

# TOWN OF ELMORE, VT

## Monthly Select Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes – prepared by C. DeVore  
Status: APPROVED

**Meeting Date:** January 13, 2016

**Start Time:** 6:31pm **Adjourn:** 8:10 pm

**Meeting Attendees:** Robert Burley – ESB Chairman, Caroline DeVore – ESB, Whit Hartt – ESB, Michel Lacasse– Road Commissioner, Doug Wells – Resident and owner of The Solar Specialist, Jason Bernier - Resident

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### **A. SPECIAL TOPICS:**

1. **DISCUSSION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: Elmore & Morristown share EMS/Ambulance services. 2016 federal regulations require ALL EMS personnel (FT, PT, volunteer) must have standardized/equal certification and recurrent training to levels formerly required of only of FT EMS. Elmore pro rata expenses/costs will double for FY17 budget.**
  - a. Elmore EMS FY17 cost increase from \$12.2K to \$25K.
  - b. Elmore EMS FY17 full cost is \$47.8K with \$22.8K being absorbed by Morristown in FY17 ONLY. Elmore must increase budget to cover full cost in FY18.
  - c. **Critical shortage of EMS personnel in Vermont and nationally is only exacerbated by new requirements.**

Discussion: The change will equate to roughly a 4x increase in current budget amount, or about \$100/per capita in Elmore over next 2 years. Total Morrisville-Elmore expenditure \$292,526. Elmore share in FY17 is \$25k, our full share would have been \$48k. In FY18 we'll pay full share.

### **B. NEW ITEMS:**

1. **DISCUSSION: Doug Wells: Review of design and installation of solar array on Route 12. State Permit requests town awareness/comments.**
  - a. **ESB, Zoning Administrator and DRB review.**

Mr. Wells, owner of The Solar Specialist since 2002, is requesting installation of a small solar farm/solar array. The array is 3 rows of modules 155 – 160 feet long on each row – within established property setbacks. Greenery planned to camouflage array from Rt. 12 and neighboring properties. Array expected to produce ~74 Kw of electricity with potential to power 10-12 Elmore homes. Average home uses ~5/month. This is a planned group net metered system.

Subscribers to the Group Meter Array would need to be subscribers to Morrisville Water & Light. Once approved, the plan is to market to immediate neighbors only. Would take a low interest loan to buy into the program. Typical contracts are for 20-25 years.

If the Public Service Board approves installation of the array, the project will move forward subject only to existing zoning for coverage and setbacks.  
This disclosure meets PSB requirement to disclose and review with the select board.

    - i. Note: Elmore has no local guideline for alternative energy.
2. **DISCUSSION: Caroline DeVore: Conflict of Interest (COI) Guidelines**
  - a. **Does Elmore need local COI By-Law? Scant VT statutory guidance.**
  - b. **Distinctions between Standing, Jurisdiction and COI**

Discussion: Select board discussed COI in the context of a person having standing and

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jurisdiction on a specific topic. It was decided that the town may not need a formal COI guideline, but that the select board will offer specific guidance as follows:

Before making any public statements in any official capacity, members of all town committees and boards should clearly understand whether they have standing and jurisdiction in the matter being discussed – and whether there is any potential for conflict of interest. Without clear understanding of whether they have standing, jurisdiction or COI, all committee and board members must disclose that their public comment(s) on Town business are representative of their opinion only and are not reflective of the office they hold nor of the board or committee of which they are a member.

**Further discussion of creating approved vendor guidelines for ESB assigned projects.**

**3. INFORMATION: Elmore participation in Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Northern Vermont (CEDS). – Burley**

- a. **Key component in Federal Assistance \$, Trade Zones, etc.**
- b. **No existing Elmore documents/studies. Will engage for future.**

Discussion: Gives some areas standing as a Federal Assistance Trade Zone. These areas will potentially qualify for federal assistance funding. We will need to define a strategy for submitting documentation if we want to participate. The potential benefit to Elmore would include access to federal monies for creation of a tariff free zone.

Lamoille Economic Development Corporation is pursuing / encouraging town participation. Economic District allows for the application of funds that may help to defer town expenses on specific projects (TBD).

**4. INFORMATION: US Census Bureau: Annual Boundary & Annexation Survey Compliance for municipalities and tribal regions. – Burley**

- a. Complete federal forms. No actions.

**5. ACTION: LCPC requires update of watershed/transportation projects list.**

Burley and Lacasse to review previous submission and update with current watershed observations.

**6. DISCUSSION: Lack of municipal input in energy project siting. RE: Rutland Resolution & Swanton Wind Project (RRSWP).**

Select board to determine whether we want to participate in the RRSWP. Project examines the process under which municipalities can gain a greater “voice” (i.e., commenting, reviewing) on energy project discussions, approvals and locations within the municipality. Currently, towns have little to no jurisdiction in energy projects. Select board is interested in pursuing. Burley will respond. DeVore to be Designated Responsible Individual if we move forward with participation.

**C. CONTINUING ACTIVE ITEMS:**

**1. Road Commissioner Update – LaCasse**

- a. **Minor reduction- Tjader Road length**

**Summary of local work:**

Work Completed:

- b. Last day of grading was December 18, 2015
- c. 20 Loads or 280 yds of gravel used in early December thaw.
- d. Monosh reopened gravel pit December 14 so that we could replenish stock pile. 24 loads or 336 yds.

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- e. Tallman excavation was hired to help with trucking and dangerous tree removal.
- f. Clean up of downed trees and branches during wind events.
- g. December 19, started plowing and sanding.

Equipment status:

- h. Truck #1. 2006 International fan clutch, radiator, alternator, and water pump were replaced.
- i. Truck #2. 2013 Freightliner main pressurized hydraulic line failed.
- j. New exhaust pipes on wood chipper.

Employee Status:

- a. All is well.

Upcoming:

- a. Getting some much needed work done on grader.
- b. Beach Road proposals.
- c. Looking at grants to see what may qualify.

**2. UPDATE: Elmore Planning Commission – Hartt**

**a. STATUS: Fluvial Erosion Evaluation & Recommendations**

Reviewed status of work and identification of houses within the flood plain.

**D. COMPLETED/INACTIVE ITEMS:**

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

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