

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

August 29, 2016 Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, and Gene Troia; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Ed Deegan, CJ Flynn, Rachael Grossman, Norma Raymond, Don Welch, Michael DeGeorge

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Public Facilities and Infrastructure Questions for Planning Commission**
- **VLCT Municipal Policy and Delegate to Town Fair**
- **Listers Errors & Omissions**

Public Comment: None

Addition to Agenda:

- **Public Facilities and Infrastructure Questions for Planning Commission**
 - The Planning Commission invited the Selectboard to its September 1st meeting to discuss issues revolving around potential public facility and infrastructure improvements in the East Montpelier Village area; Mr. Troia and Mr. Northrup will represent the Selectboard at the PC meeting
 - The PC provided a list of questions dealing with a variety of topics, including a potential new town office, park & recreation options, and water & wastewater issues; the board discussed responses to be provided to the PC at the September 1st meeting

Conversation with Town Clerk Position Candidates

Town Clerk Terri Conti has resigned effective September 1, 2016. In accordance with state statute and to ensure that normal service levels are maintained, the board is moving quickly to fill the vacancy. The board decided to hold an open conversation with potential candidates and the public so that there was a general understanding of both the appointment process and the town clerk's duties. Mr. Deegan and Mr. Flynn announced that they will seek the job. Ms. Grossman was interested but undecided. Other candidates intend to submit applications, but were unable to attend the meeting. At the conclusion of the discussion the board announced that it would hold a special meeting on September 6, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the town office building. Individual interviews with the candidates will be conducted that evening.

Discussion of Old LaPerle Farm Property Use by VTrans

ECI, a construction firm located in Williston, has been contracted by the VT Agency of Transportation to perform services in support of the Village Bridge replacement and US Rte. 2/VT Rte. 14 intersection project. This fall the firm will place some sleeves under US Rte. 2 and build a retaining wall on the west side of US Rte. 2 just north of the intersection. ECI is asking town permission to use the LaPerle farmhouse parcel as a materials and equipment landing.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to complete the agreement to authorize ECI to utilize the LaPerle farmhouse parcel as a staging area for its construction operations this fall. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Discussion of Curb Cut Relocation Request for the Kaimen Parcel on Jacobs Road

In 2014 the Selectboard approved, with difficulty due to sight limitations, a curb cut for a 7-acre lot on Jacobs Road just north of the Nishiyachi parcel located at 530 Jacobs Road. Recently the still-undeveloped parcel sold to a couple from San Francisco who intend to construct a single-family residence on the lot in the near future. The chosen curb cut location is severely impacted by ledge outcroppings. The couple's contractor originally wished to move the curb cut location, but after meeting with Road Foreman Mike Garand, the decision was made to work with the approved curb cut. In order to develop the access the contractor has retained the services of a heavy equipment operator who will use a large excavator equipped with a hammer attachment to remove the ledge. Mr. Garand and the contractor agree that to improve the road segment's poor drainage, the excavator should also be used to replace and relocate a closed culvert as well as deepen a shallow ditchline between the Nishiyachi's curb cut and the proposed access. The contractor is requesting a town contribution to the effort.

Motion: To authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for the proposed excavator services on the conditions that the contractor install a new town-supplied cross-culvert at the proper depth in the agreed-upon location, that all work in the town's road right-of-way be overseen by East Montpelier Road Foreman Mike Garand, and all work be performed in accordance with the town's road and bridge standards. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Contract with VT State Police

For over a decade the town has been contracting for 40 hours per month of local policing services from the Vermont State Police. This year VSP was only authorized to offer six-month contracts, instead of one-year agreements as had been the norm in past years. The contract signed in March expires at the end of September. VSP is offering another six-month contract, at the same rate, through March 2017.

Motion: To authorize Chair Gardner to sign the October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 contract for services from the Vermont State Police. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Funding for Charter Committee

The Charter Committee is requesting funds to cover necessary legal services as it moves forward with the Selectboard's recent charge to the committee. In 2013 the committee spent approximately \$1,700 for legal service and would like approval to spend up to that level again this year. The per hour cap in 2013 was \$90/hour.

Motion: To authorize the Charter Committee to expend up to \$1,700, at no more than \$100/hour, for legal services necessary to fulfill the Selectboard's 2016 charge to the committee. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Facilitator for Conservation Summit

The Selectboard will be hosting a land conservation summit on October 10, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Facility (the new fire station; 54 Village Acres). There will be a large number of invited participants from town boards, local trails groups, housing & conservation non-profits, state agencies, and Central VT Regional Planning Commission, plus public participation will be encouraged. The board tasked TA Johnson to research facilitation services for the meeting. Five facilitators expressed interest: Andy Robinson, Cindy Cook, Delia Clark, Jen Knauer, and Joseph Gainza. The board reviewed the submissions.

Motion: To accept the October 10, 2016 Conservation Summit event facilitation proposal, at a flat fee of \$975, from Cindy Cook of Adamant Accord, Inc. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Special Event Liquor License

Caledonia Spirits, Inc. of Hardwick, Vermont, is requesting to hold a one-day tasting event at Morse Farm. The event will be held on September 18, 2016.

Motion: To approve the special event liquor license for September 18, 2016 as requested by Caledonia Spirits, Inc. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Legal Matters [Probable Executive Session]

➤ **Hudson Adverse Possession Lawsuit**

- TA Johnson provided an update on the situation; no action taken.

Additions to Agenda:

➤ **VLCT Municipal Policy and Delegate for Town Fair**

- The board will review the draft VLCT municipal policy prior to the October 5th VLCT Town Fair.
- **Motion: To authorize Carl Etnier to serve as the town's delegate to the VLCT Annual Meeting on October 5, 2016.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

➤ **Listers Errors and Omissions**

- The listers request that the board authorize a change to the 2016 Grand List to reflect the recent notice from the US Department of Veterans Affairs that Jason Gorton (parcel #09-026.000; 155 Carleton Blvd.) qualifies for a veteran's exemption.
- **Motion: To authorize the listers to change the 2016 Grand List to include a \$40,000 veteran's exemption for Jason Gorton, Parcel #09-026.000.** Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the warrant.

Minutes

The Chair presented the minutes of the August 15, 2016 Selectboard meeting for consideration.

Motion: To approve the August 15, 2016 Selectboard meeting minutes as amended.

Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Town Administrator Report:

- Update on Murray Road Culvert Project:
 - A new estimate on timber rail decreases the increased cost over steel guardrail to between \$12,000 and \$13,000 (from a prior estimate of an increased cost around \$35,000); the timber rail is an allowable expense under the VTrans structures grant
 - Board members agreed to pursue the new timber rail option
- Tax Bill Update:
 - Bills went out on Friday, August 26th
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule:
 - August 30th 5:00 pm CVSWMD Advisory Committee meeting (Montpelier)
 - August 31st 4-6 pm Open house for Town Clerk Conti
 - August 31st 6:30 pm BCA meeting
 - September 1st 6:00 pm Potential special Selectboard meeting
 - September 1st 7:00 pm Selectboard attendance at PC meeting
 - September 9th 8 am – 4 pm State Government Municipal Day (National Life complex)
 - September 10th 10 am – 2 pm Mini Rally Day for EM Village (multiple locations)
 - September 19th 6:00 pm Village Sidewalk forum & Selectboard meeting (at ESF)

Zoning Administrator Report:

- 3 permit applications since the last board meeting
- Next DRB meeting was scheduled for September 6, 2016; that meeting has been canceled, so the next meeting will be held on October 4, 2016

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: September 19, 2016 East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting