

To: East Montpelier Selectboard
From: Jim Barlow, Esq.
Date: November 2, 2016
Re: Proposed Schedule for a Merger of EM Fire District #1 and the Town

Below is a possible timeline for merger of East Montpelier Fire District No. 1 and the Town of East Montpelier. It is built with an eye to accomplishing the Town vote on Town Meeting day while accommodating the Fire District's annual meeting date (second Wednesday in January) and the Selectboard's regular meeting schedule (first and third Mondays of the month).

Here is the proposed timeline:

- **November 7, 2016. (Monday) Selectboard and Prudential Committee discuss merger of East Montpelier Fire District No. 1 into the Town of East Montpelier.** Discussion of merger presented to Selectboard and Prudential Committee for consideration. Discussion is held at concurrent regular Selectboard Meeting and special Prudential Committee Meeting.
- **November 21, 2016. (Monday) Selectboard and Prudential Committee further discuss possible merger of East Montpelier Fire District No. 1 into the Town of East Montpelier.** Discussion is held at concurrent regular Selectboard Meeting and special Prudential Committee Meeting.
- **December 5, 2016. (Monday) Selectboard and Prudential Committee vote to approve plan of merger at regular Selectboard meeting and special Prudential Committee meeting.** 24 V.S.A. 1482 ("A plan of merger shall be prepared which shall be approved by a majority of the legislative body of each of the parties to the proposed merger before being promulgated.") Votes are held at concurrent regular Selectboard Meeting and special Prudential Committee Meeting.
- **December 6, 2016. (Tuesday) Copies of plan of merger are posted in three or more public places in the areas involved.** 24 V.S.A. 1484 ("Not less than thirty days prior to the meetings referred to in section 1485 of this title, copies of the plan of merger shall be posted in three or more public places in each of the areas involved.") Note: Last day to post is December 12, 2016.
- **December 8, 2016. (Thursday) Notice of December 19 public hearing on plan of merger published in Times Argus. 24 V.S.A. 1484** ("Notices of the hearings shall be advertised in at least three issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the town. The last advertisement shall appear not later than three days before the final public hearing.")
- **December 15, 2016. (Thursday) Notice of December 19 public hearing on plan of merger published in Times Argus. 24 V.S.A. 1484** ("Notices of the hearings shall be advertised in at least three issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the town. The last advertisement shall appear not later than three days before the final public hearing.")
- **December 19, 2016. (Monday) First of two public hearings on the plan of merger.** 24 V.S.A. 1484 ("Two public hearings on the proposed plan of merger shall be held at intervals of two weeks in each of the areas involved. The later hearings shall be held not less than five days before the meetings referred to in section 1485 of this title.") Hearing is held at concurrent duly warned regular Selectboard Meeting and Special Prudential Committee Meeting.
- **December 22, 2016. (Thursday) Notices of January 2 public hearings on plan of merger published in Times Argus. 24 V.S.A. 1484** ("Notices of the hearings shall be advertised in at least three issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the town. The last advertisement shall appear not later than three days before the final public hearing.")

- **December 29, 2016. (Thursday) Notices of January 2 public hearings on plan of merger published in Times Argus. 24 V.S.A. 1484** (“Notices of the hearings shall be advertised in at least three issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the town. The last advertisement shall appear not later than three days before the final public hearing.”) Note: last day to advertise is December 30, 2016.
- **January 2, 2017. (Monday) Second of two public hearings on the plan of merger** 24 V.S.A. 1484 (“Two public hearings on the proposed plan of merger shall be held at intervals of two weeks in each of the areas involved. The later hearings shall be held not less than five days before the meetings referred to in section 1485 of this title.”) Hearing is held at concurrent regular Selectboard Meeting and Special Prudential Committee Meeting. Note: Last day to hold second public hearing is January 6, 2017.
- **January 11, 2017. (Wednesday) Australian ballot vote to approve plan of merger by East Montpelier Fire District No.1 voters at annual meeting.** 24 V.S.A. 1485(b)(“One or more municipalities within a town may merge into the town upon the approval of a plan of merger by a majority vote of the municipality or municipalities and the town at separate meetings duly warned for that purpose and held in each of the areas concerned.”)
- **March 7, 2017. (Tuesday) Australian ballot vote to approve plan of merger by Town of East Montpelier at annual meeting.** 24 V.S.A. 1485(b)(“One or more municipalities within a town may merge into the town upon the approval of a plan of merger by a majority vote of the municipality or municipalities and the town at separate meetings duly warned for that purpose and held in each of the areas concerned.”)
- **March 17, 2016. (Friday) Last day for East Montpelier clerk to notify the Secretary of State of the merger vote.** (“The clerk or equivalent officer of the municipality into which other municipalities have merged shall so notify the secretary of state within ten days following the last of the meetings referred to in section 1485 of this title.”)