

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (08/15/16) MINUTES
August 1, 2016 at the Town Office**

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

Others present: Karen Gramer (delinquent tax collector), Jennifer Packard, Stephen Reynes (attorney for the Packards), Julie Potter (planning commission, CVRPC representative)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

CVSWMD needs a SB member for a new committee

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DISCUSSION WITH ELLERY PACKARD ON PINE RIDGE ROAD ISSUES

Mr. Reynes presented a legal and geological history of the Ellery and Jennifer Packard property and its and the road's erosion issues. He left a binder with the results of his research with the town.

E. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Ms. Gramer presented the current status of delinquent taxes.

Summary comparison table

| Date | Amount Delinquent | No. of Properties |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 08/01/16 | \$159,865.17 | 53 |
| 08/15/15 | \$136,076.50 | 45 |
| 08/15/14 | \$134,809.41 | 55 |
| 08/15/13 | \$117,618.28 | 59 |

Ms. Gramer has been reporting to the SB every two months. The SB is fine with scheduling her updates every quarter in the future.

F. SETTING OF THE 2016/2017 PROPERTY TAX RATES

Grand list is \$2,990,262.01; up \$22,789.72 (0.77%) from last year

Resident (homestead) tax rate: 2.5509; down 0.0070 (0.27%) from last year

Non-resident tax rate: 2.2198; up 0.0064 (0.29%) from last year

Motion: I move to set the 2016/2017 Resident (homestead) tax rate at 2.5509 and the non-resident tax rate at 2.2198. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 3-0.

G. CONSIDERATION OF HOMESTEAD FILING PENALTY WAIVER

The town is allowed to assess an 8% penalty for residents who file their homestead declaration late. Or it can waive the penalty for everyone. There are also certain hardship exemptions.

At this point, there are 11 known residences that have filed a homestead declaration late, with about \$3,500 in total penalties. The town has chosen to waive the late-filing penalty in the past, for a number of reasons: 1) The penalty only affects those who do file but file late; those who are required to file but don't file are not penalized if they are not caught. 2) The town's revenues are not affected by whether someone declares a homestead in town or not. 3) It is in the town's interest to encourage accurate information about who is a resident here, and waiving the penalty encourages people to file a homestead declaration, even if it is late. 4) For a time, the state allowed a homestead declaration to remain in effect until the land owner rescinded it; the SB does not see a good reason to reverting to a system requiring filing each year.

The SB determined that they had seen no new information that would cause a reconsideration of the decision from previous years.

Motion: I move to waive the homestead declaration late filing penalty. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0.

H. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTED CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (CVRPC) REGIONAL PLAN

Ms. Potter said the plan was due to expire this fall. The new plan is a bit behind schedule. The state said they wanted a regional energy plan. A decision was made by CVRPC's executive committee to finish the regional energy plan before finishing the general plan. CVRPC readopted the existing plan with minimal tweaks to meet statutory requirements. While statute allows the plan to be in effect for 8 years, the intention is that it be updated meaningfully within 12-24 months.

Ms. Potter believes this approach makes sense.

I. DEVELOPMENT OF CHARGE TO THE CHARTER COMMITTEE

The Charter Committee was kept intact when it finished its work the first time. The SB has asked its members to reactivate the committee to examine some ideas for amending the charter.

Motion: I move to recall the East Montpelier Charter Committee, with a first meeting August 10, 2016, and a charge to consider the following possible items in the charter: 1) Appointment of town clerk, 2) appointment of delinquent tax collector, and 3) the basic property tax guidelines now voted on in town meeting each year. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 3-0.

J. CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND USE FOR MINOR RENOVATIONS TO TEMPLETON ROAD FIRE STATION

The east (old) wing of the Templeton Road station is ready for use by the town for winter storage of the excavator and grader.

The town's capital plan now anticipates this type of work; there is no budget line for such rehabilitation. Capital plan elements require SB motions to approve capital reserve fund use.

Motion: I move to approve the use of \$2,859.49 from the capital reserve fund to pay for the minor renovation of the Templeton Road fire station to accommodate winter storage of Town road equipment. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0.

K. CONSIDERATION OF SIGNPOST ARTICLE FOR CONSERVATION SUMMIT

The Conservation Summit is set for October 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the village fire station. Mr. Johnson

proposed text for an article in the next signpost. It was adopted with some modifications.

I. ACCESS PERMITS

Permit 16-034 for Duane Wells, on East Hill Road.

Motion: I move to approve access permit 16-034. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0.

J. CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (CVSWMD) WANTS SELECT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

CVSWMD is creating a Project Advisory Committee to keep local officials engaged in the planning process. They are seeking a representative from East Montpelier. The SB declined to appoint one person, but will make an effort to send at least one member to each meeting. Mr. Etnier and Mr. Gardner plan to go to the first meeting on August 30 at 5 pm at the CVRPC offices, and maybe also Ms. Swasey.

K. WARRANTS

Signed.

L. MINUTES

Motion: I move to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0.

M. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Report

Update on Meeting with Gus Seelig, Executive Director of Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

- Mr. Seelig has agreed to meet with the SB at the August 29th meeting; this will be the first agenda item at that meeting.

Planning Commission Request

- The PC would like SB members to attend the PC's September 1st meeting to discuss EM Village infrastructure and maintenance of same, anticipated future facility and infrastructure needs, as well as potential locations for planned elements. This request is part of the PC's EM Village Master Plan development; the discussion would be the first agenda item, likely listed as 7:05 to 8:00 p.m. At least some SB members will participate.

Possible Community Event for Village Sidewalk Project

- The town needs to hold another public forum for the village sidewalk project; the purpose is to present the current plans as the project heads into the right-of-way stage
- The SB would prefer to hold the event on a regular meeting night; the event will be held on September 19, 2016, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the ESF (the new fire station); the Selectboard meeting, also at the ESF, will commence after the conclusion of the public forum

State Government Municipal Day

- September 9th, 8-4:15 p.m. at National Life.

EM Fire District #1 Update

- At its monthly meeting on July 13th the Prudential Committee produced a letter to the community the laments the lack of progress in purchasing the Crystal Springs Water System

and includes the possibility of the dissolution of the fire district

- The town will be sending out the letter along with a variety of attachments to the fire district's property owners, registered voters, and water system customers

Meeting Schedule

- August 8th 7:00 pm LaPerle Farm Committee meeting
- August 10th 7:00 pm Charter Committee meeting
- August 15th 6:30 pm Regular Selectboard meeting
- August 29th 6:30 pm Special Selectboard meeting
- September 9th 8-4 State Government Municipal Day
- September 10th 10 am – 2 pm Mini Rally Day for EM Village

Zoning Administrator Report

- 3 new permit applications since July 11, 2016
- Next DRB meeting is on August 2, 2016
 - 2- lot subdivision of the remainder lot (Lot 9) from the 2006 Wells (Captain Kidd Road) subdivision

N. PERSONNEL MATTERS

Discussed.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 3-0. 9:15 p.m.