

Selectboard Memo
August 7, 2017 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

- **Potential Shift in EMFD Quarterly Meeting Concept**
 - EMFD Chief Rolland would like to decrease the number of meetings
 - The service agreement calls for four quarterly budget presentations plus the annual December operating budget meeting
 - Chief Rolland would like to have the July end-of-fiscal-year meeting and the operating budget meeting
 - Calais SB Chair Wheeler would like to keep three meetings:
 - Budget presentations in April and July plus the December meeting

Road Foreman Report

- Road Foreman Guthrie Perry will be here to give an update on road projects as well as discuss his first weeks on the job and upcoming expenses
 - Murray Road is open; the culvert replacement project is complete
 - Mr. Perry would like the board to consider the purchase of a hydraulic hose machine

Consideration of 2017 Gorman Brothers Chloride Delivery System Agreement

- The town's chloride truck is unfit for use
- The proposed option is to contract with Gorman Group LLC to "rent" a chloride storage tank and chloride delivery equipment at the cost of \$1/year in return for the annual purchase of at least 9,000 gallons of chloride at market price (\$0.89/gallon currently); agreement has a minimum 3 year term
- If the board is comfortable, it should accept the proposal and authorize TA Johnson to complete the agreement

Setting of the 2017/2018 Property Taxes

- See tax worksheet and Listers 411 document
- Grand list is rounded at \$2,999,000.00; up \$8,737.99 (0.29%) from last year
 - Reason for the rounding is the expected loss of grand list value as the final clean-up of the grand list occurs in the coming week; actual number right now is \$2,999,285.77
- Resident (homestead) tax rate: 2.5045; down 0.0464 (1.85%) from last year
- Non-resident tax rate: 2.2192; down 0.0006 (0.03%) from last year
- Need motion to set the 2017/18 property tax rates

Consideration of Homestead Filing Penalty Waiver

- 32 VSA §5410 sets a penalty for late filing of homestead declaration (i.e., after April 15th); we are a town with a higher homestead rate, so the standard penalty is 8% if late in declaring homestead & 3% if incorrect in declaring homestead when should be non-residential
- Selectboard can decline to charge the penalty if so chooses; at this point we don't know how many properties are affected by the penalty for this upcoming tax year due to the ongoing confusion with the state's homestead reporting
- Board can also abate the penalty in cases of hardship under the following circumstances:
 - Full-time active military duty of declarant outside state
 - Serious illness or disability of declarant
 - Serious illness, disability, or death of immediate family member of declarant
 - Fire, flood, or other disaster
- Need to determine (by motion) if will/won't charge penalty

Consideration of Delinquent Tax Collection Policy

- See draft policy

Discussion on Potential Tax Sales

- See list of delinquencies
- The Laundry probate estate action is still proceeding; no known date for final judgment

Discussion on the Creation of a Property Tax Policy Committee and Development of Charge to Committee

- Only two volunteers have stepped forward: Kim Watson and Ed Deegan
- Treasurer Welch does not believe a committee is needed at this time; the number of complaints regarding the tax payment parameters is low and there is no reason to alter the current payment dates

Consideration of Cemetery Perpetual Care CD Renewal

- This is a \$21,500 certificate of deposit with North Country Federal; Treasurer Welch would like to keep it at NCFCU for either an 11-month or 21-month term; he is still negotiating terms
- If in agreement, board should authorize Treasurer Welch to renew the CD for a period up to two years on such terms as he, in his best judgment, sees fit

Consideration of LUCA Participation for 2020 Census

“Local Update of Census Addresses” Operation

- Board needs to decide if it wants to participate in the program for the 2020 Census; we did participate for the 2010 Census
- If it does want to participate, the board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign form and designate TA Johnson as the LUCA liaison to manage the process

Consideration of Candidates for Town Clerk Position

- Ms. Willis will present the Town Clerk Selection Committee’s latest recommendations
- If necessary, board should be prepared to continue this meeting at a later date

Appointments

➤ Development Review Board

- Seat available to replace Andrew Greenwald (term through 3/2020)
 - Candidates: Ed Deegan, Art Chickering, and Alice Dworkin

➤ Rural Roads Vegetation Assessment Project Advisory Committee

- Mark Lane

Town Administrator Report

- External Audit
 - Sullivan Powers here this week to conduct the annual audit
- Meeting Schedule:
 - August 21st 6:30 pm SB regular meeting
 - Sept. 11th 6:30 pm Selectboard special meeting (no September 4th or 18th meeting)
 - Sept. 15th 8:30 am 2017 Municipal Day; VT agency workshops at National Life

Zoning Administrator Report

- 2 permit applications since July 24, 2017
- No DRB meeting in August; the next scheduled meeting is September 5th