

Selectboard Memo
July 11, 2016 SB Meeting

Road Foreman Report

- Postponed to a later date

Consideration of Traffic Ordinance Amendments

- This first draft is designed to stimulate discussion as the board moves toward adoption of amendments to modernize the town's traffic ordinance, add enforceable parking restrictions in light of legislative adoption of Act 146 (effective January 1, 2005; required a municipal appeals process), update the signage section, and update and add new East Montpelier Center limits to the speed section
- Need to make determination on Quaker/Quaker Hill Road name

Discussion on Autumn Community Forum on Town Land Conservation Policy

- Board needs to determine details for proposed community forum on conservation policy

Review of Treasurer's Financial Management Questionnaire

- 24 VSA §872 requires the SB to review the town treasurer's financial management questionnaire (a form provided by the VT State Auditor), describing the town's internal financial control mechanisms
- If comfortable, the board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign the form

Consideration of CAI Technologies Agreements

- **Annual Query Manager Support Agreement**
 - Standard agreement for updates and support; \$500/year – same rate as the past few years; agreement requires SB signatures; payment is on warrant
- **Annual Tax Map Maintenance Agreement**
 - Standard agreement for tax map updates; \$1,830/year – again, same rate as past few years; agreement requires SB signatures

Authorization of Capital Reserve Fund Use for 2017 Mack Truck Purchase

- Mack chassis is complete and waiting for transfer from Sheldon Trucks to Tenco for the body work; finance agreement requires first payment (on warrant) before closing on loan and payment to Sheldon Trucks; board agreed to use Capital Reserve funds for finance payments; need to authorize payment of \$31,122.75 from Capital Reserve

Consideration of Settlement Agreement for Grimard 2015 Property Tax Issue

- Chris Grimard owns two lots on Horn of the Moon Road; he went through the standard BCA hearing process to appeal the result of his assessment grievance to the listers; the result of the BCA process was a reduction in his assessment; due to a confusing set of circumstances, he was never provided with a revised 2015/16 tax bill as his BCA results letter promised him (such a bill was never generated), never knew the actual amount due, only paid a portion of his tax due, and ended up on the delinquent tax list
- Clearly the errors were on the town side and Mr. Grimard is due an apology and an opportunity to pay the unpaid portion of his 2015/16 property tax without penalty or interest; see draft letter to that effect

Additions to Agenda:

- **VT Housing & Conservation Board Letter and Request for Reconsideration on VLT/Fairmont Dairy Conservation Project**
 - See Gus Seelig, VHCB Executive Director, letter

Town Administrator Report

- Update on 2016/17 Tax Rates:
 - Education rates final: Homestead 1.9537; Non-residential 1.6226
 - See documents for projected overall rates; Grand List is still in flux
 - The official FY2017 tax rate will be set at the August 1, 2016 meeting
- WEC Church Street Request:
 - Would like town to reline Church Street lot & add handicap slot at north end

- Municipal Office Building Issues:
 - Plumbing Issue in Town Office Kitchen:
 - Flow at 100+ psi; plumber installed flow reducer, soldered leaks on outside faucet, drained and reset on-demand hot water heater
 - Phone System Failure:
 - Valley Telephone (our rep) replaced the power supply; we have an obsolete system so any repair requires finding parts through professional networks (i.e., there are no “new” parts available); essentially the failure knocked out our phone service for most of July 5th and 6th
 - Phone Bill Failure:
 - Our phone system was hacked over a month ago (May 31st from midnight to 5 a.m.), enabling someone to use our North American Plan long distance service remotely to call Jamaica, which has one of the few area codes (all in Caribbean locales) that are both not blocked by our international code block and not free under our long distance plan; FairPoint notified us of the issue, blocked all long distance calling, and suggested fixes; Valley Telephone handled the task (essentially making it impossible to access outgoing lines remotely plus blocking certain long distance codes); we now have our normal long distance capabilities to US and Canadian calling zones
 - FairPoint has, on its own volition, decided to charge us a reduced rate for the calls, dropping the bill from \$2,375 to \$577 (normal would be \$185); I have requested a removal of all extra charges since FairPoint did not provide advance notice of the vulnerability despite having knowledge of the issue and having worked with us previously to resolve issues that led to our placement of the international block; the extra charges are on hold while we go through dispute resolution; current offer from FairPoint is a one-time charge of \$186.32
- Update on Recreation Board Shift to Non-Profit Status:
 - Rec Board Treasurer Richardson is presenting preliminary incorporation paperwork to that board at its meeting this evening in anticipation of a formal state filing in the near future
- State Government Municipal Day:
 - September 9th, 8-4:15 p.m. at National Life; \$25 registration fee
- Village Cemetery Hogweed Update:
 - Our contractor, Mike Bald, has completed his “weeding” of the hogweed infestation around the Village Cemetery and associated drainage area; he’ll do one final sweep later in the summer; apparently the local woodchucks are assisting in the removal of the seedlings (hopefully on a volunteer basis)
- EM Fire District #1 Update:
 - At its monthly meeting on July 13th the Prudential Committee will be discussing options for the future of the fire district, including the possibility of requesting dissolution
- Meeting Schedule:

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| ○ July 14 th | 7:00 pm | EMFD quarterly budget presentation at ESF |
| ○ July 21 st | 6-8 pm | Community event for Planning Commission’s EM Village Master Plan project at ESF |
| ○ August 1 st | 6:30 pm | Regular Selectboard meeting |
| ○ August 15 th | 6:30 pm | Regular Selectboard meeting |
| ○ August 29 th | 6:30 pm | Special Selectboard meeting |
| ○ September 9 th | 8-4 | State Government Municipal Day |

Zoning Administrator Report

- 3 new permit applications since June 20, 2016
- Next DRB meeting is on July 12, 2016
 - Variance/setback waiver request for a sun porch at 2888 County Road; house is non-conforming due to front setback (standard issue with old farmhouse)
 - Home business retail use for small existing bakery at 2023 County Road; intent is to have once or twice weekly retail sales of bakery products at the home

Personnel Matters