

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

APPROVED 10/1/12

September 10, 2012

SB Members Present: Bruce Johnson (Chair), Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Carl Etnier, Seth Gardner

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Mike Garand, Don Welch, Norma Raymond, Lyn Blackwell, Ken Santor, Tom Pierce, Rob Chickering, Ross Hazel, Lindy Johnson

Call to Order: 6:38pm

Additions to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Road Foreman (RF) Report

- New Mack truck has arrived; got positive comments at Rally Day
- Lo-Pro is back from Clark's after 8 weeks; seems to be running fine; manufacturer gave the town a new gear box with no installation; RF will keep the gear box for when the truck is sold
- Crew is doing patch work on Quaker, County and Vincent Flats roads; Vincent Flats needs more than an overlay
- 2008 trucks both have new fuel tanks, which was under warranty
- Clark Road has some repairs and the addition of a 4" perforated pipe that should keep the road dryer
- Tires are needed on many of the Town's trucks; old tires will be retreaded and put on the Mack truck
- Trees on Sparrow Farm Road – one tree is rotting and in the right of way; a power line runs through the middle of it so the RF will ask WEC for assistance
- Road System Management Software (RSMS) – road inventory has been completed with Robert Turner's help
- Full crew was out on September 8th; some will take overtime and some comp time
- VLCT Grant Application – for safety-related items: barrels, cones, lights, barricades, safety vests, signs, lock; town has been granted the funds and has to match half

Motion: I move to authorize the expenditure of the grant funds with the half match by the town. Made: Etnier, second: Gardner

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

-Salt – the RF recommends using two local companies in case of a salt shortage; there was discussion regarding using salt brine; works quicker and lasts longer than rock salt, but town would need new equipment

Discussion with Funding Request Study Committee

Lyn Blackwell and Lindy Johnson hadn't recently had a meeting with the SB and wanted some clarification: what are the expectations of the SB, what should they focus on, what increases can they build in this year, and how to handle the Civic Center/Red Cross/etc. The SB noted that the committee does a great job. The SB suggested putting the Civic Center on the list for \$1000. The new amount of total funding will be a cap of \$18000 or a 5% increase. The SB agrees that the committee should focus on social services, especially those serving East Montpelier.

Grand List Amendments: Lister Errors & Omissions

- Geoff Beyer – property at end of Dillon Road, listers should have depreciated the property
- Don Cote – transferred the old slaughterhouse property and residence to Chris Wong but property was not taken off Cote's property assessment
- VTrans property should be tax exempt (formerly Nicholson property)

Motion: I move to accept the Listers' Errors & Omissions Report from 9/10/12. Made: Gardner, second: Etnier

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Presentation by Roads Policy Committee and Discussion of Potential Road Policies

Members of the Roads Policy presented two draft policies to the SB: one for accepting new town road (criteria for developers) and one for upgrading from Class 4 to Class 3 (petition from townspeople and similar criteria). The SB asked that the word 'ordinance' be changed to 'policy.' The SB asked the committee to get a cost per mile to maintain a town road from the RF. There were some suggestions for changes to the criteria. The committee will make the changes and bring back to the SB. The intent on the part of the committee is to lift the moratorium on taking over roads once the policy is in place.

Town Treasurer Report

The Town Treasurer brought a budget status based on the accrual method. He is working on coming up with a clear way to tell the bottom line at any time. Currently the balance sheet shows -\$244,000 in cash. The Treasurer will be taking \$250,000 out of the Tax Anticipation Note.

Signatories for Northfield Savings Bank Accounts

The account here is for the Sandy Pines savings account and the bank needs the Treasurer as the lead signatory.

Motion: I move to adopt the Resolution of Lodge, Association or Other Similar Organization and authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to sign the resolution for the Northfield Savings Bank. Made: Gardner, second: Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Forest Fund CD Renewal

Motion: I move to authorize the Town Treasurer to rollover the CD that matures 9/21/12 for another six months.

Made: Etnier, second: Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Personnel Matter

Motion: I move to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Made: Etnier, second: Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Entered executive session at 8:47pm, exited at 9:25pm

No action was taken.

Dodge Tax Sale

The auction will take place at the town office on 9/28 at 10:00 am and will be run by the attorney, Monte. Any excess received over the taxes owed will go to the landowner. Casey Northrup will represent the town to make a bid if there are no other bidders.

Motion: I move to authorize Casey Northrup to represent the town at the 9/28 auction and make the minimum bid if necessary. Made: Etnier, second: Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Letter to State Traffic Committee

The letter is regarding decreasing the speed limit on Route 2 at the bottom of Gallison Hill Road, particularly suggesting decreasing the speed to 40 MPH before the bridge.

Motion: I move to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to Amy Gamble at the VT Agency of Transportation regarding speed limit decrease east of Bridge 64 on US Route 2. Made: Gardner, second: Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

There was additional discussion regarding the speed limit on Route 2 towards the Towne Hill Road intersection and Route 14N by the Orchard Valley School, where accidents recently occurred.

Discussion on Wi-Fi at the Town Office Building

Public Wi-Fi is now working and is password-protected. The SB is okay with Carl Etnier posting a notice on Front Porch Forum.

Zoning Administrator (ZA) Appointment

The ZA appointment expires on 9/29/12 and the SB needs to move forward on appointing a ZA for the next 3-year term. The PC has not issued a recommendation.

Motion: I move to go into executive session to discuss the ZA appointment. Made: Gardner, second: Etnier

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

SB entered executive session at 9:46pm, exited at 10:20pm

Motion: To appoint Bruce Johnson as interim zoning administrator (leaving Gene Troia as acting zoning administrator) through November 2012 with a start date of no later than October 1. Current ZA Dina Bookmyer-Baker will be notified September 11th that she will not be appointed to a second 3-year term (current term ends September 28th) and she'll be given the option of leaving immediately with full pay at 22 hours/week through September 28th plus her earned vacation day payoff or working through September 28th as normal at 22 hours/week plus receiving the vacation payoff. The Selectboard will evaluate the combination town administrator/zoning administrator position at its November 19, 2012 meeting. Made: Etnier; second: Gardner.

Discussion: Berlin, VT has used the combination position effectively for the past 5 years.

Vote on Motion: Passed unanimously 4-0 (Mr. Johnson recused himself from the vote on this motion).

Warrants

Signed

Review of Minutes

August 6, 2012.

Motion: To approve as amended the minutes of the August 6, 2012 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting. Made: Etnier; second: Sparrow.

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

August 20, 2012

Motion: To approve as amended the minutes of the August 20, 2012 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting. Made: Etnier; second: Sparrow.

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Other Business/Town Administrator Report

Peter Hill has resigned as a member of the Farm Contract Study Committee. The first meeting of the committee will be held September 17, 2012, 7 p.m. at the town office building.

ZA Dina Bookmyer-Baker has issued a Notice of Violation against David & Elizabeth Swenson. The Swensons have appealed the NOV to the Development Review Board. The hearing will be held October 2, 2012.

Ty Rolland has been elected as the new EMFD fire chief. The town and EMFD are working to craft a fireworks permitting procedure. Attorney Paul Giuliani is putting together a draft document which the SB will consider in October.

Don Tosi has generously donated a new American flag and lighting for the town office building flag pole.

VTrans has requested that the town sign-off on the landscaping at the new Rtes. 2 & 14 intersection so that VTrans can close that element of the project. Jean Vissering and Tim Frazier have stated that the plantings are in great shape. The SB will provide the requested approval.

Renee Carpenter and Ross Hazel have submitted a letter to District 5 Environmental Commission alleging ACT 250 permit violations at the Coburn Road Wetlands Mitigation site. VTrans denies the allegations.

SB members will study the draft 2013 VLCT Municipal Policy prior to the October 1st SB meeting. Carl Etnier will deliver any East Montpelier SB suggestions at the October 4th VLCT annual meeting.

Ground wasps are abundant at the East Montpelier Recreation Field and the East Montpelier Elementary School fields. The town will work with EMES to resolve the problem.

Motion: To adjourn. Made: Gardner, second: Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary