

Selectboard Memo
October 17, 2016 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

- **Department of Public Service Draft Energy Planning Standards**
 - Deadline for public comment is Thursday, October 20th

Discussion on Next Steps After Land Conservation Summit

- The October 10th Summit was well attended and generated significant support both for land conservation in general and for an effort to realign/modernize the goals/guidelines of the town's conservation program to meet the needs to the community in the coming years
- So, where do we go from here?

Consideration of 2017 Employee Health Care Benefit Options

- Basic question is whether the board wants to make any changes to current offerings:
 - We pay the equivalent of 90% of the BCBS Platinum Plan
 - In 2016, one employee chose to take the Gold Plan, which saved the town some \$30/month and cost the employee nothing (up front; deductible levels make this a gamble); there is no sign as yet that the employee intends to shift to the Platinum Plan
 - In lieu of insurance, we provide a stipend of \$1,600
- Assuming we want to stick with the BCBS offerings, an initial issue is whether we want to offer our employees access to as many as 9 BCBS plans or some subset of same (see sheet)
- MVP plans are more competitive than in recent years (the state has held down rate increases) and it appears, although not conclusively
- Cost of BCBS plans are up overall about 7.3% (plan increases vary; Platinum Plan is up 4.59%)
- FY2017 budget health insurance line is \$75,000; the first half of the 2017 health care benefit is covered by this budget line, with the second half under the FY2018 budget; current monthly cost (with stipends) is \$7,577.19; projected monthly cost starting in January 2017, using the current benefit and assuming no changes, will be \$7,920.09; we are running in the red this year due to the addition of a fifth employee accepting the town's insurance. As always, we have to open up the benefit options to all employees, so the actual cost could be significantly higher.
- Need to determine 3 things:
 - Town share of insurance cost
 - BCBS plans to be offered to employees
 - Value of stipend in lieu of health insurance

New consideration for 2017: we will likely have a new benefit-eligible employee for the first 6 months

Discussion on Dissolution of East Montpelier Fire District #1

- Board needs to determine if it is interested in moving forward with the "merger" of the Fire District back into the town; this will require a charter amendment which, in turn, requires attorney time

Discussion on Town Plan Actions and Goals

- Board tabled in-depth review of the board-centric Town Plan actions & goals at its August 15th meeting; intent was to resume review at a less cluttered meeting

Discussion of Upcoming Holiday & Meeting Schedules

- **Meeting Schedules**
 - Assuming the annual EMFD budget unveiling occurs on December 1st, we should otherwise be able to maintain the regular meeting schedule through December; we'll need to schedule a public forum/hearing early in January for the charter update; a possible date would be the 9th
- **Holiday Schedules**
 - Once again the road crew would like to use Veterans Day as a floating, Monday holiday for use during deer season

- The office staff would like to use Veterans Day, along with New Year's Day, and Christmas, to close during the December 26-30 stretch
- **Town Volunteer Appreciation Party Schedule**
 - This will be the 5th year of this party; last year it was held at the town office on Thursday, December 17th, 5 p.m., as more of an open house than a sit-down dinner event; the three years prior it was a dinner affair at the ESF

Updates on Town Committees

- **Charter Committee**
 - TA Johnson update on meeting with committee October 12th
- **Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee**
 - Chair Gardner update on site testing

Appointments

- **Conservation Fund Advisory Committee**
 - Bruce Howlett has volunteered to serve on the committee

Town Administrator Report

- Road Foreman Position Advertisement:
 - Now on VT Job Link; will be in World for two issues; VLCT platforms; VT Local Roads venues; FPF; town website
- Meeting Schedule:

○ October 18 th	6:30 pm	BCA meeting on election issues
○ October 27 th	7:00 pm	EMFD quarterly budget presentation at ESF
○ November 7 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ November 21 st	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 3 new permit applications since October 3, 2016
- No DRB meeting scheduled