

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED MINUTES (11/03/14)
October 20, 2014 at the Town Office**

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

Others present: Phillip Heinz (Recreation Board)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Northrup: Paving and Capital Improvement Committee report (under Other Business)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DISCUSSION WITH RECREATION BOARD

Phillip Heinz, Co-chairperson

Mr. Heinz presented a vision for clearing out the strip of woods separating the elementary school from the recreational field and turning it into a park. He would like support from the town and the school—both own part of the strip.

Mr. Heinz will talk with town tree warden Paul Cate about his views on the project and, if it goes forward, which trees to take and which to leave. The town will investigate grant possibilities.

E. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Mr. Etnier presented a draft revision to the town ordinance for control of dogs and wolf hybrids. The revision incorporates many elements of a new model ordinance developed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Mr. Etnier will incorporate comments received into a new draft for the SB to consider.

F. DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR OLD EMFD FIRE STATION

The East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) station on Templeton Road will have some open space as EMFD reduces the number of fire trucks there. It is heated space that could be used for town equipment. The doors are not high enough, however, to accommodate town equipment.

Options seem to be raising the roof and extending the walls, disassembling the roof and raising the walls then building a new roof, or lowering the floor.

Mr. Johnson will call Toby Talbot of EMFD and ask him for a tour in the late morning some time, hopefully this week. Mr. Northrup, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Sparrow are available to attend. Road Foreman (RF) Mike Garand will also be invited.

G. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Johnson investigated designating a school zone on Vincent Flats Road, by the elementary school. If we want to just put up signs now, we can do so. If we want to have enforceable speed limits there, a traffic study is required.

The SB wishes to put up signs for now, rather than hold up the coming revision of the traffic ordinance until a study is done. The SB would like to see a lowered speed limit there, from 35 mph to 25 mph. The town will investigate performing a traffic study.

For the western intersection of Sanders Circle with Horn of the Moon, the SB discussed the solution arrived at by RF Mike Garand, Mr. Etnier, and a resident who had reported a near-miss there: a yield sign for east-bound traffic on Horn of the Moon. After further consideration and consultation with a catalog of currently conforming signs, the SB decided to go with a curved arrow to the right for east-bound traffic and no yield sign.

Mr. Garand is already planning to move forward with larger and more clearly placed road signs for the intersection.

SB members will continue to observe around town to see if there are stop or yield signs that are not included in the traffic ordinance. Otherwise, the current round of amendments are ready to be incorporated.

H. CONSIDERATION OF WINTER ROADS POLICY

The winter roads policy has no major changes since last year.

Motion: I make the motion to adopt the 2014-2015 Winter Operations Plan. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

I. CONSIDERATION OF 2015 EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE BENEFIT OPTIONS

Last year, the SB wished to offer town employees the choice of any Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) plan, but glitches in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act made that impossible. This year it is possible.

Motion: I make the motion to keep the town share of insurance costs at 90% of the BCBS Platinum Plan, to offer town employees a choice of any of the BCBS plans, and to retain the stipend in lieu of insurance at \$1,600 per year. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

J. DISCUSSION OF TREASURER APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE CREATION

Motion: I make the motion to create a treasurer candidate recommendation committee consisting of the following members:

Selectboard Member	Seth Gardner
Selectboard Member	Carl Etnier
Town Clerk	Terri Conti
Auditor	Dave Grundy
Town Resident	Ed Deegan (also a CPA)
Town Resident	Fred Satink
CPA	Jane Burroughs

Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

The committee's first meeting is Monday, November 10 at 7 pm, at the town office.

K. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I make the motion to re-appoint Chris Racanelli as Green Up Day Coordinator. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

L. WARRANTS

Signed.

M. MINUTES

Motion: I make the motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2014 as amended. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

Motion: I make the motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2014 as amended. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.

N. OTHER BUSINESS

Review of VLCT Town Fair

Mr. Etnier referred to an earlier email he sent the SB, describing the debate over energy provisions in the VLCT municipal policy agenda. Two attempts to dilute VLCT's commitment to renewables were defeated.

Review of EMFD Quarterly Budget Presentation

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Etnier reported on the meeting of Oct. 16.

Education Funding Reform Message from VLCT

The SB will wait to consider endorsing the message until after the November election, to avoid appearances of making a partisan declaration or endorsement.

Possible Streetlight for Village Acres/US Rte. 2 Intersection

Jon Winston approached Mr. Johnson on behalf of EMFD about installing a streetlight at this intersection, which serves the emergency services facility. Streetlights cost the town about \$13 a month.

Mr. Etnier said that he is normally skeptical about putting in new streetlights. This intersection, however, is hard to see at night, and the fire station is an important destination.

I make the motion to authorize Bruce Johnson to ask GMP to install a streetlight at the corner of Village Acres and Route 2. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

Update on Sanfacon Trailers

Mr. Gardner wants to do the work next Sunday, October 26. He will gladly accept help.

Update on Old Railroad Lane

The neighbors are meeting October 29, at the town office.

Update on Paving

There is still a day or so of paving to do, and an equivalent amount of time on shoulder work. Weather and state contracts are affecting the schedule.

For the paving item on the Capital Improvement budget, Mr. Northrup reported that it is hard to come up with numbers for recommendations on frequency of repaving. The lowest they have found so far is ten years. Setting it at eight years works out to approximately what the town has paid in recent years.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I make the motion to adjourn. Made: Mr. Sparrow. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0. 9:28 pm