

Town of East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2026

Present: Carl Etnier, Joe Brooks, Tom Brazier, Jen Devine,
Present via Zoom: Daniel Costin, Alan Goldman, Scott Hess, Sari Wolf

This meeting was called to order by Carl Etnier at 5:30PM.

Comments from the public:

None

Call to Order

Additions to the Agenda: Carl will be leading the Selectboard Meeting because the Selectboard Chair is out today and the Vice Chair is delayed.

There are two items, one item is an addition to the agenda, and one item is a subtraction to the agenda. The first item is to possibly Appoint members of the Grants Committee & the second item is that there is no Expense Warrant on the agenda due to employees being out of the office.

There will be a shuffling of the agenda items. The executive sessions will be at the end of the meeting instead of at the beginning. We will put the contracts at the end of the meeting including the custodial possibly, along with other topics at the end. And for the Municipal Planning Grant for the Master Plan for North Montpelier downtown we had 3 responses so far. We will give more time for the Selectboard to review since 2 proposals were received Friday and Monday. So the Selectboard will extend the deadline to give more time for reviewing of the proposals and more time for the vendors to apply. The new deadline will be April 16, 2026, which is Thursday of next week. And the Selectboard will table the Master Plan MPG RFP winning vendor decision until the next meeting, on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Review of Minutes:

For the March 23, 2026, SB Meeting Minutes, Carl made edits to the minutes and his edits were provided to the Selectboard via email and in the meeting printouts.

Motion: To adopt the minutes as amended for the March 23, 2026 Selectboard Meeting minutes. **Made:** Mr. Brazier. Second: Mr. Brooks.

Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously as amended.

The review of the Town Meeting Day minutes is tabled until a future meeting so Rosie Laquerre, the Town Clerk/Minutes Taker, can be here for that.

Discuss TAP Grant Awarded & Commitment Form

Daniel Costin provided an update and stated there are no changes since the Selectboard approved applying for this grant in October 2025. This grant is for the Sidewalk Extension will be a sidewalk project along Vermont Route 14, creating a safe pedestrian connection between the Upper and Lower Villages. This has been in the Town Plan for a long time and longstanding priority, and now there is a funding opportunity to make it happen. The first piece is scoping rights of way and planning piece, then there will be a second phase of funding to build the sidewalks. There will soon be a meeting with VTrans,

and then we will put out an RFP to hire an engineering firm to do the work. The Energy Committee supported the first application.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator to sign the Project Commitment Form (PCF) to continue the sidewalk project with no changes from previous Selectboard approval, with the \$11k match. **Made:** Mr. Brooks. Second: Mr. Brazier.

Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Wood Grant Application

Celina Barton provided an update on a Wood Grant Application she is working on and she stated she had ongoing meetings with Fontaine and key stakeholders. There were encouraging conversations around this idea of putting a resilient fuel supply in place for the town. This will keep the local dollars in our economy. It involves subsidies for residents who purchase a woodburning boiler, generating demand for local wood. Fontaine's has great deal of woodchips that could be provided for the community. This would increase the town's wood gasification systems and be a renewable energy source. This is a highly efficient way to heat and doesn't pollute and meets clean air standards. It will support a local short supply chain and will take off pressure on the grid peak hours. First, we need to identify who would be eligible for subsidized boilers. The boilers cost about \$40k-\$50k dollars. A lot of residents have already shown interest. The wood grant application will be ready for Selectboard to review next week on Thursday April 16th, prior to the April 20, 2026, Selectboard Meeting.

Discuss Highway Grant Application

Jennifer Devine filled out the application with the Road Foreman inputs and expertise and completed the application and will need to email the supporting documentation to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for grant application submittal. The earliest applications get prioritized over applications submitted past the deadline of April 15, 2026. The Selectboard advised including all of our road needs in the highway grant application even if it is a high dollar estimate.

Motion: To authorize Town Administrator to submit the highway grant application. **Made:** Mr. Brazier. Second: Mr. Brooks.

Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss F27 Annual Town Highways Financial Plan

Motion: To approve 2027 Town Highway Annual Financial Plan and Certificate of Compliance **Made:** Mr. Brooks. Second: Mr. Brazier.

Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Listers using the Electric Truck for their property visit appointments

Mr. Hess raised the question of whether the Listers are considered town employees as defined by the insurance company, because Listers are paid by the hour and are elected. So, Mr. Scott Hess asked the Town Administrator to clarify and verify what the insurance company considers the definition of "town employee" first.

Motion: Listers are authorized under same conditions as the Road Crew provided that the Town Administrator verify with insurance that the listers are considered town employees under the insurance definition. **Made:** Mr. Hess. Second: Mr. Brooks.
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrants- There is no Warrant this meeting due to employees being out of office.

Town Administrator Report

We are actively recruiting for the Municipal Coordinator role and have 20+ applications already. We are recruiting by posting and using the following websites: Indeed, Front Porch Forum, our Town Website, Linked in, Facebook, the Listserv email distributions and via VLCT classifieds.

And we are moving the Selectboard Meeting start time from 5:30pm to 6:30pm starting in May.

Motion: Move to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment, employment, or evaluation of a public officer or employee. **Made:** Mr. Brazier. Second: Mr. Brooks.
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: I move that the Selectboard finds that premature general public knowledge of the contracts to be discussed would clearly place the Town of East Montpelier or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. **Made:** Mr. Brazier. Second: Mr. Brooks.
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To enter executive session at 6:30pm. **Made:** Brazier second: Brooks.
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session started at 6:30pm

Motion: To come out of Executive Session at 6:46pm. **Made:** Brooks second: Brazier
Results 4-0 The motion passed unanimously.

The Selectboard came out of Executive Session at 6:46pm

Motion: To hire the low bidder EcoClean vendor of Middlesex for \$200 for first clean and \$100/week thereafter. **Made:** Mr. Brazier. Second: Mr. Hess.
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: to adjourn at 6:48pm **Made:** Hess, second: Brazier
Results: 4-0. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm