

**East Montpelier Selectboard Special Meeting FINAL MINUTES (Approved: 10/06 & 10/20/14)
September 22, 2014 at the Town Office
(In lieu of what would have been a regular meeting on September 15)**

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

Others present: Treasurer Don Welch

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Consideration of the ongoing work on a capital planning budget.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR 2015 INT'L 7400

The new Navistar 6-wheeler is at the town garage. Clark's has offered extended warranties. Road Foreman Mike Garand would like the board to consider the options.

The SB would like to have a better sense of how much repair cost could have been avoided with previous trucks if the town had purchased extended warranties. The Planning Commission's Capital Improvements Committee is working on providing those numbers.

Several SB members said they believe extended warranties for personal vehicles are not a good investment. However, municipalities use trucks harder than the average user, so if extended warranties are priced for the general user, they may be a good deal for the town.

The SB reviewed the service records of some recent vehicles and found some of them to be very high maintenance. The outstanding example was the 2005 International, which accumulated \$68,000 of repairs in seven years before it was sold in 2012.

Motion: I move to purchase a seven-year extended warranty for the new 6-wheeler for the extended vehicle coverage and engine and engine electronics, plus the five-year warranty for the Allison Transmission, for \$9,351, with the money coming out of the capital reserve. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

E. DISCUSSION ON 2014 VLCT TOWN FAIR & ANNUAL MEETING

The board discussed the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Draft Municipal Policy and advised delegate Mr. Etnier on how to vote on some proposed amendments.

Motion: I move to designate Carl Etnier as East Montpelier's representative to the VLCT 2014 annual meeting. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

F. CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL RESERVE CD RENEWAL

The Capital Reserve CD has a current balance of \$133,332.14. The current rate has been 0.3%. If we borrow in anticipation of taxes, we will pay over 1% interest. We can save money for the town by

"borrowing" from the capital reserve in anticipation of taxes, rather than borrowing from a bank.

Motion: I make the motion not to renew the CD at this time, but to reconsider how to invest the capital reserve after November 15. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

G. CONSIDERATION OF THE ONGOING WORK ON A CAPITAL PLANNING BUDGET

Treasurer Don Welch presented spreadsheets showing current work on a capital planning budget.

The capital planning committee hopes to finalize the plan in October and to hold a public forum in November. The goal is to present a number to the SB in December for a budget line for capital improvements.

Mr. Welch notes that the paving costs are assumed to be shim and overlay. If we want bomagging, it will be approximately twice the cost for a given project.

The SB will plan to consider the plan as an agenda item at our next meeting.

H. CONSIDERATION OF POLLOCK REQUEST FOR ENFORCEMENT OF ZONING VIOLATION

Lawyer Paul Gillies has written the town a letter, asserting that conditions have not been met under a settlement re: the trailers on the Sanfacon property on Wheeler Road. The letter requests action from the town.

The SB was pleased with the progress that John Sanfacon showed us in a site visit earlier today. Not all the trailers were clad, as they are required to be by the settlement. Some of the trailers are covered with camouflage paint in lieu of cladding.

Motion: I make the motion to authorize Seth Gardner to sign a letter to John and Phyllis Sanfacon asking them to complete the cladding job on the trailers by December 1. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 4-0. Ms. Swasey recused herself.

I. ACCESS PERMITS

14-055 Chapell request to work-in-right-of-way to bury electrical cables.

Motion: I make a motion to sign permit 14-055. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0

14-056 Hull Curb Cut Request on Horn of the Moon Road.

Motion: I make a motion to sign permit 14-056. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0

J. WARRANTS

Signed.

K. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of September 8, 2014 as amended. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Parking at East Montpelier Elementary School

Parking along the road is causing problems and will cause more problems during the winter. The SB will study how to amend the traffic ordinance to address this issue.

The lower intersection of Horn of the Moon and Sanders Circle

It's unclear to uphill traffic on Horn of the Moon which direction the road continues. The SB suggested putting in a yield sign going uphill, new signs with the road names, and yellow-and-black arrows or some other signage that indicates that Horn of the Moon curves to right, as one comes uphill.

Update on Old Railroad Lane Concerns

Mr. Gardner reported that he and Mr. Northrup made a date with a landowner to discuss the fill on his land, and the landowner did not show. They spoke with a hired hand. Since then, Mr. Gardner has twice called the landowner, and the landowner has not called back.

More fill has arrived at the property since the visit.

Mr. Gardner will continue his attempts to contact the landowner.

Treasurer

The new town charter requires a committee to recommend candidates for the position of treasurer, who the SB will hire when the current treasurer's term runs out. The SB will start the process of assembling the committee.

Health insurance

We have a possible request for domestic partner coverage, which is not mentioned in our personnel policy. We do offer family coverage to married families. The SB authorized interpreting the policy as allowing domestic partner coverage. We will amend the personnel policy to make that explicit.

Life insurance

VLCT now offers life insurance to town employees at no town expense; the employee covers the premiums.

Motion: I make a motion to offer the optional life insurance plans now available through VLCT to all employees. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

Holidays

Veterans Day is the middle of the week this year. The office will remain open that day, and employees will have the option of using it some other day.

We have not yet amended the personnel policy to reflect our decision to make the day after Thanksgiving a holiday. We will either amend the personnel policy by Thanksgiving this year or pass a special motion to make the day a holiday.

Educational opportunities

- VLCT Fall Planning & Zoning Forum; October 29th at Capitol Plaza
- VLCT Fall Selectboard Institute; November 8th at Lake Morey Resort
- State Government Municipal Day; November 13th at National Life

Open Meeting Law Compliance

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) and the Board of Tax Abatement, which SB members are part of, are scheduled to have a meeting and a hearing tomorrow. No notice has been posted on the town's web

site as required by statute. The meeting and hearing would violate the Open Meeting Law, if held.

The SB wrote an email to Town Clerk Terri Conti to point out the violation and request that the meeting and hearing be rescheduled and legally warned. It also requested the minutes from the previous meeting of the BCA.

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. There are no other complete applications at this point.

M. PERSONNEL MATTERS

No action taken.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I make the motion to adjourn. Made: Mr. Sparrow. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0, 10:00 pm.