

TOWN OF
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD

Gene Troia (2015 – 2016)
Casey Northrup (2014 – 2017)
Kim Swasey (2015 – 2017)
Carl Etnier (2013 – 2016)
Chair, Seth Gardner (2015 – 2018)

December 28, 2015

East Montpelier Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Gary Ouellette, EMFD Acting President
PO Box 146
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Re: Concerns with Expansion of Ambulance Service

Dear Mr. Ouellette & Fellow Directors:

At the December 2, 2015 EMFD FY2017 budget presentation Chief Rolland revealed recent communications with the Town of Marshfield dealing with the possibility of providing ambulance service to the town. As has been discussed previously, both the Calais and East Montpelier Selectboards have reservations about the expansion of service to additional towns. In particular, the boards are concerned that expansion will:

- Potentially dilute the overall quality of service to the core towns with no commensurate cost savings or other apparent benefits to Calais and East Montpelier residents;
- Increase the wear and tear on both the EMFD equipment and the volunteers;
- Exacerbate the apparent disparity in cost of service between the core towns and the towns operating under contracts for service; and,
- Potentially set the stage for a later service contraction, if add-on towns withdraw from EMFD service agreements, which could fundamentally affect the ability of EMFD to carry out its core responsibilities.

Appendix A, Clause 6 of our current service contract describes the EMFD responsibilities when outside contracts are under negotiation. We ask that those terms be viewed liberally and that the boards be provided with the materials necessary to gauge the viability of any proposed contract. Neither board is against expansion, but we have a duty to ensure that the residents of Calais and East Montpelier are provided with a level of service that is both commensurate with our expectations and cost effective. Working together on expansion issues will enable us to provide assurance to our constituents that any growth results in a net benefit to our communities.

Sincerely,

Denise Wheeler
Chair, Calais Selectboard

Seth Gardner
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard

TOWN OF CALAIS
3120 PEKIN BROOK ROAD
EAST CALAIS, VT 05650

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
P.O. BOX 157
EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651

TOWN OF
CALAIS, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD

Scott Bassage (2015 – 2017)
John Brabant (2014 – 2016)
Toby Talbot (2014 – 2017)
Rose Pelchuck (2013 – 2016)
Chair, Denise Wheeler (2015 – 2018)