

# Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

July 8, 2013

SB Members Present: Seth Gardner (Chair), Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey, Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Town Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Don Welch, Karen Gramer

**Call to Order:** 6:34pm

**Additions to the Agenda:** Listers' Errors & Omissions

- Edie Miller/SignPost funding
- Edie Miller/Charter Committee request for attorney
- Central VT Humane Society FY14 contract
- Charter Committee update
- Anne & Conrad Ormsbee's commemoration
- Review of year-end finances

**Public Comment:** None

## **Delinquent Tax Collector Report**

The Ibeby property was sold on 6/3 to Paul Haynes for \$117,500. Dr. Pearson has redeemed the property on behalf of Paul Ibeby on 7/2. There is an issue with the tax sale interest and the state statute is not clear. Dr. Pearson is due a refund of overpayments. Ms. Gramer is drafting a written protocol which will be given to buyers at tax sales. Regarding delinquent taxes, Ms. Gramer noted that many people are setting up payments plans and there are many new people on the list.

## **Review of Year-end Finances**

The Town Treasurer, Mr. Welch, noted that the budget balance will be approximately \$90,000 at year-end. The collections through July and August will reduce the delinquent tax receivables. Mr. Welch says the town is in good shape. A potential Line of Credit will be discussed at the next meeting in August.

## **Update on Website Development**

Review of draft site map and feedback by the SB:

- Make forms accessible and downloadable; possibly able to be filled out and submitted
- Town Treasurer looking at ACH (direct withdrawal from bank account) payments for taxes
- Goal – up and running by 11/1/13

## **Recreation Field Fence line Poison Ivy Concern**

There is a patch of poison ivy in the center section on the road side of the fence. Tim Frazier will no longer work near this area. Two employees were affected and the SB should come up with a plan for the 50-foot area. Suggestions:

- VTrans – spray it, might kill small trees
- Create committee to look at the issue
- Ask Tree Warden for report on options to clear up poison ivy and beautify area

The SB agreed to ask the Tree Warden for a report by the 8/5 SB meeting.

## **Potential FY2013 Better Backroads Grant Application**

All potential sites have been taken care of, so there is no reason for a grant application.

## **Preliminary Review of Tax Rate**

The Grand list is projected to be lower than expected by approximately \$25,000 and the town tax rate is up \$0.02. The tax rate will be set at the 8/5 meeting.

## **Consideration of Proposed Hawkins Property Access Plans**

The access to the pop-up barn is the same access to the 41-acre residential lot. There is a small agricultural access next to the barn that they would like to use for the residential lot. The Hawkins' would like to subdivide off the 3-acre lot with the barn for commercial use.

## **Appointments**

**Motion:** I move to appoint the following to the Funding Request Committee: Lyn Blackwell, Lindy Johnson, Rhoda Chickering, Ann Stanton, Susan Catlin and Kevin Nadzam. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Ms. Swasey

**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

**Motion: I move to appoint Cherie Staples as auditor to fill the vacancy through the 2014 Town Meeting.** Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Sparrow  
**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

#### **Listers' Errors & Omissions**

Peter Hill and Harry Morse properties are still given farm contract benefits despite approved Current Use status. The Grand List needs to be altered by removing these two properties from the farm contract program.

**Motion: I move to allow the listers to alter the Grand List to remove Peter Hill and Harry Morse properties from the town farm contract program.** Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Ms. Swasey  
**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

#### **Eddie Miller / SignPost Funding**

The SignPost has funds for one more issue on hand; they would need \$6000 to continue on the same schedule. A study has not been done on online reading. The SB agrees to fund the SignPost with \$2000 for an additional issue.

**Motion: I move to fund the SignPost with \$2000 from the General Fund for continued service.** Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Mr. Sparrow  
**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

#### **Charter Committee / Attorney**

The Charter Committee has requested some funds in order to consult with an attorney. The Town Administrator suggested the committee speak with Jim Barlow at VLCT. The SB set a limit on expenditures.

**Motion: I move to authorize the Charter Committee to expend up to \$3600 on attorney's fees at an hourly rate of not more than \$90/hour.** Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Sparrow  
**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

#### **Central Vermont Humane Society**

The \$3500 fee was again waived for the FY2014 contract.

**Motion: I move to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Stray Animal Holding Agreement with Central Vermont Humane Society.** Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Northrup  
**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

#### **Ormsbee Resolution**

**Motion: I move to approve the following resolution honoring Conrad and Anne Ormsbee:**

**Whereas,** Conrad Ormsbee has lived in East Montpelier since \_\_\_\_\_, and

**Whereas,** Anne Ormsbee \_\_\_\_\_, and

**Whereas,** Conrad and Anne have been at the center of the East Montpelier Historical Society for many years, and

**Whereas,** the Ormsbees have created many years' worth of historical displays in the Town Office, and

**Whereas,** Anne Ormsbee led the town 4-H for 18 years, sharing her knowledge of cooking and sewing with many children of the community, and

**Whereas,** Conrad Ormsbee has distinguished himself on the board of the Four Corners Schoolhouse with his considered opinions and abundance of important "Other Business" at meetings, and

**Whereas,** the smell and taste of Anne Ormsbee's bread and rolls linger on in the memories of those who have appreciated them, and

**Whereas,** Conrad Ormsbee's trap line in the Four Corners Schoolhouse has proved the bane of many a rodent, and

**Whereas,** Anne Ormsbee has been a faithful member of the Bethany choir, and

**Whereas,** Conrad and Anne Ormsbee's sugar making has sweetened the lives of innumerable customers, and

**Whereas,** Conrad and Anne Ormsbee have announced they are moving to Massachusetts to live closer to their grandchildren, now therefore be it

**Resolved by the Selectboard of East Montpelier:**

That the Selectboard notes that community members at a June 30 gathering to honor the Ormsbees were ambivalent about whether to express gratitude to the Ormsbees for their service or disapproval for their choice to move away from East Montpelier, and be it further

**Resolved:**

That the Selectboard thanks the Ormsbees for all the work they have done for their community over many decades, wishes them well in their move to Massachusetts, and welcomes them back to East Montpelier at any time.

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Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Northrup

**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

### **Charter Committee Update**

The committee is not dealing with elected versus appointment of the Planning Commission. They will take a closer look at a town manager position, but would like clarification on duties of the position. The SB will invite the Charter Committee to one of the August meetings for a joint meeting.

### **Warrants**

Signed

### **Review of Minutes**

June 17, 2013 – tabled to 8/5 meeting

June 27, 2013

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes as presented.** Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Mr. Sparrow

**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

### **Other Business**

#### **Town Administrator Report**

- Village Bridge – temporary bridge in fall of 2014, construction during spring 2015; lights on bridge are up in the air
- Upcoming SB schedule – no meeting 7/15, EMFD meeting 7/18, warrants meeting around 7/25, next regular meeting 8/5
- Village Center Designation – expires in October 2013 (every 5 year)
- VT Tax Dept – explanation of homestead exemptions
- Letter of intent – block grant funding re: Quaker Road culvert
- Hoiska appeal to Supreme Court – the town attorney will file an appearance
- Road Foremen requests:
  - Foster Road sign is missing – SB agrees to order a new sign
  - Paving bids due Friday at 11am
  - **Motion: I move to authorize the Chair to sign off on the winning proposal.** Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Mr. Sparrow **Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0
- Casella – public notice for increase from 300 tons per day to 650 is now posted; comments are due by 7/26
- VT Land Trust – TA meets with VT Land Trust regarding protocol for approving project plans, such as the plans on Sparrow Farm Road

#### **Zoning Administrator Report**

23 permits for 2013 year to date.

### **Personnel Matter**

**Motion: I move to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.** Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Sparrow

**Vote on Motion:** Passed 5-0

SB entered executive session at 9:30pm and exited at 9:57pm.

No action was taken.

**Motion to adjourn.** Made by Mr. Sparrow; seconded by Mr. Northrup. Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary*

**Approved: August 5, 2013 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting**