

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

March 2, 2020 Selectboard Meeting

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Gene Troia, Amy Willis and Casey Northrup; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Jeff Cueto and Paul Cate (Resilient Roads Committee); Jon Jewett

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Cemetery Committee Request to Purchase a Zero-Turn Mower**
- **Consideration of EM Village Sidewalk Project Contract for Construction Inspection Services**

Minutes:

Chair Gardner presented the draft minutes of the February 17, 2020 board meeting.

Motion: To approve the February 17, 2020 minutes as presented. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Update from Resilient Roads Committee Regarding Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Tree Management Plan

Resilient Roads Committee Chair Cueto and committee member & Town Tree Warden Cate provided an update on the committee's ash tree management activities to deal with the anticipated devastation of ash trees by the emerald ash borer. Mr. Cueto detailed the upcoming pilot project to proactively remove ash trees on U-32 grounds and along Gallison Hill, Wheeler, and Schoolhouse Roads. Some priority ash trees will be treated with a protective insecticide, at a cost of around \$200-300 per tree. A few trees of various species will be planted on the U-32 grounds to replace the ash trees. Mr. Cate gave a fascinating explanation of the spread and devastating effects of the Emerald Ash Borer.

At 2020 Town Meeting the committee will be providing general information on the EAB threat and the pilot project as well as targeted ash tree management information for property owners.

Consideration of VT Forests, Parks & Recreation Emerald Ash Borer Program Grant

The town has received a \$15,000 Emerald Ash Borer Management Grant from the VT Forests, Parks and Recreation Department to fund the Resilient Roads Committee's ash tree management pilot project. There is a \$15,000 town match, which is expected to be met through a combination of \$5,000 in town funds and \$10,000 of in-kind volunteer and town employee labor.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to complete the paperwork necessary to accept the \$15,000 Emerald Ash Borer Management Grant. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending for 2019 Grand List

The town has no outstanding appeals of 2019 grand list assessments. The town listers, who have already signed the certificate, and board members certify this fact in accordance with 32 V.S.A. §4155. The town clerk subsequently attests to the certification, which then prevents challenges to the validity of the grand list in any court action.

Motion: To certify that there are no appeals or suits pending relating to the 2019 Grand List. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Board members signed the certificate.

Consideration of Liquor License Applications

- **Annual License Renewals: Dudley's Store & Plainfield Hardware**
 - Both stores are requesting renewal of their second-class licenses to sell liquor.
 - **Motion: To approve the liquor license renewals for Dudley's Store and Plainfield Hardware.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.
 - Board members signed the license renewal forms.

Work Session for 2020 Town Meeting

Board members saw no reason to alter the board's presentation methodology in light of the rather limited feedback it received at the town forum held on February 29th. A bar graph to augment the discussion on the ambulance service costs will be available for projection on the EMES gym's screen. If the question arises again at town meeting, the average US2 Commuter ridership originating in East Montpelier is between 2 & 2.5 riders/day for the RCT and GMT services combined.

Cemetery Committee Request to Purchase a Zero-Turn Mower

On January 20, 2020 the Selectboard authorized the expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the capital reserve fund for the purchase of a zero-turn mower and compatible trailer for cemetery maintenance. Sexton Elliott Morse has presented a quote for a Scag Tiger Cat II mower at a price of \$7,750 from Tucker Machine Co. in Barre. The expectation is that Sexton Morse will arrange the purchase of a steel trailer from Tractor Supply.

Motion: To authorize the purchase of the Scag Tiger Cat II mower from Tucker Machine Co. at the quoted price of \$7,750 utilizing the capital reserve fund. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of EM Village Sidewalk Project Contract for Construction Inspection Services

Using the VTrans at-the-ready process, Stantec has provided a solid construction inspection services proposal for the EM Village sidewalk project at a below-estimated cost (\$44,414 compared to an estimated \$56,500). The selection committee is comfortable with the Stantec offering and would like to extend a contract offer.

Motion: To authorize TA Johnson to tender a contract in the amount of \$44,414 to Stantec for construction inspection services on the EM Village sidewalk project. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

Board members signed the warrant.

Other Business**Town Administrator Report**

- CVRPC is requesting that the town adopt a resolution in support of the May 2-8 Community Transit Week 2020. The board will take this up at its next meeting.
- There is a meeting on March 25, 2020 to discuss the recent request for proposals for a Clean Water Service Provider for the Winooski Basin as part of the state's efforts to meet its clean water goals. This would be an opportunity for the town to potentially stake a claim for a seat on the Basin Council that will advise the selected provider. Mr. Jewett, who will be a Selectboard member by that time, has interest in attending.
- The proposed sale of the town-owned Old LaPerle Farm property to Marc Fontaine is moving forward. The necessary boundary adjustment to remove the farmhouse site from the remainder to be sold to Mr. Fontaine is nearing completion. Mr. Fontaine has signaled the town that he intends to make this a cash purchase with no town financing.
- Meeting Schedule:
 - March 3, 2020 9:30 am Town Meeting at EMES
 - March 16, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
 - March 30, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard "special" meeting
 - April 9, 2020 7:00 pm EMFD budget review & update at ESF
 - April 13, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard "special" meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- There have been 3 new applications since the February 17th SB meeting. These are the first zoning permit applications in 2020.
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020. One warned hearing on a side setback waiver request for a proposed house addition at 1283 North Street.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: March 16, 2020 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting