

**Selectboard Memo**  
**May 16, 2016 SB Meeting**

**Town Treasurer Report**

- Treasurer Welch will be here to provide an update on the FT2016 property tax payments; 2<sup>nd</sup> (final) payment was due by 5:00 p.m. today

**Discussion of Proposed Vermont Land Trust Conservation Project on Drake Road Fairmont Farm Property**

- Vermont Land Trust is in the early stage of putting together a 3-phase conservation project for the bulk of the old Lylehaven Farm properties purchased in 2014 by Fairmont Farm
- The first phase, encompassing some 361 acres along Drake & Clark Roads, includes a trails easement for Cross VT Trail; VLT has submitted an application to the EM Conservation Fund Advisory Committee for \$6,000 in town funding from the Conservation Fund
- VLT is looking for an indication if the town does not support the project, at least in terms of compliance with town planning/zoning efforts

**Discussion on Delta Dental Program Options**

- Last year, starting July 1<sup>st</sup> (i.e., for FY2016) the town signed on with VLCT's Northeast Delta Dental program; the town picked up the cost of the coverage for all full-time employees; dependent coverage was offered, but at 100% employee cost
- The rates for FY2017 will remain the same (\$239.89/month total for the 7 employees)
- The board decided last May to revisit the concept of employee dependent coverage when the plan came up for renewal

**Consideration of Draft 2016 Town Meeting Minutes**

- Table agenda item; not yet complete

**Discussion on Winter Sand Options**

- There has been a concern expressed that the granite sand (from granite crushing operations) the town used this past winter is a health hazard, based on the concept that it is the same material (granite; mostly made up of the quartz crystalline form of silica) that is known to cause silicosis
- Research experts discount this concern; silicosis is a very rare disease now that granite sheds use modern air filtering and cutting techniques; the problem was the constant exposure to granite dust in a confined space for hours at a time, day after day, over the course of a career; there is no known long-term health issue with outdoor exposure to road dust; our roads are built with granite (our gravel is crushed granite); even our normal winter sand is basically a quartz/silica product

**Discussion on Murray Road Culvert Replacement**

- Chase & Chase Surveyors has been working with Newton Technical Services to develop a design for the grant-funded replacement of the large Murray Road culvert near the Montpelier line; the projected cost of the survey work is \$4,100; if the board is comfortable with the proffered agreement from Chase & Chase, it should authorize TA Johnson to sign the agreement

**Discussion on EM Village Sidewalk Project**

- Work continues on the design; current concern is that the town needs to replace the large US Rte. 2 cross-culvert that runs from the Rolland property to the south side of the access road to the Village Cemetery; the town will be meeting with VTrans to discuss options
- Once VTrans gives authorization, the town will enter the right-of-way stage; the issue is whether the town will prepare for possible condemnation proceedings; one option is to hold a necessity hearing early on so that the foundation is in place for condemnation; we will need to hire an attorney to shepherd that process

**Discussion on Old LaPerle Farm Property**

- Update from Frank Pratt on his efforts to determine property lines

**Update on EM Village Park 'n Ride Facility**

- The town permit for the facility was issued May 10<sup>th</sup>; the design is being tweaked to include a paved path from the park 'n ride to the existing sidewalk

### Additions to Agenda:

- **Consideration of Agreement with Sullivan, Powers & Co., PC for FY2016 Audit Services**
  - This would be Year 3 of our 3-year general agreement with Sullivan, Powers; the base audit cost is \$13,600
  - Should board agree with the listed scope of services, a motion approving the agreement is necessary; board members also need to sign the agreement

### Appointments

- **Funding Request Study Committee**
  - Current members Ann Stanton, Lindy Johnson, and Charlie Catlin would like reappointment
  - We will need to advertise for additional members

### Town Administrator Report

- Road Foreman Report:
  - EM Trails Association Gravel Request
    - EM Trails would like some gravel put in the parking area for the Minister Brook trail head on Cherry Tree Hill Road; RF Garand had intended to do this once the area dried out this spring; unfortunately, now the FY2016 gravel budget is used up
    - The job will take 4-5 loads of gravel (around \$1,000); is the board willing to absorb this cost?
  - Center Road Speed Bump:
    - RF Garand is continuing his research into the placement of a speed bump in EM Center at the site of the recent culvert replacement; there will need to be a professional design developed with appropriate signage; cautionary speed limits will need to be determined
  - The 2008 International has been turned over to Mack; we received the agreed-upon \$45,000
- Renewable Energy Vermont Networking Event:
  - Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30 p.m. at The Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room (1 South Main, Waterbury); r.s.v.p. to [Ansley@revermont.org](mailto:Ansley@revermont.org), 229-0099
- CVEDC's Leadership Seminar:
  - Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-9 a.m., \$25
- Grant Application Update:
  - We received the VTrans paving grant for the last mile of County Road
  - It appears we have received the VTrans structures grant for Quaker Road, although official notification has not yet been received
  - We received the VLCT PACIF equipment grant for signs and safety vests
  - No word yet on the VTrans Better Roads application
- Meeting Schedule:
  - May 31<sup>st</sup>            6:00 pm            CVSWMD public hearing on waste management ordinance
  - June 6<sup>th</sup>            6:30 pm            Regular Selectboard meeting
  - June 20<sup>th</sup>           6:30 pm            Regular Selectboard meeting

### Zoning Administrator Report

- 7 new permit applications since May 2, 2016
- Next DRB meeting is on May 17, 2016
  - Site visit and reconvened conditional use hearing for the proposed Orchard Valley Waldorf School preschool at 174 Coburn Road