

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (08/29/16) MINUTES
August 15, 2016 at the Town Office**

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

Others present: Terri Conti (town clerk), Sandy Conti; Mike Garand (road foreman); Steve Gilman (East Montpelier Fire District #1 Prudential Committee).

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Conservation Summit, Oct. 10

Lister Errors and Omissions

Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee Contract for Wastewater Evaluation Services

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. ROAD FOREMAN REPORT

Mr. Garand said roadside mowing is proceeding well. He is brush hogging some of the worst spots, in addition to the regular mowing. The town has the brush hogging equipment for a month.

There are visibility issues at the corner of East Hill Road and Route 14; the SB authorized Mr. Garand to work with other officials, if necessary, to fix the problem.

A resident on Center Road asked for pedestrian signs; the town will install them.

A resident complained about truck traffic on Muddy Brook Road. There's no evidence of any violations.

Mr. Garand is considering buying a hydraulic hose repair kit, so the town could replace broken hoses as needed. He'll examine the need some more and make a recommendation if he wants the purchase.

E. CONSIDERATION OF TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Johnson said that every time a minor road intersects a major road, the traffic on the minor road has obligation to stop. We don't consistently have stop signs at those points. Do we want them?

Mr. Etnier and Mr. Garand raised questions about installing stop signs for at least one unsigned intersection. They raised questions as to whether the signs would be obeyed or make anything safer. Plus they are one more expense for the town and one more target for vandals or thieves.

Mr. Johnson will add the new stop signs to the next draft of the ordinance for the SB to review.

Mr. Johnson said the names Quaker Road and Quaker Hill Road have been used inconsistently by different authorities over time. The Town has used Quaker Road since 2006. The SB is fine with calling it Quaker Road.

The new ordinance draft contains a 25 mph speed limit on Center Road from southwest of the Bliss/Barnes Road intersection to just north of the Dodge Road intersection.

No action taken; the SB will continue to review iterations of improvement to the document.

F. CONSIDERATION OF TEMPLETON ROAD FIRE STATION LIGHTING REPLACEMENT

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) would like to replace all the fluorescent lighting at the Templeton Road Fire Station with LED fixtures. Efficiency Vermont rebates of \$50/fixture are available.

Pre-rebate cost to the town is estimated at \$1,871.44; approximate value of the rebate for the work on the town side of the building is \$500.

The SB was skeptical that the lights would be used enough to justify the expense of the upgrade. Members with the LED replacements for fluorescent lights had opposing views on the quality of their light.

The SB decided to ask EMFD for their calculations on how long it would take to recoup the investment in the LED fixtures, and to look at the town garage as another place for a possible upgrade. No action taken.

G. CONSIDERATION OF BRIDGE & CULVERT FUND ELIMINATION

This fund hasn't been used as designed since 2001. It is now superfluous given the purpose of the new Capital Reserve Fund; Treasurer Welch requests that this fund be eliminated

Motion: I move to dissolve the Special Bridge and Culvert Fund. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.

H. DISCUSSION ON TOWN PLAN ACTIONS AND GOALS

Mr. Johnson excerpted the actions and goals for the current town plan and highlighted those which called for action by the SB. The Planning Commission has asked for a version that highlights actions by them, too.

The SB briefly reviewed the highlights and will use the document to set priorities at a later meeting. SB members also noted many of the tasks that were being accomplished or had been accomplished already.

I. LEGAL MATTERS

EM Fire District & Crystal Springs Water System

The Fire District's Prudential Committee has recommended dissolution of the fire district. They have made little progress in negotiating what they consider to be a reasonable purchase price with the owner of Crystal Springs, and they see no prospects for purchasing the water system at a reasonable price. Since running said water system is the *raison d'être* of the fire district, the Prudential Committee recommends the fire district cease to exist.

Mr. Johnson said attorneys (Paul Giuliani and Rob Halpert) provided guidance on the necessary steps to dissolve the fire district, although the exact procedure isn't terribly clear. There's no question that the VT Legislature will need to approve the dissolution, but there is some question as to degree the town needs to be involved (one recommended path involves a merger of the two entities, the fire district and

the town, into one, which would require merger language being inserted into the town charter). The fire district has a debt of \$9,700 and no assets.

If the fire district is dissolved and it becomes possible to purchase Crystal Springs at a reasonable price, the Town could do that, without there being a fire district.

Hudson Adverse Possession Lawsuit

Mr. Johnson updated the SB.

J. DISCUSSION WITH TOWN CLERK TERRI CONTI

Motion: I move to find that the following discussion regards the employment of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

Motion: I move to enter executive session to discuss the employment of a public officer or employee. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

After the SB came out of executive session, the following motion was made:

Motion: I move to accept the resignation of Town Clerk Terri Conti effective September 1, 2016, with great thanks for her years of service to the town. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

Mr. Johnson will look into channels for advertising the vacancy.

K. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I move to appoint Sandal Cate to the Funding Request Study Committee. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

L. OLD LAPERLE FARM PROPERTY COMMITTEE CONTRACT FOR WASTEWATER EVALUATION SERVICES

In a continuation of its effort to evaluate the wastewater potential for the Old LaPerle Farm Property, the committee would like to contract with Stone Environmental to choose, evaluate, and report on wastewater potential for various sites. The proposed contract is for \$1,469

The committee will have to arrange for excavator services. Mr. Gardner is willing to operate the excavator; he says the rental cost would be approximately \$350.

Motion: I move to authorize Town Administrator Bruce Johnson to sign the contract with Stone Environmental for soil testing at the Laperle farm for suitability for soil-based wastewater treatment. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.

M. CONSERVATION SUMMIT

The SB directed Mr. Johnson to investigate hiring a facilitator. The summit will start at 7 pm on October 10th; refreshments will be served.

N. LISTER ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

E E Packard, Inc. owns 8 parcels in the Packard Industrial Park. For tax purposes these are treated as contiguous parcels, so seven are "inactive" and receive discounted valuations. For an unknown reason, the town has only been taxing for the land that is part of the "active" parcel (14 acres), rather than for all the land (approximately 55 acres). The current assessment is \$556,400; the corrected assessment would be \$955,200. The listers are requesting permission to make this change

Motion: I move to allow the \$398,800 increase in E E Packard Inc. property (active lot 10-009.100) assessment for FY2017. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0.

O. WARRANTS

Signed.

P. MINUTES

Motion: I move to accept the minutes of August 1, 2016 as presented. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

Q. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Report

Update on Tax Bills

The intent is to have tax bills out by August 19th; no later than August 26th

2016 VLCT Town Fair

The packet is out. It will be a two-day affair this year with the annual meeting on Wednesday and the training sessions on Thursday. Dates are October 5th & 6th at the Champlain Valley Exposition Center in Essex.

FY2016 External Audit

The in-office portion of the audit is complete (done August 8th & 9th). Treasurer Welch has received and processed a number of journal entries as requested by the auditors; the final FY2016 treasurer's report, which will be distributed in September, will include those adjustments.

State Government Municipal Day

September 9th, 8-4:15 p.m. at National Life; \$25 registration fee.

Meeting Schedule:

August 16th	6:30 pm	BCA meeting
August 22nd	7:00 pm	Charter Committee meeting
August 29th	6:30 pm	Special Selectboard meeting
August 30th	5:00 pm	CVSWMD Advisory Committee meeting (Montpelier)
September 1st	7:00 pm	Selectboard attendance at PC meeting
September 9th	8 am – 4 pm	State Government Municipal Day (National Life complex)
September 10 th	10 am – 2 pm	Mini Rally Day for EM Village (multiple locations)
September 19 th	6:00 pm	Village Sidewalk forum & Selectboard meeting (at ESF)

Zoning Administrator Report

3 new permit applications since August 1, 2016.

Next Development Review Board meeting is on September 6, 2016. Currently one hearing: Demers additional business use of 1528 US Rte. 2.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 4-0. 9:18 p.m.