

## Draft Minutes of the East Montpelier Capital Improvement Committee

October 24, 2023

Members Present: Ed Deegan, Kim Watson, Don Welch, Scott Hess, Michele Pallas, Jon Jewett

Call to Order: 4:05 PM

Changes to Agenda: none

Public Comment: none

### **Review Minutes of September 26, 2023**

Motion: I move to approve the minutes from September 26, 2023 as amended. Made: Scott Hess. Second: Jon Jewett. Vote on motion: passed unanimously.

### **Ongoing discussion of budget priorities and budget plan makeup**

We discussed updates and upgrades to the CIC budget document for the upcoming FY2024-25. As requested at the last hearing, Michele added to the budget: \$3000 (upgrades) and \$1000 (IT and servers) for the Municipal Building and \$3000 for the Town Garage upgrades.

- No additional items were requested after outreach to all boards.
- The CIC members had a discussion on the importance of increasing the budget annually by 1-2% to cover inflation in expenses. The members were reminded that this is a bank of money for the future and all costs are estimates which can be adjusted only if needed or the funding is significantly short. Remember that it is not a graph of actual expenses but an estimate.
- The plan is not to look at a project like the Town Garage to be completely paid for by this fund. Paying for a large project comes about in three ways: pay in advance, pay as you go or take out a loan. The town cannot expect the people paying taxes today to cover all the expenses for the future. A level tax base with only minimal increases is important to all folks, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.
- It was agreed that a 2% increase will be proposed for FY24-25 CIC Budget and be presented to the Selectboard for a vote.

Motion: I move to approve the 2% increase to the CIC FY24-25 budget (\$10,000) as discussed. Made: Ed Deegan, Second: Jon Jewett. Vote on motion: passed unanimously.

Next steps, scheduling a public hearing on November 14, 2023 @ 4PM with a CIC meeting scheduled immediately after.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Scott Hess. Second: Don Welch. Vote on motion: passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:51PM

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2023 4PM

Submitted: Kim Watson      Approved: