

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

December 2, 2015 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, Toby Talbot, and Rose Pelchuck

EMFD Attendance: Chief Ty Rolland, Acting President Gary Ouellette, Brad Fleury, Albert Petrella, and Sandy Conti; EMFD Clerk Kim Ingraham

Public Attendance: None

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

Presentation of the Proposed FY2017 Ambulance & Emergency Services Budget by the East Montpelier Fire Department

Chief Rolland began the budget presentation.

Update on the Current Year (FY2016) Budget Status and Calendar Year Call Volume

Chief Rolland and Ms. Ingraham gave a rundown on current expenses, standard revenues, and ambulance billing statistics. There were no major areas of concern.

The 2015 calendar year call volume statistics are similar to 2014. Insurance collections are slow so far in FY2016 at 52%, but are expected to trend upward toward the long-term average of 72%.

Capital Plan

Chief Rolland presented a 12-year capital plan for the EMFD (FY2014 – FY2025). The plan, now with two years of actual expenditures included, still uses budgeted numbers for the revenue side of those two years. Chief Rolland agreed to have the revenue actuals added so that the plan reflects current numbers. Income for the plan comes first from a percentage of the net proceeds of the ambulance service; any shortfall would likely lead to a request to town voters to approve an EMFD equipment purchase. FY2017 includes payments for loans on the new tanker (final payment), a rescue cutter implement (final payment), and SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) equipment (next to last payment). A potential shortfall exists in FY2018 when EMFD anticipates the replacement of its rescue pumper at an estimated cost of \$400,000. The boards requested that EMFD be prepared to discuss the rescue pumper purchase and possible financing options well prior to next year's joint budget meeting.

Budget

The proposed total FY2017 EMFD budget for fire and ambulance services is \$400,885, an increase of \$16,009 (4.2%) over the FY2016 budget of \$384,876. After subtracting the revenue from the ambulance service contract with Plainfield (\$46,257 for FY2017) and the continued use of \$15,000 from the EMFD contingency fund (like the EMFD capital reserve fund, this is funded

from a percentage of the ambulance service net proceeds), the expected contribution from the two towns is as follows:

East Montpelier	\$226,418.66
Calais	\$113,209.34

This represents a 4.7% increase over FY2015 town contributions. The majority of the increase was 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 during normal weekday work hours. EMFD would like the flexibility to have a second paid EMT for those days when a volunteer is not readily available.

Chief Rolland announced that EMFD is in very preliminary discussions with the Town of Marshfield regarding the possibility of providing ambulance service to Marshfield. The expectation is that any agreement would be similar to the current contract with Plainfield. Both boards expressed concerns on whether the benefits to Marshfield and EMFD would offset any potential detriments to Calais and East Montpelier. Further discussion on this issue is anticipated.

The boards will meet to discuss the EMFD budget request on December 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at the East Montpelier Town Office.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Northrup; second by Mr. Troia. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: December 7, 2015 SB Meeting