

Selectboard Memo
January 8, 2018 SB Meeting

Road Foreman Report

- **Discussion on FY2019 Highway Budget**
 - Road Foreman Perry's recommended budget levels are in the draft budget worksheet
- Update on New Loader
- Discussion on Roadside Mower

Discussion with Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

- Committee members will be here to discuss the need for further appropriations for the benefit of the town's conservation fund; the fund currently contains about \$17,060 after the September 2017 payment of \$6,000 for the trail easement on the Fairmont Dairy property and includes the FY2018 voter-approved appropriation of \$7,500; the committee would like to continuing adding to the fund, but at a slower pace, perhaps at the \$2,500 level for FY2019

Discussion on Continuation of PACE Program

- Efficiency VT, the administrator of the town's PACE (property assessed clean energy) program, has given the required 90-day notice of intent to terminate its agreement with the town; the PACE program, designed to expand the opportunities for homeowners to finance energy efficiency &/or improvements, never really took off – other options developed that fit homeowner needs more effectively

Discussion on January 26, 2018 Delinquent Tax Sale [Potential Executive Session]

- The tax sale for the Clement/Buck, Kaiser, and Thomas properties is scheduled for January 26th; the town needs to decide whether it intends to be the default bidder for any of these properties; regardless of the town's intent on bidding, the board should formally authorize TA Johnson, as delinquent tax collector, to bid

Consideration of Carlton Smith Fund CD Renewal

- The \$50,000 fund principal is currently in a one-year CD at 0.80%; income is set aside for future distribution to (in one-third shares) Four Corners, the Rec Board, and EM Trails; Treasurer Welch would like to renew for at least one year, trying to balance the available rates (all better than the 0.80) with the likelihood that rates will continue to increase
- Along with whatever guidance the board wishes to impart, it should authorize Treasurer Welch to renew the CD

Development of 2017 Selectboard Report for Annual Report

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

Discussion on FY2019 Budget Development

- In a bit of a surprise, the town's Washington County tax is now projected to go down for FY2019 by \$98 due to a drop in our equalized grant list (caused by the CLA rising slightly and an increase in Current Use acreage); this is not final as yet – should know for sure by the end of January

Discussion on 2018 Town Meeting Warning Development

- Cemetery Commission request is coming in at \$17,250 to reflect the projected FY2019 budget and the fact there is no Cemetery Commission reserve
 - Fred Strong is not running for reelection and Chris Reed is stepping down effective at town meeting, so two slots on the commission are open
- Four Corners Schoolhouse Association and EM Trails Association requests are the same as last year:
 - 4 Corners at \$3,100; EM Trails at \$4,000

- Update on Candidacies:
 - Selectboard (3-year & 2-year terms)
 - Seth Gardner is running for reelection to the 3-year seat
 - Planning Commission (3 3-year terms)
 - EMES School Board (3-year & 2-year terms)
 - Town Moderator; School Moderator
 - 1st Constable
 - Sandy Conti is running for reelection
 - 2nd Constable
 - Lister (3-year term)
 - Auditor (3-year term; 2 of 3-year term)
 - Ed Deegan is running for the 3-year; Carla Occaso for the 2 of 3-year; both are already serving as appointees
 - Cemetery Commission (5-year term; 3 of 5-year term)
 - Jon Boucher is running for the 5-year seat; John Flannery may run for the 3 of 5-year
- No known petition article in the works at this point

Town Administrator Report

- Update on October 29/30 2017 Wind Storm:
 - Washington County is included in the federal disaster declaration for the October storm event; the town's "damage" was essentially limited to clean-up expenses, but those costs potentially can be recouped (at 92.5% of value) assuming FEMA accepts our application; the process starts with a January 12th briefing for applicants
- Update on Park 'n Ride:
 - Project is essentially complete for the winter, although the windows for the bus shelter should be installed at some point when the weather cooperates; we are still awaiting a remediation plan from the contractor for the pavement waves; we have not yet signed off on substantial completion, so technically the contractor is still responsible for the property
 - The facility needs to have some parking restrictions, which will require an amendment to the town's traffic ordinance
- Potential Land Records Committee:
 - There are a number of issues coming to a head regarding land records:
 - The vault is full, but the need for storage continues to grow;
 - The town has no retention schedule, but both former clerk Flynn and current clerk Laquerre have taken steps to develop one;
 - There is no plan/policy for protecting the older books, both the land records and grand list records;
 - The ACS land records system is in its 5th year – the original contract expires in May 2018; whether we renew or switch is an issue that needs study;
 - We have made no effort to digitize the land records beyond the original 2000 date, despite the intent to add past years when funding was available.
 - It may be time to form a committee to develop the necessary policy(ies) and guide the town's decision making in this area
- Meeting Schedule:

○ January 22 nd	6:30 pm	"Special" Regular Selectboard meeting
○ January 26 th	10:00 am	3-property tax sale at town office
○ January 29 th	6:30 pm	Special Selectboard meeting, if necessary
○ February 4 th	6:30 pm	Regular Selectboard meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 53 permit applications in 2017; no applications in 2018 to this point
- The next DRB meeting is expected to be on February 6, 2018; no warned hearings as yet, but there will be two subdivision sketch plan reviews