

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

December 10, 2012

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Carl Etnier; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Public Attendance: Don Welch, Town Treasurer; Mike Garand, Road Foreman; Kim Swasey, Art Chickering

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

Additions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

FY2014 Budget Development

SB members continued development of the FY2014 budget with the assistance of Town Treasurer Don Welch.

Mr. Garand presented his proposed highway budget for FY2014. Most of the budget line requests were at or slightly higher than the final FY2013 budget. The paving line request of \$280,000 was the one anomaly. Mr. Garand explained that the preliminary estimate for summer paving costs in 2013 is as follows:

- \$140,000 per mile for ¾" shim and 1½" overlay
- \$15,000 per mile for shoulders

In keeping with the board plan to repave all the paved town roads by 2015, Mr. Garand would like to pave the "next" (the town has already repaved from the Calais line to Casavant Road) mile of County Road (from Casavant to Powderhorn Glen) and Vincent Flats Road (about 0.8 miles) during the summer of 2013. Projected cost is approximately \$280,000.

The board agreed with Mr. Garand's recommendation. Since the fall of 2010 the town has repaved all of Towne Hill, Muddy Brook, and Center Roads as well as 2 miles of County Road and a small portion of Quaker Road. Gallison Hill Road is expected to be repaved in late spring/early summer 2013 (under the FY2013 budget). Absent any unexpected grant funding (since the town received a paving grant in 2010 and 2012, no state paving grants are expected in the near future), at the end of FY2014 the only roads remaining to be repaved will be 1.9 miles of County Road and about 0.7 miles of Quaker Road.

Mr. Garand also presented various options for replacing the 2007 International Lo-Pro and the 2002 Chevrolet Pickup next summer. His recommendation is to trade in both vehicles on a Ford F550-equivalent truck that will handle the paved road and Coburn Road Covered Bridge plowing. Expect to replace the new truck in 5 years (as opposed to the 7 – 9 year replacement schedule for the town's 10-wheelers). The cost, before any trade, will be around \$80,000.

The board will revisit the replacement truck question in February. The purchase will likely be done using the same lease financing method the town has used for the last six truck/heavy

equipment purchases. The first payment, projected to be in the summer of 2013, will come out of the capital reserve fund.

Mr. Garand updated the board on the status of the federally-mandated switchover of the town radios to a narrow band spectrum by January 1, 2013. He will bring in a professional to do the switch. The town may need to replace the old base stations and a couple of the older radios. There is money in the FY2013 budget for the necessary upgrades.

After Mr. Garand departed, the board went through the draft budget line-by-line and discussed options for paving and fund balance use that would minimize any tax rate increase. An updated draft budget for FY2014 will be discussed at the December 17, 2012 meeting.

Warrants

There was no warrant.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: 12/17/12 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting