

# TOWN OF ELMORE

## AGENDA – Monthly Select Board Meeting

“Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile, I caught hell for.”

-- Earl Warren 1891-1974, Chief Justice US Supreme Court

**MEETING DATE:** 8 October 14 – 1830-2000hrs

**REVISION:** V2.1

**STATUS:** DRAFT

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### **A. SPECIAL TOPICS:** (Items requiring expanded discussion)

1. **Resolution for Sustainable Education Funding Reform in Vermont.**  
Resolution calls for 2 year Property Tax Cap as a source of education funding while Legislature institutes funding reforms to become less property tax dependent.
  - a. 70% of Vermont education funding is from Property Taxes
  - b. 10 yr student decline is 10%
  - c. 10 yr total spending increase 33% (\$300M)
  - d. 10 yr per student spending increase 60%
2. Elmore will continue involvement: Burley & Wepler continue as Elmore representatives.

### **B. NEW ITEMS:** (Schedule w/Select Board, min. 1 wk. prior to meeting)

1. **WATER SYSTEM:**
  - a. Elmore United Methodist Church (George Twombly & Robert West) **requested full exemption** of church water rate. Water System Operating Budget has **very thin** margins. Commissioners presented a temporary 1 year small rate reduction to UMC. Future rates TBD. Agreement pending. Public Water System rates have same legal standing as Property Taxes.
  - b. With exception of UMC, water system user payments are current. Cash Flow, Balance and P&L sheets all on plan.

### **C. CONTINUING ACTIVE ITEMS:** (Update status, by item, by DRI)

1. Road Commissioner Update – LaCasse
  - a. F-550 truck, plow and sander sold at auction 10Oct14
2. Water System:
  - a. Transient pump relay failure 7/20/14. Jon Osborne spent over 80 hours during failure manually filling the pressure tanks.
  - b. The installed solenoid/transducer had insufficient low pressure sensitivity. Replaced with new unit 17Sep. No failures since
3. Elmore Planning Commission Update – Hartt
  - a. Status: Updated shore land zoning approval at ANR. Elmore will become 2<sup>nd</sup> town in VT to have local authority designation to approve permits (Colchester=1<sup>st</sup>)
  - b. Status: First 3 sections in review by ESB
4. Tax Map Digitization – On schedule, on budget

### **D. COMPLETED/INACTIVE ITEMS:** (Update status, by item, by DRI)

1. Review Action Item List

### **E. NON AGENDA/OTHER ITEMS:** (*Time Available*)

1. Routine Administrative, Operations and payment approvals

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COPY OF RESOLUTION TEXT PROVIDED BY SOUTH BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

CHAIR:

- All attending towns, school boards and districts being asked to sign
- Does NOT seek to curtail education spending, only to limit the dependence on Property Tax (currently 70% of total education spending)

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**RESOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE**

**EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM IN VERMONT:**

Education Funding is a State wide priority and needs to be addressed at the State level.

In the past 10 years the Vermont student population has declined by 10,618 (or 10%)

In the past 10 years Vermont education spending has increased by \$300 million (or 33%)

In the past 10 years Vermont per student spending has increased by \$6,537 (or 60%)

In the past 10 years reliance on education property taxes has increased nearly 7%

Nearly 70% of Education spending is funded by property taxes.

***Vermont has reached its maximum capacity to support education funding through the Statewide Education property tax.***

Vermont cannot ignore the current trends and the limitations of our property tax base.

Without responsible funding system reforms, Vermont schools will be forced to undergo arbitrary and detrimental budget cuts that will affect the quality of education in Vermont.

**Vermont can achieve a sustainable Education future:**

Create a more diverse education funding system, sharing the costs equally between all our tax resources (income, sales, rooms & meals, and property taxes)

Simplify the education funding system so it can be understood by the average taxpayer.

Continued reliance on the education property tax will have a material impact on local government’s ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents.

***Therefore be it resolved that Vermont Towns & School Districts support capping Education Property Tax rates at FY2015 levels for the next 2 years, to allow the Legislature to make the necessary funding reforms that will sustain our Education system into the future.***

(It is not the intent of this resolution to cap overall education spending).

Be it further resolved on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, that the City/Town/ Village/ School District of \_\_\_\_\_ supports the Vermont legislature as they seek out the necessary reforms to the Education funding system.