

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

June 2, 2014 Special Meeting

SB Attendance: Vice-chair Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey and Steve Sparrow; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Charles Warner, David Tucker

Vice-chair Northrup called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- Consideration of the May 29, 2014 Times Argus Public Records Request
- Renewal of the Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund CD
- Consideration of State Agreement for CAMA Cost Tables

Public Comment: None

Discussion on Road Reclassification Projects

- Development of announcement regarding decision to leave unchanged the Class 4 portion of Johnson Road:
 - TA Johnson presented a draft letter describing the board's decision to not pursue reclassification at this time. The letter also explains the expectations of the town regarding road maintenance, specifying that no major maintenance can occur without the board's knowledge and consent.
 - By consensus, board members agreed to have the letter sent to the Johnson Road abutters
- Review of proposed actions regarding the reclassification of the Class 4 part of Foster Road to legal trail and the discontinuation of TH 9 & 10 (the Barstow & Johnson driveways):
 - The proposed decisions developed at the February 17, 2014 board meeting will be considered for adoption at the June 23, 2014 board meeting. TA Johnson will invite all road abutters to that meeting and also direct Road Foreman Garand to provide the agreed-upon gravel to Mr. Barstow for TH 9.
- Update on potential upgrade to Class 2 of Quaker/Vincent Flats/Lyle Young/Templeton Roads stretch:
 - The Central VT Regional Planning Commission has completed the traffic counts for the road stretch in question:
 - 1,252 vehicles/day on Vincent Flats Road
 - 597 vehicles/day on Lyle Young Road near Fairmont Farms
 - 390 vehicles/day on Lyle Young Road near the Center Road intersection
 - 350 vehicles/day on Templeton Road
 - The VT Agency of Transportation has yet to respond to a request for recommended actions regarding this potential reclassification. TA Johnson will provide an update when available.

Consideration of Employee Benefits Package Options

The VT League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Health Trust provides group access to various insurance offerings for its member municipalities. As of July 1, 2014 VLCT will switch providers from UNUM to Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. The town has provided long term disability (LTD) coverage to its seven eligible employees for many years. The new rates for that coverage plus life insurance/accidental death & disability and short term disability are very attractive. The town currently expends about \$126/month for LTD coverage. Lincoln Financial Group will provide all three coverages for about \$285/month.

Motion: To accept the quote for the life insurance, long term disability insurance, and short term disability insurance products offered through VLCT Health Trust and by Lincoln Financial Group, and to implement these benefits for eligible employees starting July 1, 2014. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of the May 29, 2014 Times Argus Public Records Request

TA Johnson explained his efforts to comply with Times Argus reporter Amy Nixon's records request for all email communication between TA Johnson and board members between April 1, 2014 and May 29, 2014. TA Johnson presented a letter for board signature along with an invoice to be delivered with the requested records.

Motion: To authorize Vice-chair Northrup to sign the letter to Times Argus report Amy Nixon and to include both the letter and the invoice with the produced records. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously. Vice-chair Northrup signed the letter.

Renewal of the Carlton C. Smith Recreational Fund CD

The \$50,000 corpus of the Carlton C. Smith fund is generally invested in a one-year CD at the best rate available. The current CD matures June 11, 2014 and Town Treasurer Welch requests authorization to invest the fund in another CD.

Motion: To authorize Town Treasurer Don Welch to invest the \$50,000 fund corpus in a CD on such terms as he deems appropriate. Made by Mr. Sparrow; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of State Agreement for CAMA Cost Tables

The State of Vermont provides access to the Marshall & Swift CAMA (computer assisted mass appraisal) cost tables, used by the Listers for appraisals, to municipalities at a set rate -- \$238.81 for FY2015.

Motion: To authorize Vice-chair Northrup to sign the Letter of Agreement, between the town and the state, for CAMA Cost Tables Services. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously. Vice-chair Northrup signed the letter.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Access Permits

Vice-chair Northrup presented Access Permit Application #14-030, a request to relocate the curb cut for the Warner driveway at 2422 Towne Hill Road. Currently the Warners and the Tuckers share a curb cut as a result of the Selectboard's 2012 decision to require a joint access for two former Hawkins lots along Towne Hill Road. As disclosed at the May 19, 2014 board meeting, the Warners understood the access requirements when they purchased the lot, but feel that the resultant driveway is difficult to navigate and essentially unsafe. An alternate access point, a former agricultural access with an installed drive culvert, is already in existence and was used by regularly during construction of their home. Mr. Warner explained that he had spoken with Chair Gardner about the six-foot-deep gully between the current driveway and the proposed driveway. Mr. Tucker, whose driveway and home were developed first, reiterated his opinion that forcing his family to share a curb cut and part of a driveway is unfair and unnecessary. TA Johnson reported that Chair Gardner, absent from this meeting, would prefer that the board schedule a site visit to evaluate the possible options. Road Foreman Mike Garand noted on the application that the proposed access has adequate sight lines and the necessary drainage in place.

Motion: To approve Access Permit Application #14-030 as presented. Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously. Selectboard members signed the permit.

Minutes

Vice-chair Northrup postponed consideration of the minutes of the May 19, 2014 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting until the June 23, 2014 meeting.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

Mr. Sparrow reported that the latest meeting with Mike Liff regarding the cleanup of the junk vehicles on the Liff lot did not go well. Chair Gardner and Mr. Sparrow met with Mr. Liff at his 2010 Clark Road property and noted that nothing significant had changed since the last board visit on January 6, 2014. Mr. Liff claimed that he had the right, under an agreement with former Zoning Administer Roger Chapell, to keep junk vehicles in his backyard behind a fence. The board will discuss this further at a future meeting.

The annual Central VT Cycling Tour will be held June 22, 2014. This event, which benefits the Cross VT Trail Association, starts/ends at Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks and winds through a number of neighboring towns. The board appreciates the direct notice and has no concerns regarding the event.

The VT Agency of Transportation provided notice of the upcoming deadline for action under the Ancient Roads Act 178. In 2009 the town's Ancient Roads Committee recommended that the town forego this opportunity to reclaim old town rights-of-way. No further action is contemplated.

The Listers have filed the preliminary grand list with the state. The municipal grand list is \$2,943,125, up just under 1% from last year and about \$13,000 above the estimated grand list used for the 2014 Town Meeting tax rate projections – all good news, but all still preliminary.

The June 16, 2014 meeting is canceled due to the special Town School District meeting that evening. The board will have a special meeting on June 23, 2014, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Administrator Report:

TA Johnson presented a report of the current zoning permit activity.

The June 3rd DRB meeting will include hearings for the EMES fire pond, a used car dealership at the K & A Leasing property located at 4423 US Rte. 2, and a 2-lot subdivision of the Delphia property on the corner of Guyette & Tucker Roads.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Sparrow; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: June 23, 2014 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting