

Selectboard Memo
January 2, 2017 SB Meeting

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PLAN OF MERGER TO MERGE THE FIRE DISTRICT WITH TOWN
➤ **Joint hearing with East Montpelier Fire District #1 Prudential Committee**

Discussion on Proposed Charter Amendments

- The East Montpelier Charter Committee has submitted a report with draft charter language that will add the town clerk and delinquent tax collector positions to the list of town jobs appointed by the Selectboard
- If the Selectboard decides to move forward with the amendment process, the first of two hearings on the amendments is scheduled for Monday, January 16th, 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Facility
- Chair Gardner has called a special Selectboard meeting for Monday, January 9th, 6:30 p.m. at the town office to review and possibly tweak the amendment language prior to the first hearing

Discussion on Proposed Sanctuary Community Policy

- Board Member Etnier will present his research into the possibility of the town adopting a “sanctuary city” policy
- This presents a two-fold issue: whether to move forward with the sanctuary policy concept; and, if so, whether to do so as a direct Selectboard action prior to January 20th or as a 2017 Town Meeting discussion
- Town resident emails have shown either strong support or strong disagreement with the adoption of such a policy

Discussion on Potential Invasive Plant Workshop

- Our invasive species contractor, Mike Bald, has provided some information regarding a potential workshop on chervil, including pre-workshop tasks and follow-up suggestions; the intent is to develop a framework for an early May workshop

Development of 2016 Selectboard Report for Annual Report

- The board needs to develop concepts members wish to highlight for the report

Discussion on FY2018 Budget Development

- See updated draft budget and staff analysis for FY2018
 - Combined town employee lines
 - Decreased highway labor and material lines to bring budget close to level-funded (Selectboard budget up 0.7%; total expenses up 1.1%)

Discussion on 2017 Town Meeting Warning

- Conservation Fund Article:
 - Dropped to \$7,500 as discussed at December 19th meeting
- No known petition article in the works at this point

Town Administrator Report

- VT Act 69, the Earned Sick Leave Law:
 - The law took effect on January 1, 2017; our basic sick leave offering is more generous than the state requirement, so no major changes are needed; however, the law benefits any employee working more than 18 hours/week on average; we currently do not provide sick leave to a part-time employee under contract who works approximately 22 hours/week; employees under contract are not exempt from the law’s provisions; this will likely require an amendment to the town’s personnel policy
- VT Department of Taxes Equalization Study:
 - East Montpelier’s 2016 Common Level of Assessment, the measure of how our property assessment values compare to market value, is 94.94%, up from last year’s 94.6%; this is

generally considered good news as this will slightly lessen the effect of the CLA on the education tax rate charged to property owners in the 2017/18 tax year

- Central VT Solid Waste Management District's Annual Report:
 - See report; once again asking for \$1/capita dues assessment
- VT Land Trust's 40th Anniversary Celebration:
 - Intends to hold a series of 40 events highlighting all aspects of conservation; looking for event suggestions from owners of conserved properties (the town owns two such properties)
- National School Choice Week:
 - Sponsors of the program are asking the Selectboard to proclaim January 22-28, 2017 as "Town of East Montpelier School Choice Week"
- Meeting Schedule:
 - January 9th 6:30 pm Selectboard special meeting; review of charter amendments
 - January 16th 6:00 pm At ESF: SB regular meeting; hearing on charter amendments
 - January 23rd 6:30 pm Selectboard special meeting; final budget/warning approvals

Zoning Administrator Report

- No new permit applications since December 19, 2016
- See permit activity for 2016:
 - 55 permit applications, mostly (39) for small residential projects
- No DRB meeting scheduled