

## **Minutes for the East Montpelier Selectboard**

### **February 12, 2024 Selectboard Meeting**

This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal building with a remote participation option using the Zoom conference platform.

**SB Attendance:** Chair Seth Gardner, Carl Etnier, Zoe Christiansen, Nikhil Khosla  
Town Administrator (“TA”) Gina Jenkins

#### **Remote SB Attendance:**

**In-Person Public Attendance:** Zach Zorn, Orca Media. Rosie Laquerre, Jon Boucher, Cemetery Committee,

**Remote Public Attendance:** Sarah Kinter, Tom Curchin, Rachael Grossman, Patty Giavara, Jennifer Zollner

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda

**Minutes:** There were no minutes to review, and therefore no motion was made.

**Public Comment** Steven Miracle spoke about his concerns with the cost of the garage project, proposed heating and solar panel design. Chair Gardner clarified that design is still in process, it’s not yet at the level of detail where the design goes to the public.

#### **Discussion on Green Burials**

Jon Boucher of the Cemetery Committee was present to discuss the possibility of having Green Burials in East Montpelier. The two challenges presented were winter burials, and changing the rulebook regarding burial depth. Both challenges were deemed easily fixable, as many other towns have already moved forward with these changes. Mr. Boucher will bring this issue to the Cemetery Committee meeting in April and it is expected that these changes will be made. There were no motions made.

#### **Consideration of Quotes to Digitize Recorded Land Surveys**

Clerk Laquerre presented on the three quotes for digitizing the Recorded Land Surveys, and recommended Avenue out of the three, as they have been excellent to work with thus far with exceptional customer service, and they offer end to end service with the digitization process. Mr. Khosla asked if the Avenue files would be formatted in a proprietary manner as to preclude use in other systems should Avenue close. Clerk Laquerre said no, they were not exclusive files. Chair Gardner asked about the funding for the project, TA Jenkins said ARPA funds. Mr. Hess asked if there were any

future maintenance fees attached for the project, and Clerk Laquerre clarified that there was already an existing maintenance fee that would not change.

**Motion: To appropriate the funds for Avenue, the 14,550 dollars, for this project.** Made by Mr. Hess, second by Mr. Etnier. Passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of Liquor and Tobacco License**

Discussion:

**Motion:** To authorize the Town Clerk to approve the second-class Liquor License for Plainfield Hardware Store. Made by Mr. Etnier, Second by Mr. Khosla. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Etnier stated that he did not want to make the motion to pass the tobacco license because of the harm smoking causes, but he understands how local businesses rely on the income from such sales. Therefore, he requested that someone else make the motion to approve the Tobacco License.

**Motion:** To authorize the Town Clerk to approve the second-class Tobacco license for Plainfield Hardware Store. Made by Mr. Hess, second by Ms. Christiansen. Passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities 2022 Grant Application**

**Motion:** To authorize TA Jenkins to sign the Application for the Building Resilient Infrastructure Grant. Made by Ms. Christiansen, second by Mr. Khosla.

### **Consideration of CAI Technologies Tax Map Maintenance Contract For 2024-2025**

**Motion:** To authorize TA Jenkins to sign the agreement of the renewal between the town of East Montpelier and CAI Technologies between April 23 2024 and March 31 2025. Made by Ms. Christiansen, second by Mr. Khosla. Passed unanimously.

### **Discussion on Town Open Positions** Emergency Management Coordinator CVRPC Town Representative Other Positions, Committees

TA Jenkins said that the Emergency Management Coordinator was of utmost concern, as an Emergency Management Plan needs updating.

### **Consideration of Name Change for Emergency Planning Committee to Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Patty Giavarra, via remote Zoom connection, advocated for the name change of the Emergency Planning Committee to the Emergency Preparedness Committee on the basis they should not be confused with the Emergency Management Coordinator role. Also in remote attendance were Rachael Grossman and Jennifer Zollner.

**Motion:** To change the name of the Emergency Planning Committee to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Made by Ms. Christiansen, Second by Mr. Khosla. Passed unanimously

### **Update on EMFD Meeting Schedule**

The Calais Selectboard requested that the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) meeting schedule with the selectboards be the second Thursday in April, August, and December. The previously agreed schedule was the second Thursday in April and August, with the December meeting occurring on the first Thursday. Mr. Hess commented that it always conflicts with his Community Harvest board meeting but it was agreed upon by other members.

### **Update on Town Garage Project**

TA Jenkins delivered an update, she had met with Andy Shapiro, Foreman Guthrie, on January 25, and discussed consideration of shifting the building location to being closer to the road. Access to the building, more efficient yard for storing materials, easier for building construction.

### **Consideration of Washington Electric Cooperative Permit to Construct 7200 Volt Electric Service Line on Cummings Rd**

Access Permit □ 24-001: New Curb Cut on Hammett Hill Rd was approved via signature.

### **Warrants**

The February 12, 2024 Regular Expense Warrant was approved via signature of all the SB members.

### **Town Administrator Report**

TA Jenkins is working on updating all of the town's job descriptions.

### **Adjourn**

#### **Motion: To adjourn.**

Made by Mr. Hess, second by (inaudible). Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Christiansen.

Approved February 26, 2024 meeting.