

**East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting APPROVED (11/04/19) MINUTES
October 21, 2019 at the Town Office**

Selectboard (SB) members present: Carl Etnier (recording secretary), Seth Gardner (arrived at 6:40, the end of agenda item A), Gene Troia, Amy Willis; Bruce Johnson (town and zoning administrator).

Others present: Kelley Avery (Vermont League of Cities and Towns, VLCT); Stephen Mills (Times Argus); Rosie Laquerre, Don Welch (town clerk and town treasurer, respectively).

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Gene Troia called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

None

Review of Minutes

Motion: I move to approve the minutes of October 7, 2019 as amended. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Mr. Etnier. 3-0

Public comment

None.

B. CONVERSATION WITH CANDIDATES FOR SELECTBOARD VACANCY

The only known candidate was scheduled to appear but did not do so. No action taken.

C. DISCUSSION ON 2020 EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS

Kelley Avery of VLCT presented cost calculations on various health benefit options for town employees in 2020.

The town is currently operating under a Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) association health plan through BRS (Business Registry Services), with a health reimbursement account providing up to \$5,500/employee. The plan premium is split 85% town, 15% employee. This plan will not be available in 2020.

Seven employees qualify for the town's health benefit. Five currently partake; one is currently under contract with a significant incentive to not use the benefit; and one has for years accepted the town's \$1,600/year stipend in lieu of health benefit option. Both the last two could choose to take the town's insurance offering during the upcoming open choice period (and, in theory, any of the first 5 could choose not to take the insurance).

In the course of discussions, it was represented that many nearby towns pay 90% or 100% of the cost of their employee health plan premiums.

In previous years, the SB was wary of offering MVP coverage, as the MVP network was limited primarily to Vermont and New Hampshire. Ms. Avery said MVP has now partnered with Cigna and offers nationwide coverage. She said a number of towns have been using MVPs coverage and they seem to be satisfied with it.

The SB looked primarily at BCBS and MVP Gold and Platinum options. The MVP options cost less than the comparable BCBS plans, for essentially the same coverage. While the SB believes both the town and employees would benefit if all employees taking the towns health benefit chose the MVP plan, it decided to leave the choice to the employees. A motion was crafted to keep the total out-of-pocket cost to employees close to what it is currently.

Motion: I move to fund the employee health benefit at 90% of the premium cost of the BCBS Platinum plan and let employees chose between MVP or BCBS Gold or Platinum plans. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 4-0.

D. CONVERSATION WITH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ON FY2021 CAPITAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Treasurer Don Welch and Mr. Troia presented the capital plan, with some adjustments from the existing plan. They proposed adding \$10,000 annually to the opportunity fund, which would give the town more flexibility in providing the local match for grants. Also, acquisition of a hydroseeder and trailer resulted in adding \$1,400 annually to the vehicle fund, for a total increase of 2.3%.

While no action was taken, the SB raised no objections to the changes; the capital plan will be considered with the overall budget at the SBs December 16 meeting.

E. DISCUSSION ON STIPEND ALLOCATION FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

The stipend allotment for each position is set and will be paid out as part of the November 14 payroll. At issue is the split between those who served from March 2019 until resignation and those who serve from mid-term appointment until March 2020. This has been an unusual year with 5 such positions: animal control officer (ACO), assistant ACO, constable, a planning commission seat, and a selectboard seat.

Mr. Johnson distributed a proposal for allocating the stipends on a pro rata basis, based on months served in each position.

Motion: I move to allot the stipends for split positions as proposed. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Ms. Willis. 3-0-1, with Mr. Etnier (who serves as ACO) recusing himself.

F. CONSIDERATION OF ESF BOND FUND USE FOR FLOORING IMPROVEMENTS IN TWO BAYS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY (ESF)

The East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) is requesting funding to put in permanent protective flooring in the two large truck bays at the ESF. The flooring is to protect the floors from winter chain damage, as task for which EMFD has used roll-out rubber strips that don't stay in place. EMFD will handle the installation. The cost of the flooring is \$3,077.25 and would come out of the ESF remainder bond fund; the bond fund sits at approximately \$16,800.

Motion: I move to allocate up to \$3,100 from the ESF remainder bond fund for permanent protective flooring in two bays at the ESF. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second. Mr. Troia. 4-0.

G. CONSIDERATION OF CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT CROSS VERMONT TRAIL ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR \$5,000 FROM CONSERVATION FUND FOR EASEMENT PURCHASE AS PART OF FAIRMONT DAIRY CONSERVATION PROJECT

This trails easement is on the main Lylehaven Farm property, now owned by Fairmont Dairy, and is designed to bring the Cross Vermont Trail up from the town-owned Benton property on US Rte. 2 and bring it within range of VT Rte. 14 S as it makes its way toward Plainfield.

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has approved the requested grants for both the development rights purchase by the Vermont Land Trust and the trails easement; the \$5,000 from our conservation fund will complete the fundraising element of the trails easement purchase.

Motion: I move to accept the recommendation from the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee to grant \$5,000 from the fund to the Cross Vermont Trail Association to assist in the purchase of a trails easement on the main Lylehaven Farm property. Made: Ms. Willis. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.

H. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CVSWMD'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is submitting a proposal for the

construction of a permanent household hazardous waste facility in our region under the Department of Environmental Conservation's 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Facility Grants program. There would then be a year-round facility available to the community rather than relying on a few collection events scattered throughout central Vermont. CVSWMD has requested a letter of support for its proposal, and Mr. Johnson has drafted such a letter.

Motion: I move to authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for CVSWMDs grant application to construct a permanent household hazardous waste facility. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia 4-0.

I. CONSIDERATION OF rbTECHNOLOGIES AGREEMENT FOR COMPUTER NETWORK BACKUP SERVICES

As part of the computer system upgrade project, the town has added a monitored off-site backup service through its IT provider, rbTechnologies, using a licensed Veeam Cloud Data Management portal. The cost of the service is per GB of data storage, with a current estimate of around \$100/month. This agreement will operate as an addition to our existing Perception IT services contract with rbTech, which has a base cost generally of \$265/month.

Motion: I move to authorize the town administrator to complete the data backup service agreement with rbTechnologies. Made: Mr. Troia. Second: Mr. Etnier. 4-0.

J. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CVFIBER'S BROADBAND INNOVATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

CVFiber is applying for the first round of the state's new Broadband Innovation Program grant funding for feasibility studies and plan development. The entity is requesting that each member municipality submit a letter of support for the application. Mr. Johnson has drafted such a letter.

Motion: I move to authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for CVFibers Broadband Innovation Program grant application. Made: Mr. Etnier. Second: Mr. Troia. 4-0.

K. APPOINTMENTS

In the absence of any candidate for the open SB seat appearing at this meeting, the seat will be left open for the time being.

L. WARRANTS

Signed.

M. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Report

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's FY2021 budget public hearing will be held Wednesday, October 23, at 5 p.m. at the CVSWMD conference room at the ARCC facility, 540 North Main Street in Barre (the back part of the old Times Argus building, now with Dollar General roadside). The preliminary budget calls for a continuation of the \$1/capita dues assessment for towns. Interim General Manager Cathleen Gent will meet with the SB at its November 4 meeting.

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation's 42nd annual meeting is Thursday, October 24th, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza.

Murray Hill Water System has provided the town with its latest source protection plan. The water system customers are in Montpelier, but part of the source protection area is in East Montpelier.

Meeting Schedule

October 25, 2019	All day	State Government Municipal Day event
November 4, 2019	6:30 p.m.	Selectboard regular meeting

November 5, 2019 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Special school district vote at EMES
November 18, 2019 6:30 p.m. Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

1 new application since October 7th SB meeting; 60 applications so far in 2019.

The next DRB meeting is November 5, 2019; the meeting will include the biennial compliance review of the Casella transfer station permit and a hearing for a two-lot subdivision of the Clemons 435 Guyette Road parcel.

K. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.