

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

APPROVED 12/16/13

December 2, 2013

Public Hearing Pursuant to 19 V.S.A §§701 et seq. To Consider the Laying Out of Captain Kidd Road, a Private Road, as a Class 3 Town Highway

SB Members Present: Seth Gardner (Chair), Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Town Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), Duane Wells, Shawn Kasulka, Deidre Lambertson

Call to Order: 6:00pm

The SB reviewed the road according to the criteria set out in the town policy on accepting new town roads:

- Consistency with town plan: It was not clear whether the road is consistent with the town plan; the Planning Commission declined to take a stand on the road.
- Impact on traffic circulation: The road is a cul-de-sac and does not aid traffic circulation
- Financial impact on town highway resources: The SB's best guess is that the road taxes on the properties served by the road will more than pay for road maintenance.
- Impact on agricultural land use: The subdevelopment was built in a forest, rather than on an agricultural field, so there was no agricultural impact.
- Proximity to a designated growth area: The road is not near a designated growth area.
- Vulnerability to extreme storm events: The road is nearly level and seems not terribly vulnerable to extreme storm events.

Motion: I move to accept Captain Kidd Road into the East Montpelier Highway System as a Class 3 road contingent on the road owner providing the necessary road survey and transferring clear and satisfactory title to the Town within 60 days. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Ms. Swasey

Mr. Etnier noted that he had previously voted against accepting a new road, when there was no policy in place to govern their acceptance. He recognized that Captain Kidd Road was built before the new policy was adopted. Now that the town has a policy stating that it does not encourage additional town roads, he is willing to accept this road as a grandfathered road.

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mr. Etnier; seconded by Ms. Swasey. Passed 5-0. Hearing adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Regular SB Meeting

SB Members Present: Seth Gardner (Chair), Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey

Others Present: Bruce Johnson (Town Administrator), Kristi Flynn (Recording Secretary), David Armstrong, Tawnya Kristen, Don Welch, Celina Moore, Lindy Biggs, Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Peter Bauer, Steve Justis, Michael Taub, Erik Esselstyn

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Additions to the Agenda: Develop questions regarding website content; Pete Colman's liquor license

Public Comment: None

Discussion on US Route 2 Commuter Bus 2014 Town Meeting Article

David Armstrong and Tawnya Kristen from GMTA gave presentation to the SB.

- Successful route in the 4th year
- Work collaboratively with Rural Community Transportation in North East Kingdom
- Mainly travel from St. Johnsbury to Montpelier, with connectivity to Waterbury, Northfield, Burlington
- Improvements – larger buses that fit 28 passengers and a mid-day service with an average of 4.6 passengers per day
- FY2013 ridership – 22,791 total (19% increase); 89.73 boardings per day
- RCT is fare-free; GMTA charges \$2
- GMTA is requesting a 20% match of \$8,333, level funded from last year
- For questions, e-mail info@gmtaride.org
- SB requested the number of boardings in East Montpelier; even if there are not a lot of boardings, the bus removes cars that come through East Montpelier

Discussion on Possible 2014 Town Meeting Article on State Bank

A presentation by Erik Esselstyn regarding an advisory article on creating a Vermont State Bank. A state bank is owned and run by people in VT and the money stays in VT. What difference would it make in EM? Comments from the public included:

- Available funding for highway projects
- New jobs, funds for a town sewer
- Lower interest rates
- Fractional reserve banking – for every \$100, the bank must keep \$10, can loan \$90

Cons

- Do we want the state to run a bank? The state already loans money (ie VSAC) but has to borrow commercially
- Will there be enough capitalization? The unrestricted reserves of VSAC, etc are more than enough
North Dakota is the only state that currently has a state bank; 24 other states have current initiatives, with profound resistance by private banks. The state bank is only for public money, individuals cannot get an account at the state bank.

Pros

- Local banks could borrow money from the state bank; loan loss reserves for bad loans
- Student/housing lending programs

Presentation of Charter Committee Report and Discussion on Potential Next Steps of Charter Development Process

The SB reviewed and accepted the draft charter and will schedule public hearings. The first hearing will be scheduled for January 13, 2014 at the ESF and the 2nd hearing could be the Town Forum. The SB agrees to put forth the current draft at the hearing. The SB would like to see the draft charter included in the Town's Annual Report. The Conflict of Interest Policy needs to go before the voters as an ordinance for binding authority. It is a good balance with the charter because it reins in SB power while the charter expands SB power. Mr. Etnier will send a draft policy to VLCT for review.

Consideration of Grant of Revolving Loan Funds to Benefit the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative

The SB is comfortable with making a \$20,000 grant with a loan kicker; the town will hold the money and the grant goes to a loan once the project is fully funded. The agreement will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Consideration of 2014 CAI Tax Map Maintenance Contract

The contract is \$1830 for the period 4/1/13-3/31/14.

Motion: I move to approve the contract with CAI Technologies. Made: Mr. Northrup, second: Ms. Swasey

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Preliminary Discussion on FY2015 Budget Development

The SB expressed some concerns with the upcoming EMFD budget presentation on 12/5. The SB should have received some material in advance in keeping with the contract, but so far has not received anything. The SB expects the EMFD to justify any increases.

Liquor License for Peter Colman

Peter Colman is not eligible for a state liquor license for his business, therefore the town will refund his license fee.

Motion: I move to authorize the refund of \$70 license fee paid by Peter Colman. Made: Ms. Swasey, second: Mr. Etnier

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Website Policy Questions

The TA will set up live website on the projector at the hearing on 12/8.

- Include annual report
- Contact information – shall town put all elected officials' info on website
- Minutes/members of all boards/committees
- Scanned versus searchable version of documents

Warrants

Signed

Review of Minutes

November 18, 2013

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Etnier, second: Mr. Northrup

Vote on Motion: Passed 5-0

Other Business

Town Administrator (TA) Report

- VLCT Pacif renewal – increase of another \$6,000 due to big claim in 2011; standard deduction is now \$1000 not \$500; can get \$500 deductible for 1.4% more; SB decided to leave at \$1,000
- Health Insurance – VT Health Connect will not be ready by 1/1/14; BCBS plan extended three months
- Upcoming schedule –
 - 12/3 – Dinner invitation to EMFD holiday supper, 5:30pm at ESF
 - 12/5 – Joint EM, Calais and EMFD meeting re: EMFD FY15 budget, 7pm at ESF
 - 12/8 – Town Party, 4:00-7:00 at ESF
 - 12/9 – Joint EM & Calais SB meeting re: EMFD FY15 budget, 7:45pm at Calais Town Office
 - 12/16 – Regular SB meeting at 6:30pm at town office

Zoning Administrator Report

- Town has received the Municipal Planning Grant to look at possible fluvial erosion regulations.

Motion to adjourn. Made by Mr. Sparrow; seconded by Ms. Swasey. Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary