

Selectboard Memo
October 2, 2017 SB Meeting

Report on Central VT Solid Waste Management District: Casey Northrup, Town Representative

- Mr. Northrup will provide an update on recent CVSWMD happenings

Road Foreman Report

- Road Foreman Perry will be here to discuss:
 - Shifting of the Heavy Equipment part of the Capital Plan; the grader is up for replacement in the near future; Mr. Perry would like to defer this for a few years and move the loader to the top of the list for replacement
 - Update on road projects:
 - Muddy Brook Road slump repair by Dubois Construction is ongoing; the repaired areas are gravel; guardrail should be replaced this week with paving patches soon to follow; the full road will then be repaved by Pike when it can find room in its schedule
 - The crew has completed two of the grant-funded erosion control projects, on Snow Hill Road and Sanders Circle; the third one, on Center Road, is in progress
- **Consideration of 2017/18 Winter Roads Policy**
 - Once again, essentially the same as last year; if comfortable, this should be officially adopted

Consideration of 2018 Employee Health Care Benefit Options

- Basic question is whether the board wants to make any changes to current offerings:
 - We pay the equivalent of 90% of the BCBS Platinum Plan
 - In 2017, one employee chose to take the Gold Plan, which saved the town some \$40/month and cost the employee nothing (up front; deductible levels make this a gamble); there is no sign as yet that the employee intends to shift to the Platinum Plan
 - In lieu of insurance, we provide a stipend of \$1,600
- Assuming we want to stick with the BCBS offerings, an initial issue is whether we want to offer our employees access to as many as 9 BCBS plans or some subset of same (see sheet)
- MVP plans continue to be more competitive than in recent years (the state has held down rate increases) and it appears MVP now offers, through Cigna, a national network similar to BCBS
- Cost of BCBS Platinum Plan is up overall about 9.49% (last year the Platinum Plan increased 4.59%)
- FY2018 budget health insurance line is \$98,000; the first half of the 2018 health care benefit is covered by this budget line, with the second half under the FY2019 budget; current monthly cost (with stipends and VERB Trust costs) is \$8,036.54; projected monthly cost starting in January 2018, using the current benefit and assuming no changes, will be \$8,755.92; in July 2018 that number rises to \$9,372.59. As always, we have to open up the benefit options to all employees, so the actual cost could be significantly higher.
- Need to determine 3 things:
 - Town share of insurance cost
 - BCBS plans (or others) to be offered to employees
 - Value of stipend in lieu of health insurance

Discussion of 2018 Draft VLCT Municipal Policy

- The 2017 VLCT Town Fair conference will be held October 4 & 5, 2017 at Killington Resort Grand Hotel; the annual meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on the 4th with the normal workshops on the 5th
- Mr. Etnier, who will serve as the town's delegate at the annual meeting, has proposed two areas in the draft VLCT Municipal Policy for discussion:
 - 1.03(2) Open Meeting Law expansion
 - 1.09(8) No early voting/registration on the day before an election

Consideration of VLCT Membership Renewal

- The annual VLCT PACIF membership renewal is due October 13th; assuming the board wants to continue with the VLCT insurance program, the board should authorize TA Johnson to sign and submit the paperwork

Update on EM Park 'n Ride Project

- The lot is paved and lined; Dale Percy Inc. should be back this week to work on the landscaping elements
- The lights and the bus shelter have been ordered, but will likely not be available for installation until mid-November or later; also, the Level II charging station that WEC is granting to the town still needs to be installed (Bill Powell of WEC will be at the board's October 16th meeting to discuss the grant); Dale Percy may be ready to turn over the lot to the town within two weeks; it is up to the town to decide whether to allow use of the lot before all the installations are complete

Discussion on Potential Alterations to the Town's Property Tax Collection Procedures

- At its August 7th meeting the board decided to handle on its own (in lieu of creating a separate committee) a review and possible recommendation to voters of changes to the town's tax collection procedures; possible areas of change include:
 - Tax penalty imposition
 - Level of penalty (currently 8%)
 - Potential stagger of imposition, such as 2% the first month, an additional 3% the second, etc.
 - Tax payment timing and number of payments
 - Payment acceptance protocol
 - Now that the town accepts credit card and debit payments, should payments be allowed until midnight of the deadline day
 - Allowance of postmark rather than receipt by the deadline

Town Administrator Report

- Updates on Projects:
 - Town has already received the state reimbursements, a total of \$282,387, for the Murray Road culvert and County Road paving projects
 - The FY2018 Municipal Planning Grant Program application has been submitted; the decision should be known by the beginning of December
 - The trails easement portion of the Fairmont Dairy Phase 1 conservation project closed last week
- Meeting Schedule:
 - October 4th 1:30 pm VLCT annual meeting at Killington
 - October 16th 6:30 pm SB regular meeting; second intersection study forum
 - October 18th 7:00 pm Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan forum at Calais Town Hall

Zoning Administrator Report

- 5 permit applications since September 11, 2017
- The next scheduled DRB meeting is October 3rd for: Casella transfer station's biennial review; conceptual review of a master plan for 170 Cherry Tree Hill Road; a 2-lot subdivision of the 36-acre lot across US Rte. 2 from the Carpet Barn; and, a boundary adjustment in favor of the Carpet Barn from the golf range lot