

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (08/01/16) MINUTES  
July 11, 2016 at the Town Office**

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

**Others present:** Art Chickering, Conservation Fund Advisory Committee (CFAC).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Reconsideration request from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) regarding the conservation project for the Fairmont Dairy LLC 361-acre property

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Chickering submitted a letter in which he inquired whether the Planning Commission and SB have clearly articulated conflict of interest policies requiring members to recuse themselves when they have financial interests at stake. The SB referred to the town's conflict of interest ordinance on the town web site.

**D. ROAD FOREMAN REPORT**

Postponed to a later date.

**E. RECONSIDERATION REQUEST FROM VHCB REGARDING THE CONSERVATION PROJECT FOR THE FAIRMONT DAIRY LLC 361-ACRE PARCEL**

VHCB director Gus Seelig sent the SB a letter in which he requested that the SB reconsider its decision to not provide financial support for conserving the 361-acre parcel, and he offered to meet with the SB. He will be invited to the next meeting at which all SB members are available: August 29, 2016.

**F. DISCUSSION ON AUTUMN COMMUNITY FORUM ON TOWN LAND CONSERVATION POLICY**

As a result of the discussion at Town Meeting, the SB will host a forum on the town's land conservation policy and how to integrate development and conservation goals. It will be scheduled for Monday, October 10, at the village fire station.

**G. CONSIDERATION OF TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Johnson presented a list of proposed amendments. The SB reviewed them and discussed possible additions; no action was taken.

**H. REVIEW OF TREASURER'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

State law requires the SB to review the town treasurer's financial management questionnaire (a form provided by the Vermont State Auditor), describing the town's internal financial control mechanisms. The SB reviewed the questionnaire as filled out by Treasurer Don Welch.

**Motion: I move to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the Financial Management Questionnaire. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

## **I. CONSIDERATION OF CAI TECHNOLOGIES AGREEMENTS**

CAI Technologies provides software support for the Town's tax maps. This is a renewal of those annual contracts, at the same rate as in the past few years.

**Motion: I move to approve the Tax Map Maintenance Agreement with CAI Technologies, at \$1,830 for one year. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

**Motion: I move to approve the Annual Query Manager Support Agreement with CAI Technologies, at \$500 for one year. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

## **J. AUTHORIZATION OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND USE FOR 2017 MACK TRUCK PURCHASE**

The truck is in the assembly process. The SB previously agreed to use Capital Reserve funds to finance payments.

**Motion: I move to authorize the use of \$31,122.76 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the first payment of five on the 2017 Mack truck purchase. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

## **K. CONSIDERATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR GRIMARD 2015 PROPERTY TAX ISSUE**

**Motion: I move to authorize chair Seth Gardner to sign the letter to Christopher Grimard re: the settlement agreement for his 2015 property tax bill. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.**

## **L. WARRANTS**

Signed.

## **M. MINUTES**

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes of June 20, 2016, as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.**

## **N. OTHER BUSINESS**

### *Tax rates*

The SB discussed the disparity between residential and non-residential tax rates in town. Mr. Johnson reported, out of the 234 municipalities with rates set, the Town has the 4th highest education rate in the state and the 11th highest difference (33.11 cents) between homestead and non-residential tax rates for those communities that have higher homestead rates.

### *Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) Church Street request*

WEC would like the Town to reline the Church Street lot and add a handicap slot at the north end. The SB has no objection.

### *Plumbing issue in Town Office kitchen*

Flow at 100+ psi led to a plumber call. The plumber installed flow reducer, soldered leaks on the outside faucet, and drained and reset the on-demand hot water heater.

### *Phone system failure*

A failed power supply knocked out the Town's phone service for most of July 5 and 6. The power supply has been replaced.

*Phone bill failure*

The Town's phone system was hacked in May. Even though FairPoint was aware of the vulnerability, they charged the town for five hours of international calls, resulting in a bill over \$2,000 above the normal monthly total. FairPoint has advised the Town on how to protect against future hacking, and Valley Telephone implemented the fixes. After some negotiation, FairPoint has reduced its bill to \$186.32 above the normal monthly total; Mr. Johnson has requested a removal of all extra charges.

*Update on Recreation Board shift to non-profit status*

Recreation Board Treasurer Kathy Richardson is presenting preliminary incorporation paperwork to that board at its meeting this evening in anticipation of a formal state filing in the near future.

*Village Cemetery hogweed update*

Our contractor, Mike Bald, has completed his weeding of a hogweed patch. He'll do one final sweep later in the summer. The SB asked Mr. Johnson to check with Mr. Bald about advice on handling wild chervil along roadsides, through timing of mowing and other measures.

*EM Fire District #1 update*

At its monthly meeting on July 13 the Fire District's Prudential Committee will be discussing options for the future of the fire district, including the possibility of requesting dissolution.

*Meeting schedule*

July 14	7:00 pm	EMFD quarterly budget presentation at the village fire station
July 21	6-8 pm	Community event for Planning Commission's EM Village Master Plan project at the village fire station
August 1	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
August 15	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
August 29	6:30 pm	Special Selectboard meeting

**O. PERSONNEL MATTER**

Discussed.

**Motion: I move to ask the East Montpelier Charter Committee to reconvene by August 15 to consider a charter change. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.**

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0. 9:35 p.m.**