the board. She took over as the executive director of the Central VT Regional Planning Commission mid-summer 2015 and is currently making the rounds to the 23 cities & towns that make up CVRPC. She provided an overview of the services provided by CVRPC, running the gamut from high-level planning assistance to in-the-water culvert inspections. A review of the current legislative session resulted in a long discussion on the concept of CVRPC-assisted intermunicipal services where communities could, for instance, jointly purchase a roadside mower with CVRPC administering the agreement regulating the use of the equipment. The intermunicipal services model appears to have some very positive elements, but is clearly still a work in progress at the legislative level.

Chair Gardner welcomed Ms. Waninger to the area and thanked her for meeting with the board.

Update on VTrans Village Bridge Project

VTrans held another public forum on the Village Bridge replacement and US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection project at U-32 on April 26, 2016. Chair Gardner attended the forum and reported that the current schedule is to do some preliminary work, mostly at night, this summer (in particular, build the planned retaining wall), continue with preliminary work, utility work, and possibly some road work next summer, and do the actual bridge construction & replacement along with the main US Rte. 2 work in 2018. The new plan includes use of the new bridge, which will be built on-site next to the existing bridge and then slid into place on new abutments, as a temporary bridge while the old bridge is removed. This will lessen the duration of the VT Rte. 14 closure to a maximum of 40 days. Chair Gardner stated that VTrans had been responsive to the various needs expressed by the community.

Update on Old Laperle Farm Property Committee

The committee is focused on developing options for the old farmhouse and determining wastewater capacity on the property. The committee is considering a possible “request for qualifications” process to develop a list of firms that specialize in innovative wastewater techniques to maximize the wastewater potential of the property. The Selectboard offered the suggestion that a list of firms be developed first and then determine if an RFQ process is necessary to winnow down the number of candidates that would be requested to participate in a “request for proposals” process for the actual engineering services project.

Consideration of IT Contract Renewal with rbTechnologies

The town operates under an annual contract with rbTechnologies for information technology (i.e., computer & network maintenance) services; the agreement provides full protection and update services for our server and managed antivirus protection for our computers along with one hour per month of maintenance support. The current cost is \$260/month; the new agreement is for \$265/month, a 2% increase.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to sign the one year IT Support Service Agreement, at a base cost of \$265/month, with rbTechnologies. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of ESRI FY2017 ArcGIS License Quote

The town uses the Query Manager software program to integrate its parcel identification data and zoning overlays with its tax map data. This software requires the ArcGIS mapping platform. For the past decade the town has purchased a one seat license for ArcGIS from ESRI. The cost for the FY2017 license is \$700, unchanged from last year.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to accept the FY2017 ESRI ArcGIS license quote at a cost of \$700. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Discussion on Possible Contract with Washington County Sheriff's Department for Speed Enforcement

After meeting with Sheriff Hill and Lieutenant Meyer of the Washington County Sheriff's Department in February, the board decided to postpone a decision on whether to contract with the Sheriff's Department for speed enforcement services, in particular for the East Montpelier Center area, until this meeting. After discussing the effectiveness of the speed cart, which has been in the EM Center area for over a month, along with the possibility of lowering the speed limit through the area, the board decided to forego pursuing a contract with the Sheriff's Department for the time being. In lieu of more speed enforcement, the board will focus on speed calming options and work on updating the town's traffic ordinance.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Update on BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC 500 kW Solar Facility PSB CPG Application**
 - Two new submissions were filed in the Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good proceedings for the proposed 500 kW solar array to be located on the Cassani property across US Rte. 2 from the East Montpelier Home Center. Abutting neighbor Zach Sances has formally withdrawn his objections to the project. Property owners Anthony & Jean Cassani filed a letter demanding that the town withdraw its Motion to Intervene in the PSB process and stop obstructing the project.
- **Murray Road Culvert Project Update**
 - Doug Newton, of Newton Technical Services, with the surveying assistance of Chase & Chase Surveyors, is finalizing the design for the VTrans grant-funded replacement of the large culvert on Murray Road near the Montpelier line. The hope is to put the project out to bid by the end of May.
- **Templeton Road Fire Station Project Update**
 - In an effort to move forward with the conversion of the east side of the Templeton Road Fire Station for use by the town to park heavy equipment, the board agreed to hire Sterry Leno to do the necessary carpentry work at a cost of \$2,800. The board also agreed to have Bigelow Garage Doors, at a cost of approximately \$1,700, alter the bay door to fit the enlarged opening necessary for storing the grader and excavator.
- **Center Road "Speed Bump" Option**
 - The road crew recently cut through the pavement on Center Road near the Old Meeting House to replace a culvert. The slot, which remains unpaved, is currently acting as a speed-lowering "speed dip", with the gravel surface slightly off-level with the pavement. The board, cognizant of the local residents' desire to calm the traffic through the historic village, directed Road Foreman Garand to investigate the possibility of installing a speed bump at this location rather than simply repaving the slot.
- **Conservation Fund Advisory Committee Potential Appointee**
 - Art Chickering has volunteered to serve on the committee, which currently has only 3 members.
 - **Motion: To appoint Art Chickering to a three-year term on the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee, ending March 2019.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Access Permit: 16-009 Mawema LLC

Orchard Valley Waldorf School is hoping to receive Development Review Board permission to run a full-day age 0-3 day care program and some other less intensive school programs at 174 Coburn Road, across the road from the main school property. The access request is to change the use from residential to commercial. The board would like some traffic information before approving the change and would prefer to wait until the DRB either approves or denies the OVWS application. The board decided to table the application until the DRB process is complete.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Selectboard meeting for consideration.

Motion: To approve the April 11, 2016 Selectboard meeting minutes as amended.

Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

- Snelling Center for Government’s VT Leadership Institute:
 - The Snelling Center is recruiting participants for its 2017 VT Leadership Institute class and requested that the town consider nominating a potential candidate
 - The board decided to nominate Ms. Swasey for possible inclusion in the 2017 class
- Local Emergency Operations Plan:
 - The town’s 2016 LEOP, adopted at the April 11th board meeting, has been accepted by the state
- Grant Application Update:
 - A VTrans paving grant application for County Road, a VTrans structures grant application for Quaker Road, a VTrans Better Roads application for Muddy Brook Road, and a VLCT PACIF application for signs and safety equipment were submitted prior to April 15, 2016
 - Applications have all been accepted as timely; no results as yet
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

○ May 16 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
○ June 6 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
○ June 20 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report:

- 5 permit applications since the last board meeting
- Next DRB meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2016, with applications for a setback waiver for a new garage on the Onne (formerly Dave Blosser) parcel on Towne Hill Road, conditional use approval for the proposed Orchard Valley Waldorf School preschool on Coburn Road, and site plan approval for the town park ‘n ride facility

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: May 16, 2016 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting