

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (11/19/18) MINUTES
November 5, 2018 at the Town Office**

Selectboard (SB) members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner, Gene Troia, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator, collector of delinquent taxes).

Others present: Central Vermont Internet, Bob Klein (East Montpelier representative), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier alternate), Rebecca Schrader (treasurer and clerk); Washington Electric Co-op, Bill Powell; Julie Potter.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

Consideration of Resolution for Section 125 Premium Only Plan Document

Consideration of Access Permit Application 18-048

VLCT Report

Traffic Consideration

Review of Minutes

Motion: I move to approve the October 15, 2018 minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

Public comment

None

B. CENTRAL VERMONT INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT UPDATE

Bob Klein reported on the initiative to bring fiber internet to central Vermont towns via the communications union district (CUD) that town meeting voters authorized the town to join this year. Mr. Klein is the town's representative to the district, which has rechristened itself Central Vermont Fiber (CVF).

Mr. Klein passed out the organization's first annual report, dated October 9, 2018. He said they are going through early organizational phase activities of setting up committees, researching availability of technical expertise, etc. They have developed a budget for next year for a few hundred thousand dollars. They are talking about an affiliated 501(c)3 organization to take private donations.

As a reminder of the kind of service Central Vermont Fiber is hoping to offer, Mr. Klein mentioned the base internet plan for ECFiber, a neighboring CUD that has been around considerably longer: \$66/month for 17MB/sec upload and download speed.

Clerk and treasurer Rebecca Schrader reported the organization has a bank account and is waiting for PO Box. They have seeded the account with a couple donations totaling some hundreds of dollars.

Mr. Etnier asked about the presence of a competitor on the board; Michael Birnbaum is Plainfield's representative and owns Cloud Alliance. Mr. Klein and Ms. Schrader said the board had discussed times at which Mr. Birnbaum would need to recuse himself, and that he has been very helpful.

Bill Powell of Washington Electric Co-op (WEC) said WEC is ready to help and wants to set up a board-level conversation with CFV representatives.

C. MEETING WITH BRUCE WESTCOTT, GENERAL MANAGER OF CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (CVSWMD)

Mr. Westcott gave an overview of the district's operations and plans for FY2020.

He said China has caused great turmoil in US recycling markets, by suddenly refusing to take in large amounts of materials for recycling that they had previously accepted. This is leading to a significant investment in domestic recycling. For CVSWMD, in the near term, it means their costs are going up at the same time the amount of trash they are receiving is going down.

District recycling is now taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD). Mr. Westcott said the MRF is obsolete, and the CSWD board will be considering new investment in modern technology to improve quality. He views his job as putting CVSWMD member towns in relation to CSWD, to have a voice. CSWD is not looking for money from our district, but they are interested in a commitment of a volume of recyclables from this area.

He discussed the move from multiple streams of recyclables to the current single stream, which creates less clean and therefore less valuable streams of materials, plus more work in separating them. They are examining ways to create cleaner versions of six statewide materials streams, including cans, non-returnable glass bottles, cardboard, office paper, and plastic.

Mr. Westcott also told of a visit to Brattleboro, where they have the highest rate in the state of material diversion from landfills. One thing they do differently there is collect compostables, accepting a much greater variety of organic matter than CVSWMD-region composters take.

D. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL TOWN GARAGE PROPERTY PROJECTS AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP THE PROJECTS

The Capital Improvement Committee has placed a potential project on the town garage property at the top of the priority projects the Select Board identified. Other reasons for addressing projects there now are that 1) next year is expected to be the last where sand sheds are a targeted project type under the VTrans transportation enhancement grant program, and 2) the town garage has a dearth of cold and heated covered storage options.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Troia offered to convene a committee, recruiting more members.

Motion: I move to create to create a Town Garage Property Committee of up to five, and to appoint Gene Troia, Seth Gardner, and Guthrie Perry to the committee. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

E. DISCUSSION ON CEMETERY “COMMISSION” v. CEMETERY “COMMITTEE”

Preliminary discussion on the concept: the board needs to determine if it wants to move forward with an effort to shift care of the town cemeteries from a cemetery commission model to a cemetery committee model, where committee members would be appointed by the Selectboard. If so, a vote will be required at town meeting; this does not need to be a charter change. Cemetery Commission members sound positive to the shift.

The board will discuss the idea further with members of the Cemetery Commission, along with the issue of Poplar Cemetery, at a December meeting.

F. CONSIDERATION OF NEMRC ANNUAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT

It is time to renew the annual maintenance and support agreement for the suite of NEMRC database modules that are crucial to town administration. Last year the cost was \$1,376.96; this year it will be \$1,418.26, which is NEMRC's standard 3.0% increase.

Motion: I move to authorize the expenditure of \$1,418.26 to continue the NEMRC annual support agreement. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

G. EAST MONTPELIER GULLY JUMPERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB REQUEST FOR DESIGNATED TOWN ROAD USAGE FOR TRAIL CROSSINGS

The snowmobile club has written with its annual request for use of town roads to allow non-direct road crossings

in limited circumstances.

Motion: I move to grant the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers use of town roads for road crossings as requested. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

H. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING HOLIDAY AND MEETING SCHEDULES

Holidays

The town office staff would prefer to stay open on Veterans Day (as always, the first tax installment deadline is just days away); the town road crew will take the day off (hunting season).

This year Christmas and New Year's Eves are on Mondays; the board will allow the town office to be closed, with both days as paid holidays.

Meeting Schedule

December is a busy month, with expected meeting dates on the 3rd, 6th, 10th, and 17th.

The annual town volunteer appreciation party date was set for December 14.

The January schedule is now to have the regular meetings on the 7th & 21st, with the 28th as a backup, the last opportunity to change the town meeting warning.

I. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Consideration of Debt Cancellation of Town Overpayment to Clayton

Mr. Johnson reported the town has been in the process of collecting overpaid credits from FY18. Of the 6 overpayments, 3 are fully paid, one is in repayment, and two remain unpaid.

We've been informed that the Sandy Pines mobile home owned by one of those two is going through the equivalent of foreclosure and the owner no longer lives at that location. We do not know where the person has gone, and the amount owed by that person is \$8.82. Town Treasurer Don Welch is requesting that the board agree to waive that repayment obligation

Motion: I move to waive the tax credit repayment obligation of \$8.82 for Kylee Clayton. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

Consideration of Tax Sales

Of the six properties authorized by the board to go to tax sale, 3 have paid the delinquencies, 1 is under a repayment agreement, the Estate of Laundry delinquency has been abated, leaving just one parcel, which is currently for sale.

The board decided to move forward with that tax sale. After reviewing the delinquent tax list, the board determined there are no additional properties that should be included in any immediately upcoming tax sale.

J. REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS (VLCT)

Mr. Etnier reported on the fate of the items in the VLCT Municipal Agenda that the SB had concerns about. He did not raise an objection to moving all renewable energy projects to Act 250 jurisdiction, as that was an existing section and would best be discussed before an annual meeting.

He questioned the VLCT opposing using dollars from the Transportation Fund to pay for Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) projects, as many ANR projects are on roads. VLCT lobbyist Karen Horn explained that the thought behind this provision was that ANR mandates are made without sufficient additional funding for the Transportation Fund, and some towns are having difficulties funding traditional road work. The idea is to ask for earmarked funding to towns to pay for ANR projects, not draw down regular Transportation Fund resources.

With that explanation, he registered no objection.

And he asked about VLCT promoting redefining the term “waters of the state” to exclude “constructed waterworks, sources of public water supplies, reservoirs, settling ponds and any infrastructure related to water supplies.” This would remove significant legal protection from drinking water sources, which is a puzzling stance for the VLCT to take. Bill Fraser of Montpelier spoke for the committee adding that language, and he acknowledged it may have been poorly worded. However, he spoke for keeping it in the municipal agenda, and Mr. Etnier's motion to remove it was voted down.

K. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION FOR SECTION 125 PREMIUM ONLY PLAN DOCUMENT

As part of the shift to the BRS BCBSVT health plan with a health reimbursement account component, the town needed to submit its Section 125 plan (to allow premium deductions to be made pre-tax) to the HRA management firm. The town has never had a formal version, so a plan was crafted with the assistance of VLCT and Hickok & Boardman (the broker for VLCT's policies).

Motion: I move to adopt the Section 125 Premium Only Plan Resolution and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

L. CONSIDERATION OF ACCESS PERMIT APPLICATION 18-048

Joy Partridge & Jamie Huntsman, 230 Fitch Road, are requesting a shift in location of their main curb cut serving their old farmhouse. There is a second curb cut on the parcel serving the barn. Road Foreman Guthrie Perry requested this change to allow for improved road drainage through this area, and the land owners are supportive. The existing access will no longer serve the house, but will remain in existence as a minimal use forestry road entrance.

Motion: I move to approve access permit 18-048. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

M. TRAFFIC CONSIDERATION

Ms. Willis said she was approached by the town's state representative, Kimberly Jessup, by a towns person concerned about speeding near the intersection of Quaker Hill and Cherry Tree Hill Road.

Mr. Troia said a stop sign was once installed at the corner, and it didn't reduce speeding. Vermont State Police already lies in wait for speeders there. He said the most speeding comes from U-32 students and from parents going between schools, at times of school opening and closing.

The board directed Mr. Johnson to tell the state police that we'd like increased speed checks at the intersection on weekdays around 8 am and 3-4 pm.

Since the SB was on the subject of traffic, Mr. Etnier reported he had earlier in the day come across a tractor trailer blocking the County Road intersection with Cummings; it had apparently tried to get onto Cummings from County Road and failed to make the turn, or regretted the turn and tried to turn back onto County via the tight triangle. It seemed pretty wedged in; he called road foreman Guthrie Perry to alert him to the situation and later saw Mr. Perry driving in that direction.

N. WARRANTS

Signed.

O. OTHER BUSINESS

Plans to Deal with the Effects of the Emerald Ash Borer

Workshop on preparedness and management scheduled for November 28th, 4-6 p.m.

Grants are available to municipalities for the development of plans to deal with the issues.

East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) Concern with Mailing Address v. 911 Address Issue

EMFD would like the town to mail notice to all town residents who have Montpelier or Plainfield mailing addresses to remind them that they must state that they *live* in East Montpelier when providing a street address to emergency dispatchers/responders. Rather than do a mailing, TA Johnson will post information on Front Porch Forum.

Vermont Compost Company Act 250 Proceedings

Barb and Steve LaRosa have submitted a motion to alter a recent permit amendment authorizing the erection of two large pop-up shelters on the Montpelier property; the town is a party to the proceeding and can participate in this matter if so desired. The SB did not desire to participate.

Meeting Schedule

November 6	7am – 7pm	General election at EMES
November 19	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
December 3	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting
December 6	7:00 pm	Joint Calais/EM/EMFD budget meeting at the village fire station
December 10	7:00 pm	Tentative joint Calais/EM meeting on EMFD budget at Calais

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: I move to adjourn. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.