

## **Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard**

**July 30, 2012**

**The East Montpelier Selectboard attended a special joint meeting with the Calais Selectboard to discuss the ambulance and emergency services contracts with the East Montpelier Fire Department. The discussion was part of the regular Calais Selectboard meeting. This is part of the continuing process to develop agreeable contract terms to replace the current contracts that expire September 1, 2013. The East Montpelier Selectboard opened the meeting at 7:20 pm in the parking lot at the Calais Town Hall, considered a warrant for payment, and then joined the Calais meeting at 7:30 pm.**

**SB Attendance:** Chair Bruce Johnson, Steve Sparrow, Casey Northrup, Seth Gardner (7:30 pm), Carl Etnier (7:30 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm.

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Public Comment:** None

### **Warrants**

Selectboard members Johnson, Northrup, and Sparrow signed the warrant.

### **Joint Meeting with Calais Selectboard**

**Calais SB Attendance:** Chair Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Mike Garand.

At 7:40 pm Calais Board Chair Denise Wheeler welcomed the East Montpelier Selectboard and opened the discussion on the EMFD contracts.

Board members discussed splitting the contracts so that cost share allocation elements that affect only the two towns are eliminated from the ambulance and emergency services contracts between the towns and the EMFD. The towns could create a separate agreement to cover cost share issues.

Members examined the current share allocations, which range from 25%/75% (Calais/East Montpelier) for the EMFD emergency services operating budget to one-third/two-thirds (Calais/EM) for all other contractual elements. A variety of mechanisms were suggested for consideration for future cost share allocations, including: town population (2010 census numbers: EM 2,576; Calais 1,607); call volume over some range of years; and, grand list levels (for FY13: EM \$2,897,000; Calais \$1,807,000). Mr. Talbot agreed to research call volume levels for the past five years and present the totals at the next joint meeting.

Discussion shifted to possible contract clauses in the next set of agreements with the EMFD. Board members expressed a desire to alter the budget-setting process to ensure that the selectboards received audited prior year numbers, the actual current year numbers, and the next fiscal year budget requests in a timely manner to allow the boards to conduct a diligent analysis

of the proffered EMFD budgets. No member offered support for a continuation of the current contracts' multi-year, level-fund approach.

Another issue of concern was how the towns would present the EMFD budgets to the voters: either as line items within the general town budgets or as separate town meeting articles. Some members argued that the contracts should not even address the methodology of how the towns would present the budgets to the voters.

Members briefly discussed the possibility of adding non-voting town representatives to the EMFD board to ensure that the selectboards remain on top of issues regarding the EMFD.

Work on the EMFD contracts will be continued at a joint East Montpelier & Calais Selectboard meeting on August 20, 2012. The work session will be a part of a regular East Montpelier Selectboard meeting.

**Motion: To adjourn.** Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Sparrow. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Selectboard

**Approved: August 6, 2012 East Montpelier Selectboard Meeting**