

**East Montpelier Selectboard Special Meeting APPROVED MINUTES (09/22/14)  
September 8, 2014 at the Town Office  
(In lieu of what would have been a regular meeting on Labor Day, September 1)**

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

**Others present:** Karen Gramer (Delinquent Tax Collector); Megan Swasey; Funding Request Study Committee members Lindy Johnson, Rhoda Chickering, Lyn Blackwell, Kevin Nadzam, Ann Stanton.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Fill activities on Old Railroad Lane

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REPORT**

Karen Gramer reported on outstanding delinquent taxes. The total has gone from \$221,334.95 as of May 16 to \$126,100.81. This compares with \$103,947.44 and \$103,255.75 as of September 15 in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Ms. Gramer updated the board on the 11 properties which are potentially eligible for a tax sale because taxes are delinquent for both FY 2013 and FY 2014, including agreements she has reached with the property owners.

Ms. Gramer raised the possibility of drafting a letter to come from lawyer Bruce Bjornlund demanding payment for two of the properties, if they do not adhere to the current agreements. She recognizes that the property owners are in difficult straits, financially. The SB suggested that Ms. Gramer monitor the situation for two months and then report back. She agreed to come back at the first meeting in December.

**E. DISCUSSION ON 2014 VLCT TOWN FAIR & ANNUAL MEETING**

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' fair and annual meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9. At the next meeting, the SB will designate its representative to the meeting and discuss input on the draft legislative municipal policy.

**F. DISCUSSION ON 2014-15 WINTER SALT CONTRACTS**

The town is estimated to need 600 tons of road salt. The town has signed a contract with both Cargill and American Rock Salt for the entire amount; we will order it as needed. Prices are up approximately 25% over last year.

**G. ACCESS PERMITS**

Permit 14-053 Fairmont Farm, Inc. for a curb cut on Lyle Young Road.

**I make the motion that we sign permit 14-053. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.**

## **H. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR SERVER REPLACEMENTS**

The East Montpelier Fire Department server is dead, and they would like to pay for the new server out of the leftover money from the construction bond. The bond fund has \$31,000 in it.

**Motion: I make the motion to allow EMFD to spend up to \$4,398 to purchase and install a new server, using the bond fund. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.**

The town office server is about eight years old, and it's slowing down, which is a sign of old age. If it dies, the town's entire computing system is down. rbTechnologies has proposed for \$10,920 to replace the server with a new one, install the new server, and migrate the data.

**Motion: I make the motion to authorize Bruce Johnson to accept the rbTechnologies proposal for server replacement, installation, and migration. Made: Ms. Swasey Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.**

## **I. DISCUSSION WITH FUNDING REQUEST STUDY COMMITTEE (FSRC)**

The total may be over \$25,000 ceiling for a floor vote on the article. This was true last year, too, and the allocation to the Montpelier Senior Center was removed to a separate article. The SB will present an article that FRSC's package be voted on town meeting floor regardless.

The total last year, without the Montpelier Senior Center, was \$21,911. FRSC members expect significantly increased requests from a couple organizations. The SB asked the FRSC to limit themselves to a 5% increase total, which is about \$23,000, and use their best judgment on whether to add new organizations.

Same ground rules as last year: Organizations denied the funding they wish from the FRSC will not have the option of appealing to the Selectboard. They will be able to appeal directly to the FRSC.

## **J. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED WEBSITE CONTENT POLICY**

Mr. Etnier presented a revised website content policy, based on the current website policy and the changes discussed at the August 4 SB meeting.

**Motion: I make the motion to adopt the revised website content policy as amended. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.**

## **K. OLD RAILROAD LANE ISSUE**

Old Railroad Lane is a private road off Route 14 with four lots on it. It also serves Lylehaven Farm. The ownership of the right of way is in many hands and is disputed. A land owner has stockpiled a large amount of fill, which may be slated to fill in the gully. This would remove drainage from the road there and fill in a mapped waterway. Other land owners have complained to the town.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Northrup volunteered to talk to the land owner.

## **L. WARRANTS**

Signed.

## **M. MINUTES**

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014 as amended. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.**

## **N. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Etnier reported that he is pursuing standards for deciding on the energy committee's recommendations for installing new lighting at Towne Hill Road and Route 2 plus Towne Hill Road and Brazier/Gallison Hill. The first source he found, with the help of Efficiency Vermont, has recommendations on what type of lighting and placement to use if we decide to go ahead with it, but no basis for deciding yes or no.

Mr. Northrup reported he has not attended the Capital Improvement Committee meetings for some time. He wonders whether someone else would like to take a position at the table. The SB takes the report under advisement and is still considering what the SB's role is or should be in the capital planning process.

Upcoming schedule of events:

- Sept 10th VLCT Public Records Act/Open Meeting Law Workshop
- Sept 18th PC public forum on proposed flood hazard & river corridor regulations, 7:00 p.m. at village fire station
- Sept 22nd Selectboard special meeting, 6:30 p.m. at town office
- October 6th Selectboard regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. at town office
- October 9th Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Town Fair, Champlain Valley Expo
- October 16th EMFD quarterly budget presentation, 7:00 p.m. at village fire station
- October 20th Selectboard regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. at town office

Zoning Administrator report:

Next Development Review Board meeting will be October 7th. Packard Appeal of ZA Decision regarding merger of abutting former Casavant lot will be heard. No other complete applications at this point

## **O. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

No action taken.

## **P. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I make the motion to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0. 9:17 pm.**