

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (06/05/17) MINUTES
May 15, 2017 at the Emergency Services Facility (village fire station)**

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

Others present: Calais - Larry Bush, Hasso Ewing, Peter Harvey, Linda Schütz; East Montpelier – Terry Allen, Don Welch; Marshfield - Joseph Gainza; Plainfield - Sasha Thayer; Times Argus - Eric Blaisdell; Vermont State Police – Ingrid Jonas.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. CONVERSATION WITH VERMONT STATE POLICE REGARDING FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

Vermont State Police (VSP) provides primary law enforcement protection to four central Vermont towns that passed town meeting resolutions in support of immigrants: Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, and Plainfield. VSP's Fair and Impartial Policing policy addresses some of the issues raised in these resolutions. The SB invited officers of the VSP to present what the Fair and Impartial Policing policy is and how their work conforms with it.

Captain Ingrid Jonas, Director of Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs, presented department policy. Lt. Matthew Nally, Commander of the Middlesex Barracks, was invited but was reportedly called away to an incident.

A discussion followed.

E. DISCUSSION ON PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT TO INCORPORATE “IMMIGRANTS WELCOME” CONCEPTS

At its April 17 meeting, SB members agreed to revisit on May 15th the concept of incorporating the 2017 Town Meeting voter-supported resolution supporting immigrants into the personnel policy. Board members have expressed doubts as to whether the personnel policy is the most effective vehicle for effectuating the will of the voters. A key difficulty is an apparent conflict in federal statutes, which both allow a town to decline to use its resources to assist in federal law enforcement and forbid a town to prohibit its employees from assisting in federal law enforcement. Because of the lack of case law, it's unclear how the town can put the resolution's language into the personnel policy in a way that is legally defensible.

Motion: I move to implement the 2017 Town Meeting resolution on welcoming immigrants by posting the language prominently in the Town Office. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 5-0.

F. CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR AUDITOR POSITION

No applications as yet.

G. DISCUSSION ON TOWN EMPLOYEE NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL PLAN

The town plan, which covers employees only, will have a price increase of 2% for FY2018.

A change requires SB approval: the plan will now include an orthodontic rider if the board authorizes the change

(no charge; the plan originally would not offer the rider for less than 10 employees; the rider is now available for groups of five or more, which includes East Montpelier).

Motion: I move to opt in to the orthodontic rider of the Northeast Delta Dental Plan. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

H. UPDATE ON CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS IN VT LEGISLATURE AND DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEPS

The charter amendment bill, H.527, has been passed in both the House and the Senate; it now awaits the Governor's signature; we have no timeframe on that. We will begin recruiting potential committee members to recommend candidates to be appointed town clerk, with the creation of that selection committee scheduled for the May 22, 2017 board meeting.

I. OPTIONS FOR POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF NEW FIRE ENGINE FOR EMFD

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) has requested permission to use its capital reserve fund to purchase a new fire engine using 10-year financing. EMFD would also like the town, along with Calais, to kick in additional funding to augment the capital reserve fund usage.

There are concerns with the financing. An attorney has advised the town to consider purchasing the fire engine as a town in conjunction with Calais and allowing EMFD the use; this plan would require a town vote.

Discussions will continue with Calais and EMFD.

J. DISCUSSION ON SELECTBOARD'S SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

The SB normally tries to have a somewhat lighter meeting schedule during the summer, plus to avoid meeting on or near Independence Day and Labor Day. At this point, it looks like only one meeting can be dropped; the proposed summer schedule is:

June 5, June 19

July 10, July 24

August 7, August 21

September 11, (no second meeting)

K. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I move to appoint Paul Winters to the Recreation Board. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

L. WARRANTS

Signed.

M. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of May 1, 2017, as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017, as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.

N. OTHER BUSINESS

Update on VTrans Grant Applications

Mr. Johnson reported the Town has received official notification that we were awarded the VTrans Better Roads grant for an updated roads inventory and roads erosion assessment; a formal grant agreement will follow.

We have also received informal notification that we've been awarded a VTrans paving grant for the Muddy Brook repair/repave project. There is no word yet on the VTrans structures grant application for an engineering study of the Center Road Mallory Brook culvert.

Today, May 15, 2017 Is Property Tax Deadline

Payments came in hot and heavy all day, including many through our online payment portal; from all indications, we are in excellent shape, but no final tally was available in time for this meeting.

Update on Road Foreman Position Advertisement

An ad has been placed on VT Job Link through June 30th. Also, an ad has been distributed to VT Local Roads listserv and general email list.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.