

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (11/16/15) MINUTES
November 2, 2015 at the Town Office**

Selectboard members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Kim Swasey, Gene Troia; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator)..

Others present: Toni May (town resident); Frank Pratt (Village Committee); Don Welch (treasurer).

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. DISCUSSION ON ZONING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Mr. Johnson reported that no appeal was filed on the Notice of Violation against the Clement/Buck family at 365 Mays Way. The offending camper is still there, and no permit application has been filed. There is no evidence of anyone living there.

Toni May circulated pictures she said she took from her boundary with the property.

Motion: I move to authorize the Zoning Administrator, on December 1, 2015, to file an enforcement action in the Environmental Court on the Notice of Violation against the Clement/Buck family at 365 Mays Way, unless the accumulated piles of trash and the camper are removed by that date. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

E. TOWN TREASURER REPORT

Don Welch reported on the town's income, spending, and balances.

F. DISCUSSION WITH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC) ON FUNDING OPTIONS FOR PURCHASE OF WINSTON/SILBERBERG PROPERTY

The sale of the Winston/Silberberg property in the village has now received judicial approval. Closing could happen in as little as two weeks.

The CIC has developed a variety of options for funding the purchase in the long term; the town will initially use capital reserve funds to close the deal.

The SB asked the CIC to keep working on options. The SB wants an option that keeps the land unencumbered. To reduce a tax rate increase from the capital improvement budget, the SB directed the CIC to anticipate the 2017 truck purchase could be financed.

G. DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE PROPERTIES AND PROJECTS

Frank Pratt discussed the planned Park and Ride and options for access to the adjoining future town property.

H. CONSIDERATION OF 2016 EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE BENEFIT OPTIONS

Motion: I move to maintain the current insurance offering to employees for 2016, with a town contribution ceiling set at 90% of the BCBS platinum plan premium. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

Motion: I move to maintain stipends to those who are not taking town health insurance at \$1,600/year. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Mr. Etnier. 5-0.

When an employee becomes eligible for Medicare next year, the town will continue providing the same level of health insurance for the rest of his family, at a considerably reduced cost to the town.

I. CONSIDERATION OF VTRANS STRUCTURES PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

VTrans has released the grant agreements for the FY16 structures and paving grants. The town received a grant of \$92,880 for the replacement of the Murray Road culvert near the city line. This calls for 10% match from the town, although there may be elements for this project that could require additional town funding, such as timber guardrails. We have until December 31, 2017 to use the grant.

Motion: I move to authorize TA Johnson to sign agreement #BC1701 with the State of Vermont, for the replacement of a culvert on Murray Road. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

J. DISCUSSION ON FINAL REPORT FROM PHASE 1 OF THE VTRANS COUNTY ROAD HIGH RISK RURAL ROAD (HRRR) PROJECT

VTrans has submitted its report on recommended changes to the signage on County Road, which they will fund. Road Foreman (RF) Mike Garand has reviewed the plan and is satisfied with it.

The SB is also satisfied with the plan, with the following changes:

p 3 OK to remove the Hidden Drive Right sign, but do not replace it. (Mr. Etnier noted studies that show too many signs cause drivers to pay less attention to the signs.)

p 4 At the Center Road intersection, move the Do Not Enter sign up on the page (closer to Montpelier); add a Stop Ahead sign on Center Road, a ways before the intersection.

VTrans offered to design electric warning signs on at the Cummings Road intersection to indicate cars coming from the north over the blind crest. The SB declines; the SB is skeptical of their value and does not wish the town to spend money to maintain them.

Motion: I move to authorize TA Johnson to sign the HRRR agreement for County Road with comments as noted in the minutes. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0.

K. APPOINTMENTS

Motion: I move to appoint Chris Racanelli as Green Up Day Coordinator for 2016. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Troia. 5-0.

L. ACCESS PERMITS: #15-035 Rice

In 2005 Bob and Lorie Rice, 855 Jacobs Road, did a subdivision creating two building lots, one directly on Jacobs Road that has since been sold and developed by the Morris family and a back lot still owned by the Rice family. Both new lots used the same access point off of Jacobs along the south side of the Morris property. Both families would like to change the access point for the back lot to a slot on the north edge of the Rice property (essentially just over the property line). This will create a second access on the same property. The Development Review Board (DRB) is willing to allow this change of access

without a subdivision amendment as long as the Selectboard approves the curb cut location and the owners file a new plat reflecting the shifted access easement to the back lot. RF Garand has approved the selected curb cut location

Motion: I move to approve access permit 15-035. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0.

M. WARRANTS

Signed.

N. MINUTES

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey. 4-0-1 (Mr. Troia abstained).

O. OTHER BUSINESS

Early 2016 Town Meeting Warning Issues

The board would like GMTA representatives to come to the December 21st SB meeting to update the board on the Route 2 Commuter Bus.

The board would like the Funding Request Study Committee to consider separate Warning article status for the Twin Valley Senior Center so that both Senior Centers (including Montpelier Senior Activity Center) have stand-alone articles.

The Funding Request Study Committee received 33 social organization requests for a total of \$34,611.

Stipends

How would SB like to handle the split year situation with Steve Sparrow and Gene Troia? Mr. Sparrow served on the SB until the end of October; Mr. Troia served on the Planning Commission (PC) until the end of October and then joined the SB.

The SB set stipends at (ballpark) pro-rated sums of \$750 apiece for Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Troia.

Given the workload for the town's sole constable this year, the SB chose to increase the constable stipend to the entire \$1,500 budgeted for the first and second constables.

Update on Quaker Road Pavement "Slump"

Mr. Johnson reported there had been no contact with Whitcomb's Construction despite repeated calls.

Zoning Amendments Hearing

The hearing will be warned next week for the November 30th date; once warned, all applications will be processed under both the current and proposed regulations.

Gene Troia Officially Resigned His Planning Commission Seat

Mr. Troia's PC term is up in 2017, so there will be a part-term PC seat up for election in 2016. PC chair Jean Vissering requested the same process used last time there was a PC vacancy: the SB issues a notice of vacancy with a request for interested parties to contact the PC; the PC conducts interviews and recommends a candidate to the SB, which then may appoint the person. The SB agreed to the process.

Delinquent Tax Sales

The Caldwell property one-third mile north of Powder Horn Glen Road on the west side of County Road is set for a tax sale Tuesday, December 1st, 10 a.m. at the town office. The Laundry tax sale (2726 Horn of the Moon Road) is on hold as our attorney deals with the estate and probate aspects of the ownership interests

Meeting Schedule

- November 16th 6:30 pm Regular SB meeting
- November 30th 7:00 pm Public hearing on zoning regulation amendments at ESF
- December 3rd 7:00 pm EMFD FY17 budget presentation at ESF
- December 7th 6:30 pm Regular SB meeting and joint budget meeting with Calais
- December 19th 5:00 pm Town party at ESF
- December 21st 6:30 pm Regular SB meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

Next regular DRB meeting will be on November 3, 2015

- Manghi/Gardner/Duane final plan review for a two-lot subdivision of 185 Markham Road
- Continuance of Glottmann appeal of Wells accessory dwelling permit on Cutler Heights

P. PERSONNEL MATTERS

Discussed.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0. 10:02 pm.