

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

### **December 1, 2016 Special Joint Meeting with the Calais Selectboard**

**SB Attendance:** Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, and Gene Troia; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

**Calais SB Attendance:** Chair Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage, and John Brabant

**EMFD Attendance:** Chief Ty Rolland, President Toby Talbot, Gary Ouellette, Albert Petrella, and Larry Brown; EMFD Clerk Megan Canella

**Public Attendance:** None

Chair Gardner called the East Montpelier Selectboard meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Presentation of the Proposed FY2018 Ambulance & Emergency Services Budget by the East Montpelier Fire Department**

EMFD Chief Rolland welcomed the board members.

#### **Budget**

EMFD President Talbot gave the budget presentation. The proposed total FY2018 EMFD budget for fire and ambulance services is \$425,690, an increase of \$27,805 (7.0%) over the FY2017 budget of \$397,885. After subtracting the revenue from the ambulance service contract with Plainfield (\$47,645 for FY2018) the expected contribution from the two towns is as follows:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| East Montpelier | \$252,030 |
| Calais          | \$126,015 |

This represents an 7.5% increase over FY2017 town contributions. The majority of the increase was again confined to two areas: ambulance service salary and ambulance service payroll tax. This is due to a continued difficulty ensuring that a volunteer is always available. EMFD would like to reduce its dependence on volunteers for ambulance staffing.

EMFD would like the towns to consider an even greater increase in the ambulance budget to allow both increased flexibility in scheduling paid staff throughout the week, including nights and weekends, and to allow the employment of a fulltime paramedic to work the weekday daytime shift. Two new scenarios were presented: a staffing line increase to \$202,000 (up from \$170,000) which would allow the hiring of the fulltime paramedic, but no expansion of the paid staff scheduling; and, a staffing line increase to \$219,000, which would allow both. TA Johnson will develop proposed budgets for all three scenarios for discussion by the boards at a later time.

#### **Capital Plan**

Chief Rolland presented an 11-year capital plan for the EMFD (FY2017 – FY2027). The plan anticipates the purchase of two vehicles in FY2018: a new Class A pumper at an estimated cost of \$466,000 to replace Engine 4, a 1994 vehicle that serves as the primary fire engine; and, a used heavy rescue vehicle at a cost of \$150,000 to replace Rescue 2, a 1993 vehicle that serves as

the primary rescue vehicle for accidents and other emergency. The intent is to finance the pumper over ten years and purchase the rescue vehicle outright. The entire cost of the vehicles will be handled using the EMFD capital reserve fund. No additional funds from the towns will be necessary. Under the service agreement between the towns and EMFD, both boards will need to approve the planned use of the reserve fund.

The boards will meet to discuss the EMFD budget request and the proposed capital reserve fund use on December 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the East Montpelier Town Office.

**Motion: To adjourn.** Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

**Approved: December 5, 2016 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting**