

**East Montpelier Selectboard Hearing and Meeting APPROVED (11/06/17) MINUTES
October 16, 2017 at the Town Office**

Selectboard (SB) members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Kim Swasey, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: David Delcore (Times Argus), Bill Powell (WEC), Guthrie Perry (Road Foreman), Don Welch, Norm Hill, Janet Connor, Dan Currier (CVRPC), Stephen Connor, Cathy Rice, Paul Erlbaum, James Sloan, Carol Dickson, Bruce Howlett, Jim Donovan (Broadreach Planning & Design), Roger Dickinson (Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Annual Meeting report

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DISCUSSION WITH WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CO-OP (WEC) ON LEVEL II ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION AT PARK AND RIDE

With Bill Powell, WEC Director of Products & Services.

The nearly completed Park and Ride comes with 110 V outlets at the base of each of the four streetlight posts. These can be used to charge electric vehicles—they will be live whether or not the lighting is on. However, they are slow, and charging with them requires a car owner to carry a charging cable and to risk leaving it exposed.

WEC has funding to provide a dual port level 2 (220-240 V) charger, accouterments (like signage and bollards), and five years of maintenance. It will be a total of 6.6 kW, split between the two ports if both are in use. After five years, the town is responsible for maintenance and all other costs associated with it.

The town can charge whatever rate it wishes for charging at the charger, and it can base the rate on time of use, kWh used, or a combination.

The board accepted the WEC offer back on February 1, 2016 and authorized Town Administrator Johnson to complete the process. The discussion at this meeting was on signage, what rates to charge for use, and related issues. WEC will install the facility and let the town collect some data on use before a rate is set. The town will work with WEC to set up signs at the two parking spaces by the charger saying something like “EV parking while charging only.”

E. ROAD FOREMAN REPORT

Road Foreman Guthrie Perry reported that a used hose machine for \$1500 that he was interested in was no longer available.

One third of the town's supply of winter sand was hauled to the sand pile last week.

As noted in the previous meeting, the 2008 Volvo loader has become unreliable. Mr. Perry reported on his efforts to solicit bids to replace it.

Center Road needs more center line painting. Everything else but the newly paved Muddy Brook Road is newly painted.

F. CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR TAX SALE

The board added parcel #06-045.000 to the list of properties going up for tax sale (joining two others). Attorney Jim Barlow is already on board for the other sales; this agreement adds the new property under the same terms.

Motion: I move to accept the letter of engagement from attorney James Barlow written on October 6, 2017 to Delinquent Tax Collector C. Bruce Johnson for proceeding to a tax sale on parcel #06-045.000. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

G. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE TOWN'S PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Previously the board decided to handle (in lieu of creating a separate committee) a review and possible recommendation to voters of changes to the town's tax collection procedures.

Now that the town accepts electronic payments of taxes, some electronic filings are happening on the day payment is due but after the 5 p.m. deadline. The board doesn't see a reason to penalize electronic filings after 5 p.m. When preparing the town meeting warning, the board will alter the usual article to allow tax payments to be made electronically or in person through the town office up to 11:59 p.m. Eastern on the day payments are due.

The board saw no reason to alter the current policy of setting the due date according to when the payment is received, rather than when a mailed payment is postmarked.

The board also considered but did not propose a motion on changing from an immediate 8% penalty for delinquent taxes, with a 1% per month penalty thereafter, to a graduated system of penalties. Mr. Etnier will talk with Rick Mastelli, the townsperson who first brought this possibility to the town's attention, to see if Mr. Mastelli would like to present more information on potential advantages of a graduated approach.

H. REPORT FROM VLCT ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Etnier represented the town at the meeting, which was held in Killington on October 4. There were two changes to the VLCT Municipal Platform (lobbying agenda) that the board asked him to block.

One concerned making the day before an election a "gap day," on which neither voting nor voter registration would be permitted. At the meeting, it was pointed out that VLCT was looking for enabling legislation, to allow some towns to put in a gap day, not a requirement for all towns. Town clerks from some towns said it would make their job much easier. Mr. Etnier's proposed amendment failed.

The other change would enable municipalities to have authority over rules for solid waste and wastewater. Currently, the Agency of Natural Resources handles wastewater permitting, with the possibility of delegating that to a municipality that has sufficient capacity; very few municipalities have accepted the delegation. Mr. Etnier said it was not clear how far-reaching authority the VLCT was advocating for—would municipalities be empowered to permit technologies forbidden at the state level, or vice versa? He reported he did not get a chance to offer an amendment to strike this language.

I. WARRANTS

Signed.

J. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017 as submitted. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Hazard Mitigation Plan renewal

Stephanie Smith, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Planner, will be at the November 6 board meeting to explain the path forward towards renewal of our plan, which expires March 1, 2018.

That meeting will be held at the ESF (the new fire station) with the hazard mitigation item first on the agenda; this will be a type of “kick-off” meeting for the renewal effort with the public invited to participate; FEMA expects to see public input opportunities throughout the plan development process.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District annual budget process

A public hearing is to be held October 23, 5:00 p.m. at the ARCC, 540 N. Main Street in Barre. General Manager Bruce Westcott will come to a Selectboard meeting in November.

Meeting Schedule

October 18th	7:00 pm	Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan forum at Calais Town Hall
November 6th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting at ESF; hazard mitigation forum
November 7th	10:00 am	Park ‘n Ride facility walkthrough
November 20th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting with Intersection Study forum

L. PUBLIC FORUM ON TOWNE HILL/GALLISON HILL/BRAZIER ROADS INTERSECTION STUDY

Since the September 11, 2017 public forum, the consultants and townspeople have been brainstorming approaches to improve the safety at the intersection. They already have eliminated some from further consideration and brought forward many for further discussion. The consultants presented evaluations of the ideas brought along the lines of many criteria.

Roger Dickinson, of Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers, and Jim Donovan, of Broadreach Planning & Design, are the lead consultants on the study facilitated the discussion. Dan Currier of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission also attended.

Both the consultants and a townspeople living near the intersection agreed that we know of two crashes at the intersection in the last five and half years. Both involved young drivers pulling into the intersection from Gallison Hill Road without looking properly for traffic.

There was a lively discussion about the alternatives presented, and how attractive they were. Based on the numbering in the charts presented (available on the town's web site for at least the duration of the study), the group recommended nixing 2a, 4a, and 5c. It recommended keeping for further inclusion 3a-d, 3 e (maybe temporarily), 4d, and 5d. A “maybe” was given to 4e.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second. Ms. Willis. 4-0, 9:40 p.m.