

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

DRAFT

October 26, 2020 Selectboard Meeting

This meeting was conducted remotely using the Zoom conferencing platform. Participation options were provided to the public.

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Jon Jewett, Judith Dillon, Carl Etnier and Amy Willis; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Road Foreman Guthrie Perry, Rob Chickering, Rachael Grossman, Doug Kievit-Kylar (by phone)

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

Public Comment: None

Consideration of Sidewalk Snowblower/Tractor Purchase

Chair Gardner and Road Foreman Perry have researched town equipment options for the plowing/salting of the EM Village sidewalk network with the concept that the town would purchase a piece of equipment and utilize a part-time employee to do the plowing. The equipment and salt would be housed at the town-owned 2812 US Rte. 2 property in a concrete block enclosure with a pop-up shelter roof over a paved pad.

The town has received equipment quotes from three local companies:

- Champlain Valley Equipment (Kubota dealer on US Rte. 2 in Berlin)
 - Kubota BX2380 with 55" snowblower, 60" sweeper, spreader and cab for \$29,600
 - Kubota BX2380 with 55" snowblower, spreader and cab for \$24,350
 - Ventrac 3400 with 42" snowblower, 54" sweeper, spreader and cab for \$35,200
 - Used (2018; 50 hours) Kubota BX2380 with 50" snowblower, loader, mower & deluxe cab; add 60" sweeper and drop spreader; total \$29,400
- John Deere (Harvest Equipment, Country Club Road in Montpelier)
 - John Deere 1025R with 54" snowblower and spreader for \$26,400
- Pete's Equipment (Morrisville)
 - Kioti 2510 with 54" snowblower, cab and drop spreader for \$28,969

No contractor has shown much interest in handling the job despite the town offering a sizeable baseline guarantee. Chair Gardner and Road Foreman Perry expressed the sentiment that it was time to move away from the contractor option. Chair Gardner compared the potential annual cost of a contractor providing the service, upwards of \$15,000 to \$20,000, to the probable annualized expense (using a 5-year equipment life span) of the town purchasing a snowblower and utilizing a part-time hourly employee, which he estimated at well under \$10,000. Both Chair Gardner and Road Foreman Perry recommended the purchase of the Kubota BX2380 as outfitted for \$29,600.

Motion: To authorize the purchase of the \$29,600 Kubota BX2380 tractor with snowblower from Champlain Valley Equipment utilizing the capital reserve fund. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Little Lending Library Proposed to be Located at 100 Brazier Road in Road Right-of-Way

Mr. Kievit-Kylar and Ms. Grossman requested permission to install a Little Lending Library cabinet structure next to the mailbox structure at 100 Brazier Road (Ms. Grossman's property). The location is in the road right-of-way. Road Foreman Perry wanted it understood that the structure would face the normal winter hazards of forcefully plowed snow/ice/slush and the potential for direct plow damage. The town is not responsible for any damage. Board members recommended that any "glass" element be constructed with a polycarbonate or acrylic material.

Motion: To allow the installation of a Little Lending Library structure off the road but within the road right-of-way at 100 Brazier Road. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Warrants

- **October 26, 2020 Regular Warrant for Approval**
 - Board members reviewed the warrant. Following a protocol developed at the board's April 13th meeting to deal with the difficulties inherent in individually signing a warrant during a remote meeting, board members decided to approve the warrant by motion and have Chair Gardner sign the warrant as certification of the board approval.
 - **Motion: To approve the October 26, 2020 expense warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the warrant on behalf of the board.** Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

Other Business**Town Administrator Report**

- Update on Town Website Upgrade:
 - The renewed/reinvigorated website is fully operational after a few glitches upon release last Wednesday. The new green color for links received positive feedback, so that change will remain.
- Meeting Schedule:

○ November 2, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ November 16, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ December 3, 2020	7:00 pm	EMFD FY2022 budget presentation
○ December 7, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ December 21, 2020	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Etnier; second by Ms. Dillon. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator