

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

May 8, 2017 Special Meeting

SB Attendance: Vice-chair Gene Troia, Carl Etnier, Amy Willis, Kim Swasey; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Stephen Rauh

Vice-chair Troia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Addition to Agenda:

- **Grant Amendment Request for Murray Road Culvert Project**
- **Update on EMFD Capital Reserve Fund Use in Advance of May 22nd Joint Meeting with Calais Selectboard**

Public Comment: Mr. Rauh expressed his desire that the road crew be judicious in its use of wing plows on narrow roads, especially in milder conditions. He was unhappy with the plowing of the April 1st storm, which resulted in significant amounts of gravel being deposited eight feet onto his lawn.

Road Foreman Report

Road Foreman Garand was not able to attend the meeting. TA Johnson highlighted a couple of issues of interest that Mr. Garand had intended to discuss. Three culvert replacement projects on County Road just north of Horn of the Moon Road will occur within the next month in advance of the reclaiming/repaving of the final mile of County Road up to the Calais line. Although the town is already over budget on culverts in FY2017, these projects will be part of a VTrans paving grant. The town has rented a roadside mower from Tenco for the month of August. Apparently the Tenco rental roadside mowing machines will be put up for sale after this season and Mr. Garand believes it would be worth investigating a possible purchase of one of the tractors for dual use as a summer mower and winter sidewalk plow.

Access Permits: 17-017 Witham, 1974 Bliss Road

Susan Witham, niece of landowner Bradley Witham, is requesting a new residential access/curb cut to serve a soon-to-be-created 4-acre lot carved out of Mr. Witham's property where Ms. Witham intends to build a single-family house. Road Foreman Garand has reviewed the location and recommends approval with the condition that the Withams trim back some of the nearby brush.

Motion: To approve Access Permit Application 17-017 for a residential curb cut for access by easement to a new lot over the Witham parcel at 1974 Bliss Road. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Grant Amendment Request for Murray Road Culvert Project

TA Johnson explained that he had a conversation with VTrans District 7 Project Manager Shauna Clifford regarding a potential grant amendment for the VTrans structures grant-funded Murray Road culvert replacement project. After the Selectboard accepted the lowest bid for project construction at its May 1st meeting, the current projected cost is some \$23,000 over the original estimate. Ms. Clifford

gave some hope that an amendment is possible. She requested that the Selectboard formally authorize the amendment request for consideration. TA Johnson presented an amendment packet with cover letter for approval.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit the amendment request for FY2016 VTrans Structures Grant BC1701. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Update on EMFD Capital Reserve Fund Use in Advance of May 22nd Joint Meeting with Calais Selectboard

The East Montpelier and Calais Selectboards will hold a joint meeting on May 22, 2017 to discuss a proposed purchase of a new fire engine for the East Montpelier Fire Department. EMFD’s original plan was to fund the purchase through its capital reserve fund coupled with annual payments, in the form of increased operating budget levels, by the towns. TA Johnson is developing options for potential funding options which will likely require voter approval. Board members like the concept of taking the purchase issue to the voters and look forward to seeing the plan details.

Personnel Matters

Given Mr. Garand’s absence, board members limited discussion to how to effectively move forward with the search for a new road foreman in anticipation of Mr. Garand’s retirement in the near future. TA Johnson will put a job ad on the VT Job Link and the Local Roads listserv, both free services, as well as research the costs of placing ads in the state newspapers and for-profit online job sites.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

➤ Meeting Schedule:

- May 15th 6:30 pm Selectboard meeting at ESF; Fair & Impartial Policing event
- May 22nd 6:30 pm Special Selectboard meeting at Calais town hall
- May 31st 2:00 pm Park ‘n Ride Construction Bid opening
- June 5th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
- June 19th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting

Mr. Etnier stated that a resident had expressed a concern regarding a dump site associated with potential criminal activity on North Street near Sparrow Farm Road. Board members discussed options with consensus forming behind the concept to remind neighbors that one effective methodology is to track incidents (safely) and provide the information, including plate numbers if possible, to the VT State Police.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Ms. Willis; second by Mr. Etnier. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: May 15, 2017 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting