

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

APPROVED 10/7/13

September 23, 2013

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

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Town Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Don Welch, Deb Fillion

Call to Order: 7:15pm

Additions to the Agenda: Liquor license for Peter Colman

Public Comment: From Deb Fillion – consider an editorial group, like the SignPost, for the website updates; create policy committee to set up parameters.

Discussion of Town Waiver of Penalty [24 V.S.A. §5410(g)] For Failure to Timely File or Incorrect Declaration of Homestead

Mr. Etnier recused himself from the conversation. It appears that most of the people who didn't file were not deliberate because 20 of 26 people filed right after receiving a reminder letter from the state. The Town Treasurer noted that 70 people should have filed and have not. The SB agrees that the state caused the confusion. The Town Treasurer recommended that the town waive the penalty fees for this year only and explain why in a letter with any revised tax bill. The SB will consider asking the listers to file a report with the state of who has not filed and should have; this is in the state statutes.

Motion: I move to waive the penalty fees for the late homestead filers for this year only. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Mr. Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 4-0-1 (Mr. Etnier abstained)

Consideration of Capital Reserve CD Renewal

The current CD holds the bulk of the capital reserve fund (\$136,000). There is \$84,000 in the saving account. The Town Treasurer has the following options for the CD renewal:

- 3-mo for 0.15% interest rate
- 4-mo for 0.25%
- 6-mo for 0.30%
- 366 days for 0.40%

The SB agrees to renew for six months.

Motion: I move to authorize the Town Treasurer to renew the CD for six months. Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Discussion on 2014 Employee Health Care Options

The SB needs to make some decisions on the health care options for 2014.

1. Will the town offer insurance – yes
2. Will the town offer a health stipend to those who don't take the insurance – SB decided to keep the stipend at an amount of \$1600 per person per year
3. Will the town set a dollar amount or a percentage of a certain plan – SB agrees to pay 90% of the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) platinum plan
4. Will the town fund an HRA – SB agrees not to fund an HRA this year; there was a discussion regarding a flexible spending plan, which would be administered for free by BCBS

Motion: I move to fund the 91.90% BCBS Platinum Plan at 90% of the employee premium and to restrict employee options to BCBS plans. Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Discussion of VLCT Annual Meeting Materials

Ms. Swasey is the SB delegate to the VLCT Annual Meeting. The SB reviewed the 2014 Draft VLCT Municipal Policy. Ms. Swasey is looking for guidance on important issues. Mr. Etnier noted that he is opposed to tasers not being considered deadly force.

Approval of MPG Application

The PC would like to create fluvial erosion hazard (FEH) regulations into the zoning regulations. If the town does so, the town can maximize state and FEMA funds for damage repairs. The FEH regulations would cover streams as opposed to rivers.

Motion: I move to adopt the Resolution for FY2014 Municipal Planning Grant. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Sparrow

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

The SB signed the application.

Liquor License for Peter Colman

Mr. Colman needs a 2nd class liquor license in order to use alcohol in his VT Salumi products.

Motion: I move to approve a 2nd class liquor license for Peter Colman, pending completion of the application. Made:

Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

The SB signed the application.

Warrants

Signed

Review of Minutes

September 9, 2013

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Ms. Swasey

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Other Business

Town Administrator Report

- Park N Ride – formal response considered at 10/7 meeting
- Website domain – domain name will be registered with GoDaddy.com; SB is fine with that
- PACE – documents were accepted
- Town Meeting – Dave Grundy is meeting with U-32 principal Keith Gerritt regarding the use of U-32
- State geological survey grant – Rick Hopkins agreed to be the town representative
- Upcoming events:
 - 10/21 – concentration on road issues: Johnson Road, Captain Kidd Road, Foster Road, driveways on Sodom Pond Road, Class 4 roads

Zoning Administrator Report

- 3 new permits since last meeting
- DRB – approved sawmill building for Fontaine; 10/1 – will be dealing with Hill/Gardner subdivision
- Perkins – property is not subdivided but owner is advertising sale of 10-12 acres; ZA looking into it

Charter Committee discussions:

- The Committee asked the SB to consider reducing the listers' budget and use the money to hire a professional lister; this does not require a charter to change and will be discussed with the listers
- Town manager form of government; the committee would like some education on the issue, but a charter is also not needed for this issue.

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mr. Northrup; seconded by Mr. Sparrow. Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary