

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting MINUTES (Approved: 11/17/14)  
November 3, 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:** Rita Copeland (Twin Valley Senior Center)

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

**B. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Standard contract for service/maintenance of NEMRC modules

Personnel matter

Real estate matter

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. UPDATE ON TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER**

Rita Copeland reported on activities at the senior center since their move to the new location on Route 2 in town, at Blueberry Hill. They include classes, meals, free door-to-door transportation for people in all six member towns, and more. The most current information is on the Facebook page Twin Valley Seniors or by phone 223-3322. They are requesting continued support from the towns served; town appropriations provide 4% of their annual budget. They would also like East Montpelier residents to serve on their board.

She also encouraged other groups to rent the space for their events.

No action taken; the funding request is being handled by the Funding Request Study Committee.

**E. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Mr. Etnier presented a revision of the town's animal control ordinance, based on the new model ordinance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the town's old ordinance, and discussion of a previous draft at the previous meeting.

With some amendments, the board gave the green light to move forward. Mr. Johnson will send the revised ordinance to VLCT and attorney Bruce Bjornlund for comment; the Selectboard will review the ordinance and vote on it at a future meeting.

**F. DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR OLD EMFD FIRE STATION**

Station 1 of East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD), on Templeton Road, has room for extra equipment. Mr. Northrup, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Sparrow met with Road Foreman Mike Garand and EMFD Asst. Chief Toby Talbot at the station on October 23rd; a basic plan of action was developed to renovate the office side (the east side) of the structure to allow access for the town's excavator and the grader. This will open up some space in the town garage and make it easier for the road crew to clean and maintain equipment.

EMFD will continue to use the west side for the new tanker and the pumper.

The EMFD board supports town use to house heavy equipment during the winter; the full department will consider the use and necessary building renovations at its meeting November 4.

#### **G. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED WINTER ROADS POLICY**

Clearing town roads of snow takes about four hours, not the seven hours stated in the policy adopted at the previous meeting. The policy was updated to reflect the change.

**Motion: I move to adopt the winter roads policy as amended. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Northrup. 5-0**

#### **H. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO VTRANS FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF THE ROAD STRETCH FROM US RTE 2/VT RTE 14 TO COUNTY ROAD (ALONG QUAKER, VINCENT FLATS, DODGE, LYLE YOUNG, & TEMPLETON ROADS) FROM CLASS 3 TO CLASS 2**

The SB agreed to request the reclassification at a previous meeting; the purpose is to increase the amount of state roads revenue to the town. A motion is required.

**Motion: I make a motion to request VTRANS reclassify the road stretch from US Route 2/VT Route 14 to County Road (along Quaker, Vincent Flats, Dodge, Lyle Young, & Templeton Roads) from Class 3 to Class 2. Made: Ms. Swasey. Second: Mr. Sparrow.**

#### **I. STANDARD CONTRACT FOR SERVICE/MAINTENANCE OF NEMRC MODULE**

NEMRC provides the town database management software.

**Motion: I move to renew the standard contract for service and maintenance of NEMRC annual support agreement. Made: Mr. Northrup. Second: Ms. Swasey.**

#### **J. PERSONNEL MATTER**

Discussed. No action taken.

#### **K. REAL ESTATE MATTER**

Discussed. No action taken.

#### **L. WARRANTS**

Signed.

#### **M. MINUTES**

**Motion: I make the motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting as amended.**

**Made: Etnier, Northrup. 5-0.**

#### **N. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### *Zoning Administrator Report*

Mr. Gardner received an email from Ellery Packard, asking the Selectboard to discuss the recent actions of the Development Review Board (DRB) and the town zoning administrator. The ZA and DRB both ruled against Packard in a lot merger situation. Mr. Johnson advised the SB that the SB has no role at this point; Mr. Packard's appeal option is to the Environmental Court.

**Motion: I make the motion authorizing Seth Gardner to sign a letter to Ellery Packard to say that the Selectboard has no current legal role to play in his dispute, but he is welcome to talk to**

**us at a meeting. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Sparrow. 5-0.**

*EMFD Offer of Old Tankers*

EMFD is offering to sell the town either of the old tankers for use as a chloride truck. The town declines the offer.

*Traffic Ordinance Update*

We are waiting on VTrans traffic division (the sign crew) to provide guidance on school zone and no parking options.

*Judicial Bureau Training Session with VLCT*

VLCT is putting together a presentation for us on using the Judicial Bureau to enforce municipal ordinances. Sarah Jarvis, VLCT staff attorney, will be the leader. The planning commission would like to attend. We will also invite colleagues in nearby communities. (Subsequent to this meeting, the date was set for the next regular SB meeting, Nov. 17.)

*Treasurer Candidate Recommendation Committee*

A number of committee members are unable to attend the originally scheduled date. We will change the date to Nov. 13.

*Employee Health Plan & Other Benefits Meeting*

VLCT's Larry Smith was here today and gave a presentation to employees on health plan options, the health advocate program, the new employer-paid life, long-term disability, and short-term disability policies, and the new employee-option life insurance policy.

*Possible Streetlight for Village Acres/US Rte. 2 Intersection*

The light has been ordered; GMP will install "soon"

*Update on Sanfacon Trailers*

Cladding is basically completed; Mr. Gardner, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Swasey worked in the rain Oct. 25 & Nov. 1 to install the cladding. Mr. Gardner will organize some further work this coming weekend if necessary.

The SB will review this issue at the December 1st meeting. SB members will inspect the situation individually ahead of time.

*Update on Paving*

Paving is completed on Quaker Hill/Vincent Flats and Gallison Hill. Line painting coming soon.

Nicom sealed cracks on County Road today and will be on Center Road tomorrow.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: I make the motion to adjourn. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Swasey. 5-0. 9:20 pm**