

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

May 16, 2016 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Gene Troia, Kim Swasey, and Carl Etnier (participating by speaker phone until approximately 7:30 p.m.); Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Town Treasurer Don Welch, Frank Pratt

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Personnel Matter**
- **Update on Capital Improvement Committee**
- **Consideration of FY2016 External Audit Scope of Services Agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.**

Public Comment: None

Town Treasurer Report: Update on FY2016 Property Tax Payments

Treasurer Don Welch presented an update on FY2016 property tax payments. May 16th at 5 p.m. was the deadline for timely payment of all FY16 property taxes. Preliminary review showed FY16 delinquent taxes running approximately equal with FY15, with some \$208,000 in late taxes. Total delinquent taxes as of May 16th, including all previous years, stands at \$262,000.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Consideration of FY2016 External Audit Scope of Services Agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.**
 - In 2014 the town contracted with Sullivan, Powers to do the annual financial audits for FY14, 15, and 16. Each year the parties agree to a scope of services arrangement prior to the audit. The FY16 agreement is essentially the same as the previous two years. The cost of the services for this year is \$13,600.
 - **Motion: To accept and sign the FY2016 Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. Scope of Services agreement.** Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.
- **Update on Capital Improvement Committee**
 - Mr. Troia, chair of the CIC, reported that upcoming minor surgery would prevent him from participating in the June CIC meeting. The committee already planned to forego July and August meetings, so Mr. Northrup, another member of the CIC, recommended that the June meeting be canceled. The CIC will get back to work at its regularly scheduled September 7th meeting.
- **Personnel Matter**
 - Chair Gardner presented a brief update on a personnel matter. No action taken.

Discussion of Proposed Vermont Land Trust Conservation Project on Drake Road Fairmont Farm Property

The Vermont Land Trust is moving forward with the first phase of a planned 3-phase conservation project for the bulk of the old Lylehaven Farm properties purchased in 2014 by Fairmont Dairy LLC. This first phase encompasses 361 acres around Drake Road and includes a permanent trails easement for Cross VT Trail that will take the East Montpelier portion of the trail to the Plainfield line.

Discussion on Delta Dental Program Options

Last year, starting July 1st (i.e., for FY2016) the town signed on with VLCT's Northeast Delta Dental program. The town picked up the cost of the coverage for all full-time employees; dependent coverage was offered, but at 100% employee cost. The board agreed to revisit the possibility of subsidizing at least a part of the dependent costs when the dental plan came up for renewal in May 2016. The plan's rates will remain the same for FY2017. The board decided not to provide any employer-paid dependent dental coverage at this time.

[Mr. Etnier "left" the meeting]

Consideration of Draft 2016 Town Meeting Minutes

The Selectboard tabled this agenda item as the draft minutes are not yet available.

Discussion on Winter Sand Options

Anonymous concerns have been brought to the Selectboard regarding the Northeast Materials granite sand (a by-product of Barre granite crushing operations) the town has been using for the past two years. The board has researched the issue and found no reason for concern.

Discussion on Murray Road Culvert Replacement: Consideration of Contract for Design Survey Work

Chase & Chase Surveyors has been working with Newton Technical Services to develop a design for the grant-funded replacement of the large Murray Road culvert near the Montpelier line. Chase & Chase has presented a scope of services agreement for the necessary survey work. The projected cost of the work is \$4,100.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to sign the Chase & Chase Surveyors Scope of Services agreement. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Appointments: Funding Request Study Committee

Motion: To reappoint Ann Stanton, Lindy Johnson, and Charlie Catlin to one-year terms, ending March 2017, on the Funding Request Study Committee. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the May 2, 2016 Selectboard meeting for consideration.

Motion: To approve the May 2, 2016 Selectboard meeting minutes as amended.

Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Discussion on EM Village Sidewalk Project

The town and VTrans continue to work on the details of the sidewalk project. Currently drainage plans are in flux as VTrans officials determine if our drainage plans can somehow be linked with the Village Bridge replacement & US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection project. An internal VTrans summit on the issue is planned for May 23rd.

The project is nearing VTrans approval to enter the official right-of-way stage, where the town will work with abutting property owners to acquire temporary construction easements along with a couple minor permanent easements. The normal process is for the public entity involved to prepare for the possibility that condemnation will be necessary to acquire essential rights to allow the project to proceed. TA Johnson explained that Town Attorney Bjornlund, who does not handle this type of work, and Attorney Rob Halpert, a town resident who does do this type of work but has a conflict that will prevent him from assisting us in this situation, recommended a few other attorneys and firms. TA Johnson will continue to pursue leads and provide an update at the June 6th SB meeting.

Discussion on Old LaPerle Farm Property

Frank Pratt met with abutting neighbor Norman LaPerle to make sure both parties were on the same page regarding the property line between the western side of the farm property and Mr. LaPerle's residential lot. Mr. LaPerle provided a 1974 survey and walked the line with Mr. Pratt. In addition, Mr. LaPerle provided details on two wells near the old farmhouse. Mr. Pratt recommended getting pump tests done on the wells. The Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee will follow up on this new information.

Update on EM Village Park 'n Ride Facility

The East Montpelier Development Review Board gave approval to the project and the local permit for the facility's construction was issued May 10, 2016. The design is in the process of being tweaked to include a paved path connecting the park 'n ride with the existing sidewalk at the US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection. The next step will be to put out bids for both a construction inspector and a general contractor. This will likely happen within the next month, depending on the completion of the design.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

- TA Johnson Update on Road Foreman Issues:
 - EM Trails Association would like to have a few loads of gravel put down on the Cherry Tree Hill Road trailhead parking lot now that the area has dried out. Unfortunately, there is no more gravel money in the FY2016 budget. Board members discussed a plan to allow Road Foreman Garand to buy stone and gravel to improve the parking lot.
 - **Motion: To authorize Road Foreman Garand to purchase up to five loads of stone/gravel for use on the Cherry Tree Hill Road trailhead parking lot.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.
 - RF Garand continues to research the possibility of installing a speed bump along Center Road in the EM Center area.
 - The 2008 International 10-wheeler has been turned over to Sheldon Trucking as part of the recent agreement to purchase a 2017 Mack truck. The town received the agreed-upon \$45,000 credit.
- Grant Application Update:
 - We received the VTrans paving grant for the last mile of County Road
 - It appears we have received the VTrans structures grant for Quaker Road, although official notification has not yet been received
 - We received the VLCT PACIF equipment grant for signs and safety vests
 - No word yet on the VTrans Better Roads application
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

○ May 31 st	6:00 pm	CVSWMD public hearing on waste management ordinance
○ June 6 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
○ June 20 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report:

- 7 permit applications since the last board meeting
- Next DRB meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2016, with a site visit preceding a continuation of the hearing for the proposed Orchard Valley Waldorf School preschool on Coburn Road

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: June 6, 2016 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting