

Selectboard Memo
May 15, 2017 SB Meeting

Conversation with Vermont State Police Regarding Fair and Impartial Policing

- Synopsis of Event: Vermont State Police (VSP) provides primary law enforcement protection to four central Vermont towns that passed town meeting resolutions in support of immigrants: Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, and Plainfield. Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing policy addresses some of the issues raised in these resolutions. The East Montpelier Selectboard will host officers of the VSP to present what the Fair and Impartial Policing policy is and how their work conforms with it. VSP officers scheduled are Captain Ingrid Jonas, Director of Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs, and Lt. Matthew Nally of the Middlesex Barracks. A discussion will follow.

Discussion on Personnel Policy Amendment to Incorporate "Sanctuary City" Concepts

- At its April 17th meeting SB members agreed to revisit on May 15th the concept of incorporating the 2017 Town Meeting voter-supported "sanctuary city" language into the personnel policy; board members have expressed doubts as to whether the personnel policy is the most effective vehicle for effectuating the will of the voters

Consideration of Candidates for Auditor Position

- No applications as yet

Discussion on Town Employee Northeast Delta Dental Plan

- The town plan, which covers employees only, will have a price increase of 2% for FY2018; plan improvements, including coverage for white composite fillings, is cited for the increase
- Another change requires SB approval: the plan will now include an orthodontic rider if the board authorizes the change (no charge; the plan originally would not offer the rider for less than 10 employees; the rider is now available for groups of five or more, which includes East Montpelier)

Update on Charter Amendment Process in VT Legislature and Discussion of Next Steps

- The charter amendment bill, H.527, has been passed in both the House and the Senate; it now awaits the Governor's signature; we have no timeframe on that

Discussion on Options for Potential Purchase of New Fire Engine for EMFD

- EMFD has requested permission to use its capital reserve fund to purchase a new fire engine using 10-year financing; EMFD would also like the town, along with Calais, to kick in additional funding to augment the capital reserve fund usage
- There are concerns with the financing; we are being advised to consider purchasing the fire engine as a town in conjunction with Calais and allowing EMFD the use; this plan would require a town vote

Discussion on Selectboard's Summer Meeting Schedule

- **Possible Schedule:**
 - June 5; June 19
 - July 10; July 24
 - August 7; August 21
 - September 11
 - October 2....back to normal
- **Other Dates/Known Issues**
 - EMFD quarterly meeting July 20
 - July 3 & September 4 are out due to holidays
 - Potential special town meeting/forum for EMFD fire engine
 - Potential issues dealing with appointment process for new charter mandates

Appointments

- **Recreation Board**
 - Paul Winters has been recommended by the Rec Board

Town Administrator Report

- Public Records Request to EM Recreation Board:
 - On May 8, 2017 at the Rec Board's meeting Kristy Flynn submitted a public records request for all agendas & minutes since 2014 and all written documents mentioning CJ Flynn during the same time period
 - The Rec Board is working to comply; it requested an extension of time (until May 22nd) to compile the available records; minutes, for the most part, don't exist; the board does, finally, have a clerk to take minutes
 - The Rec Board will be at the June 5th Selectboard meeting
- Update on VTrans Grant Applications:
 - We have received official notification that we were awarded the VTrans Better Roads grant for an updated roads inventory and roads erosion assessment; a formal grant agreement will follow
 - We received informal notification that we've been awarded a VTrans paving grant for the Muddy Brook repair/repave project; no word yet on the VTrans structures grant application for an engineering study of the Center Road Mallory Brook culvert
- Today, May 15, 2017 Is Our Property Tax Deadline:
 - Payments were coming in hot and heavy all day, including many through our online payment portal; from all indications, we are in excellent shape, but no final tally was available in time for this meeting
- Update on Road Foreman Position Advertisement:
 - Ad on VT Job Link through June 30th
 - Ad distributed to VT Local Roads listserv and general email list
 - Help Wanted ad costs for standard small ad (2" x 4" or smaller) the approximate cost:
 - The World: \$80/week (weekly rag so a one-time ad)
 - Times Argus: \$100/day; no wide online presence (formerly with Monster.com)
 - Burlington Free Press: \$600-800/3 days; \$800-1,200/6 days; Career Builder included
- Meeting Schedule:
 - May 22nd 6:30 pm Special Selectboard meeting at Calais town hall
 - May 31st 2:00 pm Park 'n Ride Construction Bid opening
 - June 5th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
 - June 19th 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting