

Selectboard Memo
November 21, 2016 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

➤ **Update on Charter Committee**

- Charter Committee is on track to recommend amendments to be voted on at 2017 Town Meeting; if the board wants to get a preliminary notice (without the actual language) into the January/February Signpost issue, a date for the first of two public hearings (the second will be Town Forum, March 4th) should be chosen; the only rules are that it must be held before February 5th and be formally noticed (including in the Times Argus) at least 10 days before the hearing; obvious options would be any Monday in January (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
- The Charter Committee is requesting that the board consider the possibility of adding a variety of unused offices (fence viewer; weigher of coal; inspector of lumber, shingles, and wood) to the list of abolished offices (town grand juror; town agent; trustees of public funds)

➤ **Personnel Matters [Probable executive session]**

- Update on Road Foreman position
- Seasonal part-time road crew position candidate

Update on East Montpelier Fire District #1 Merger Plan

- The EMFD #1 Prudential Committee has approved the merger plan; members will be at meeting tonight to discuss next steps
- Consideration of the merger plan will be on the SB's December 5th meeting agenda; if both boards agree to move forward with the plan, the first hearing for the merger will be December 19th at 6:00 p.m. (right before the SB's regular meeting); the second hearing needs to be during the week of January 2nd (no later than the 6th); it could easily be on January 2nd if the SB decides to hold a regular meeting that night

Discussion on Next Steps after Land Conservation Summit

EM Planning Commission and Conservation Fund Advisory Committee will meet with the Selectboard

- Art Chickering, a member of the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee, will not be able to make the meeting; he suggests that the group consider funding (or perhaps seeking a grant for) a town-specific update of Deb Brighton's Land Conservation and Property Taxes in Vermont report published in 2009 by the VT Land Trust

East Montpelier Gully Jumpers Snowmobile Club Request for Designated Town Road Usage for Trail Crossings

- See letter for the annual request for use of town roads to allow non-direct road crossings in certain limited circumstances; if comfortable, need motion accepting request

Legal Matters [Probably executive session]

➤ **Hudson Adverse Possession Lawsuit**

- Appears lawsuit will not be going to mediation; trial is still set for early 2017

Update on Old LaPerle Farm Property Committee

- Chair Gardner, who also chairs the LaPerle Committee, will provide an update

Discussion on Murray Road Culvert Project Options

- Doug Newton, the project's design engineer, has evaluated the options for timber rail as requested by the board at the November 7th meeting; to use the timber rail in a conforming manner will require an additional 205 feet of rail; total estimated cost of \$34,648 as opposed to steel rail at approximately \$7,200
- Mr. Newton is requesting guidance from the board on two issues:
 - Should the plans be finalized without any option for timber rail?

- Should the plans be finalized without any access slot for Mr. Cueto's property near the Montpelier line (issue discussed at the November 7th meeting; including the access will require wetlands delineation and a likely wetlands permit process)?

Appointments

- **Capital Improvement Committee**
 - Ed Deegan
- **Revolving Loan Advisory Committee**
 - Gabrielle Malina

Town Administrator Report

- Energy Planning Standards Training Opportunity:
 - The Department of Public Service and Central VT Regional Planning Commission are hosting a training session on the new energy planning standards on December 14th, 6-8 p.m. at the Brown Public Library in Northfield
- Forestry Management Plan on Town-owned Baird Parcels:
 - The town is being asked by VT Land Trust to update the management plan that was put in place in 2003; town took possession of the Baird parcels from VLT in 2006, with VLT holding a variety of conservation easements; VLT is researching the issue to determine what is expected of the town
- Update on Property Taxes:
 - \$121,653 (3.3%) in first installment tax payments were late after the November 15th deadline compared to \$136,375 (3.7%) last year; this is an unusually close apples-to-apples comparison as the overall taxes due this year are only \$54,000 more than last year
 - Overall we're running approximately \$122,000 in collections ahead of last year, including payments for part/all of the second installment (net of the taxes billed difference); 40% is still due compared to 42% last year
- Update on Traffic Ordinance:
 - The deadline for petitions calling for a town vote on the amendments adopted by the Selectboard on October 3rd has passed with no petitions submitted; the amended ordinance will take effect on December 2nd
- Update on North Montpelier Historic District Sign:
 - The sign, placed in 2012 at the southwest side of the new "Singing Bridge" on VT Rte. 14 N, has not aged gracefully and has been removed for rehabilitation; the intent is to have the sign back in place by spring 2017
- Update on Park 'n Ride Facility:
 - It appears that the recent environmental and access reviews are nearing completion without any changed expectations for the project or town; we will likely have to remove some trees this winter to avoid any summer tree removal in a known bat area; final plans should be available in the near future with the hope of putting the project out to bid by spring 2017
- Update on Liability Claim for Damage to Auto:
 - The November 7th claim for damage caused when a Saab sedan bottomed out on Snow Hill Road has been denied by VLCT
- Meeting Schedule:
 - December 1st 7:00 pm Joint meeting with EMFD & Calais at ESF
 - December 5th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting/joint meeting with Calais
 - December 16th 5:00 pm Town Volunteer Appreciation Party
 - December 19th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 1 new permit application since November 7, 2016
- No DRB meeting scheduled