

## **Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard**

### **October 2, 2017 Selectboard Meeting**

**SB Attendance:** Chair Seth Gardner, Gene Troia, Kim Swasey; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

**Public Attendance:** Casey Northrup; Guthrie Perry, EM Road Foreman

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Additions to Agenda: None**

**Public Comment: None**

### **Report on Central VT Solid Waste Management District: Casey Northrup, Town Representative**

Mr. Northrup provided an update on recent CVSWMD activities, mostly focused on Act 148, the state's Universal Recycling Law, implementation issues such as food waste management and construction debris recycling.

Mr. Northrup announced that he will be stepping down at the end of his term in March 2018, or sooner, if the board can find a suitable replacement.

### **Road Foreman Report: Guthrie Perry, East Montpelier Road Foreman**

- Heavy equipment needs and the capital plan:
  - The 2008 Volvo loader has become unreliable. Due to the crew's heavy daily reliance on the loader and the lack of a viable alternative, RF Perry recommends replacing the loader as soon as possible, well ahead of the planned replacement date. The board agreed with his rationale and requested that he provide at least three competitive proposals for board review at an upcoming meeting.
  - RF Perry would also like the board to consider purchasing a tractor with roadside mowing attachments due to the expanding demands for such mowing and the high cost of rental equipment.
  - RF Perry presented a revised capital plan heavy equipment worksheet that depicted the loader as an FY2018 expense instead of FY2023, the grader moved out from FY2018 to FY2020, and the roadside mower added as an FY2023 expense. Mr. Troia and Mr. Northrup, both members of the Capital Improvement Committee that handles the capital plan development, took the worksheet for review at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> CIC meeting.
- Update on road projects:
  - The Muddy Brook Road slump repair by Dubois Construction is ongoing. The repaired areas are currently gravel; the guardrail should be replaced this week; paving patches for the repaired areas will also be done within the next week; and, the full length of the road will be repaved by Pike Industries by the end of October.
  - The road crew has completed two of the grant-funded erosion control projects, on Snow Hill Road and Sanders Circle. The third one, on Center Road, is nearing completion.
- Consideration of the 2017/18 Winter Roads Policy:
  - RF Perry sees no reason to alter last year's policy
  - **Motion: To adopt the 2017/18 Winter Roads Policy as presented.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of 2018 Employee Health Care Benefit Options**

The enrollment period for 2018 health care plans is in November. The town currently provides premium coverage of up to 90% of the cost of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Platinum plan, with access to all BCBS plans. The cost of the Platinum plan has increased 9.49%. The board needs to determine what premium value to offer for 2018, what plans to make available, and what stipend in lieu of coverage to provide. The board discussed various options, including a possible shift to slightly less expensive MVP plans, but decided to continue with the same offerings as last year.

**Motion: To maintain the current scheme so that the town will pay the premium cost of any Blue Cross Blue Shield plan up to the value of 90% of the premium for the BCBS Platinum plan at whatever level (single, two-person, parent and children, family) desired, with all BCBS plans available to employees and, for employees that don't take the insurance, the town will provide a stipend in lieu of health coverage of \$1,600.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of 2018 Draft VLCT Municipal Policy**

The board continued its review of the draft policy. Board member Etnier, who was unable to attend this meeting but will serve as the town's delegate to the October 4<sup>th</sup> VLCT annual meeting, provided the board with a note highlighting two items of concern: Section 1.03(2), which supports the extension of the VT Open Meeting Law principles to non-profit entities; and, Section 1.09(8), which supports the concept of a "gap day" before elections in which there would be no voter registration or early voting. Board members agreed with Mr. Etnier that the gap day concept is not good policy, but would like to see some form of Open Meeting Law extension, at least for the larger non-profits.

The board then moved on to a spirited discussion, led by Mr. Troia, on a number of the draft policy provisions. The board was particularly concerned with Section 4.04(2), which supports a shift from a regional/state process to the town level for sewage/solid waste/wastewater/recycling management. The board believes the state is better positioned to handle these issues. TA Johnson will provide an update to Mr. Etnier prior to the VLCT annual meeting.

### **Consideration of VLCT Membership Renewal**

The renewal application for continued membership in VLCT PACIF, which provides the town's property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverages along with loss control services, employee assistance programs, and equipment grants, is due by October 13, 2017.

**Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to complete and submit the application for the 2018 renewal of the town's membership in VLCT PACIF.** Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

### **Update on EM Park 'n Ride Project**

The contractor for the park 'n ride project, Dale Percy, Inc., expects to have the facility essentially complete by mid-October. The only missing elements will be the light poles, bus shelter, and Level II electric vehicle charging station, which should all be in place by mid-December. The issue for the board was whether to allow use of the lot before all the elements are installed. By consensus board

members agreed to allow limited use of the facility during this period.

### **Discussion on Potential Alterations to the Town's Property Tax Collection Procedures**

The board will take this issue up at a later meeting.

### **Warrants**

Board members signed the warrant.

### **Minutes**

Chair Gardner presented the draft minutes of the September 11, 2017 board meeting.

**Motion: To approve the September 11, 2017 minutes as presented.** Made by Ms. Swasey; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

#### **Town Administrator Report:**

- Updates on various projects:
  - The town has already received the state reimbursements, a total of \$282,387, for the Murray Road culvert and County Road paving projects.
  - The FY2018 Municipal Planning Grant Program application has been submitted with a decision expected by the beginning of December.
  - The trails easement portion of the Fairmont Dairy Phase 1 conservation project closed last week.
- Meeting Schedule:
  - October 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm VLCT annual meeting at Killington
  - October 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm SB regular meeting; second intersection study forum
  - October 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan forum at Calais Town Hall

#### **Zoning Administrator Report:**

- 5 permit applications since September 11, 2017.
- The next scheduled DRB meeting is October 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Casella transfer station's biennial review, the conceptual review of a master plan for 170 Cherry Tree Hill Road, a 2-lot subdivision of the 36-acre lot across US Rte. 2 from Delair's Carpet Barn, and a boundary adjustment in favor of Delair's Carpet Barn from the Cote family driving range lot.

**Motion: To adjourn.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Swasey. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

**Approved: October 16, 2017 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting**