

TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

Monthly Select Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes – prepared by C. DeVore

Meeting Date: March 19, 2014

Start Time: 6:32 pm **Adjourn:** 8:06 pm

Meeting Attendees: Robert Burley – ESB Chairman, Whit Hartt-ESB, Caroline DeVore-ESB, Michel Lacasse-Road Commissioner, Sheila Rysz- Resident, Roger Marcoux- Lamoille County Sherriff

Meeting opened at 6:33p

A. SPECIAL TOPICS: (Items requiring expanded discussion)

1. BREAK-INS - Wolcott and Elmore–Roger Marcoux–Update & discussion

a. Town actions, Law Enforcement Response & Coverage options

Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Lamoille County Sheriff's Department (LCSD), joined the SB meeting to review status of town coverage and to discuss recent break-ins and steps the town may take to address both traffic and crime investigation coverage. Summary of coverage:

- LCSD (based in Hyde Park) received authorization at the 2013 Town Meeting to hire a detective to join the force full time. The new detective started 7/1/13.

- Elmore's primary law enforcement agency is the State Police with traffic and investigation supported by LCSD.

- Elmore currently contracts with LCSD to provide traffic control at a budget amount of \$13,000 annually. Historically, ~80-95% of that expense has been returned to the town in the form of traffic violation fines. The annual return is variable. (Burley noted that the repaving project for VT Rt. 12 in 2014 would likely result in a reduction of traffic fines therefore a reduction in the return of fine "credits" to the Town).

- Period of July 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014: 162 hrs. of traffic patrol time spent in Elmore by LCSD. LCSD issued 84 warnings, 12 verbal, patrolled for 727 miles, made 29 arrests, \$5400 in fines, 4 arrests for other activates.

- Full year from June 2012 – July 2013: 245 hrs. of traffic patrol time spent in Elmore by LCSD. LCSD issued 133 warnings, 34 verbal, patrolled for 2,700 miles, made 3 arrests, 99 tickets, 17,000 in fines, (\$12,000 returned to town).

- Sheriff Marcoux has assigned the new Detective on his force to several open investigations in Elmore.

Sheriff Marcoux's 2013 Annual Report is attached to these minutes for review.

Coverage Review:

The SB reviewed with Sheriff Marcoux whether a change in traffic and investigation coverage for Elmore was needed, specifically in light of recent break-ins.

Sheriff Marcoux suggested several courses of action:

- 1) Prevention: Help residents understand their role in improving the safety of neighborhoods and their properties.
- 2) Investigation and coverage: SB will work with LCSD to adjust both traffic and investigation coverage to meet the changing needs of the town.
- 3) Possible Coverage updates to evaluate include:
 - a. Partnering with an adjoining town for support
 - b. Investment with LCSD to provide 24x7 coverage of Elmore. This would require that LCSD add another fulltime headcount. Estimated cost to Elmore for contracting with LCSD for 24x7 coverage is \$95,000/yr. (1 FTE headcount added to LCSD team). This type of coverage would provide for both traffic

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TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

Monthly Select Board Meeting

monitoring and investigation support. The annual "offset" of traffic fine "credits" to the town could reduce this total budget amount to \$75-80k.

Action: The Board asked Sheriff Marcoux to use his discretion in allocating funds to traffic control and assigning his new Detective to cases in Elmore.

Residential Survey:

While these options and others will be investigated by the SB, the Board would also like to survey Elmore town residents to better understand what type of coverage they would move value and how willing the town would be to increase budget amounts to allow for a broader and more visible law enforcement presence.

Action: Survey the town/sample community to find out what elements of public safety would be of greatest benefit. DeVore will lead the development and distribution of survey and the SB will use this input to assess next steps.

Action: Evaluate options to partner with adjoining towns to improve coverage. Burley to evaluate coverage options and expense with Morrisville PD.

2. WATER SYSTEM PROJECT:

a. System Start planned at 1000 EDT March 19, 2014. Notices posted.

Treatment and pressurization has begun. Next steps – go through ANR steps to validate purity over a 2 month period.

b. Errors in final Contractor invoice being reconciled prior to submission for reimbursement from ANR/EPA

Expect this to be resolved by April.

c. ANR continued delays processing reimbursements.

d. Rates will increase significantly (vs. previous co-op) due to debt service and State & Federal water quality regulations

e. The small user base will skew rates higher than large systems.

3. WATER SERVICE AREA – ORDER TO ESTABLISH – ESB 2ND REVIEW AND APPROVAL. Remaining legal documents were reviewed and approved by the SB as written.

B. NEW ITEMS:

1. Annual SB appointments of Town Officials

Colin Reynolds has been appointed as a new member of the Elmore Planning Commission. Welcome Colin!

All other Town Officials were reappointed for another term.

2. Discussion: Rt. 12 Re-paving – STATUS: AOT Finance & Maintenance Agreement received – Burdensome liability & maintenance stipulations

a. Sen. Westman (Xpo. Cmte.) provided VTrans contacts

b. Burley negotiated contract revision eliminating liability & maintenance requirements. Will become new template for AOT.

3. Write Specification(s) for new 10 Ton Town Truck – Action: LaCasse & Burley

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

1. Road Commissioner Update – LaCasse

Work Completed:

a. Plow and sand routes approx. 70" in 5 weeks.

b. Plow and sand parking lots for polar splash

TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

Monthly Select Board Meeting

- c. Wing back snow with grader and loader.

Equipment status:

Job done.

Employee Status:

All well

Upcoming issues:

- a. Mud season
- b. Priority list for upcoming season
- c. Update policies

2. Status - Revised Elmore Road & Bridge Standards Update – LaCasse

Michel working with the state on road and bridge standards documents. Bob & Michel to meet with Tom Anderson, District 6 to evaluate rewording standards documents to insure that the new standards are implementable by small towns.

3. Elmore Planning Commission Update – Hartt

a. STATUS UPDATE: Interim changes for ex post facto permits.

Hartt has a draft proposal and will review with Stuart Weppeler then will review with SB.

b. STATUS UPDATE: Elmore Zoning By-Laws

Hartt will have these by-laws completely reviewed by June SB meeting and ID areas that need improvement. Will review with SB.

4. Tax Map Digitization Update – DeVore

- a. Grant approved by state for total project cost of \$8200. State will contribute (via Grant) \$4100 toward the total project. Allocated funds in this year's town budget will cover the remaining \$4100 required in town contribution.

- b. **Costs (initial and steady state), Funding, DRI's, next steps:** DeVore leading.

D. COMPLETED/INACTIVE ITEMS:

- 1. **Open Action Item List reviewed by SB.**

Meeting Adjourned – 8:06pm.