

Selectboard Memo
November 17, 2014 SB Meeting

VLCT Training on the Use of the Vermont Judicial Bureau for Enforcement of Town Regulations

- Presentation by Sarah Jarvis, VLCT Staff Attorney
- The PowerPoint presentation is available on the town website

Consideration of Resolution on Education Funding Reform

- Two different resolutions to place a 2-year cap on total education property taxes are in play:
 - The so-called “Dorset Resolution”
 - The VLCT tweaked version of the Dorset Resolution
- The difference is an added phrase in the VLCT version that mandates using other state revenue sources to raise any additional necessary revenue to fund school expense increases

Consideration of Personnel Policy Amendments

- A variety of changes:
 - Full-time employee cut-off decreased to 30 hours
 - “Domestic partner” added to “immediate family member”
 - Conflict of Interest Ordinance added to document; made clear that employees are subject to the ordinance; mention of C of I Policy removed
 - Correct title of CDL Drug & Alcohol Policy added
 - New benefits detailed
 - Sick leave increased; “days” shifted to “hours”
 - Vacation leave tiers lessened; “days” shifted to “hours”
 - Day after Thanksgiving added as holiday
 - Retiree benefits removed
- One possible change not included as yet is a trade-off of unused sick leave for vacation
 - It is becoming common to combine, in some form, sick leave & vacation; some towns are moving to a set number of days total – used for whatever purpose
 - A possible approach to this concept is to reward non-use of sick leave by trading sick leave for vacation at the end of the fiscal year
 - If you end a fiscal year with more than, for example, 160 hours (20 days) of sick leave, you can convert up to 40 hours (5 days) of that sick leave to an equivalent amount of vacation
- Another change that should be made is to define “year” – no change was made when we shifted to fiscal year; we should make clear what we mean

Continued Discussion on Options for Old EMFD Fire Station

- The EMFD board supports town use to house heavy equipment during the winter; however, when the issue was brought to the full department concerns were raised about making any physical change to the building – specifically the old, original wing
- Elliott Morse will be here to discuss the issue

Excess Weight Permits

- Tom Lincoln of Northfield Falls

Town Administrator Report

- Montpelier “Grindings” Issue
 - The bill from Montpelier is on this week’s warrant
 - VLCT has not yet issued a decision on the Swasey claim
 - The affected Brazier Road stretch has been resurfaced with \$6,000 of gravel
 - No such resurfacing has been done on Gould Hill or Horn of the Moon Roads; no sign of metal on roads at this point; no claims have been received
- Park ‘n Ride Design Alteration
 - Any concerns with moving the bus shelter to the back part of the lot?
- The Final 2014 Paving Numbers:
 - Bill from Whitcomb’s will be on 12/1 warrant; total charge of \$316,290.87
 - Gallison Hill Road
 - \$88,754.05 (quote was \$89,381.25; 80/20 VTrans grant of \$88,440)
 - Net cost to town is \$18,002.05
 - Quaker & Vincent Flats Roads
 - \$227,536.82 (quote was \$283,527.75; 21% less hot mix put down than quoted)
 - Net paving expense for summer: \$245,538.87
- See August – October State Police Report:
 - Town share of fines is approximately \$2,000; 20% below budget expectation
- First 2014/2015 Tax Installment Update
 - We’ve collected 58.7% of the total due for 2014/15 (not just the first installment); last year we were at 57.6% at this point
- Traffic Ordinance Update:
 - Still waiting on VTrans traffic division (the sign crew) to provide guidance on school zone and no parking options; they did a site inspection last Friday
- Upcoming Schedule of Events:
 - December 1st Selectboard regular meeting
6:30 p.m. at town office
 - December 3rd Capital Improvement Committee public forum on capital plan
7:00 p.m. at ESF
 - December 4th EMFD FY2016 Budget Presentation
7:00 p.m. at ESF
 - December 8th Proposed joint meeting with Calais Selectboard for EMFD budget
7:30 p.m. at Calais town office
 - December 13th Town Party
5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at ESF
 - December 15th Selectboard regular meeting
6:30 p.m. at town office

Zoning Administrator Report

- See permit report since November 3rd
- Ellery Packard officially appealed DRB decision to Environmental Court
- Next DRB meeting will be December 2nd; hearings for:
 - 1368 US Route 2, LLC (this is the old RV campground; Country Campers is essentially requesting to use this lot as part of its operations)
 - Wells appeal