

## Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

### December 7, 2017 Special Joint Meeting with the Calais Selectboard

**SB Attendance:** Chair Seth Gardner and Gene Troia [no quorum]; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

**Calais SB Attendance:** Chair Denise Wheeler, Sharon Winn Fannon, Clif Emmons, Rose Pelchuck, and John Brabant

**EMFD Attendance:** Chief Ty Rolland, President Toby Talbot, Albert Petrella, Paul Guare, Jason Cote-Wong, and Sandy Conti; EMFD Clerk Megan Canella

**Public Attendance:** Ed Deegan

Chair Gardner called the East Montpelier Selectboard meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

### **Presentation of the Proposed FY2019 Ambulance & Emergency Services Budget by the East Montpelier Fire Department**

EMFD Chief Rolland welcomed the board members.

#### **Budget**

EMFD President Talbot gave the budget presentation. The proposed total FY2019 EMFD budget for fire and ambulance services is \$448,625, an increase of \$22,935 (5.4%) over the FY2018 budget of \$425,690. After subtracting the revenue from the ambulance service contract with Plainfield (\$49,074 for FY2019) the expected contribution from the two towns is as follows:

East Montpelier	\$266,367.33
Calais	\$133,183.67

This represents a 5.7% increase over FY2018 town contributions. There were three major areas of increase: dispatch cost (up \$3,666); insurance, including workers comp (up \$10,557), and ambulance staffing (up \$10,000). EMFD is continuing its effort to reduce dependence on volunteers for ambulance staffing. The intent is to have the flexibility to schedule at least one paid staffer throughout the week, including nights and weekends.

EMFD was not prepared to present an updated capital plan or capital reserve fund accounting. EMFD will work on providing better information on the use of the ambulance service revenue, which is tied directly to the capital reserve fund. The boards agreed earlier in 2017 to allow a certain amount of off-the-top use of the ambulance revenue for staffing, but have yet to see how that is working or accounted for. The expectation is that the plan will reflect the revenue use, as there will be less income distributed to the capital reserve fund. [Up-front costs, such as medical equipment and drug costs and now including some staff expense, are subtracted from ambulance revenue, with the remainder split 75/25 to the capital reserve fund and contingency reserve fund, until the contingency reserve hits \$40,000, at which point all goes to the capital reserve].

At the conclusion of the budget presentation, Chief Rolland provided an update on a possible extension of the ambulance service territory to Marshfield. That town currently contracts with Cabot for ambulance service, but EMFD ends up going to Marshfield on a regular basis under our mutual aid agreement. There has been interest in firming up this arrangement and EMFD has tentatively offered Marshfield a 3-year contract for ambulance service, with a first year price of \$40,000, going up 3% each of the next two years. Board members generally supported the concept of service expansion, although concerns remain regarding dilution of service capability to the core communities along with cost of service equity between contract towns and core towns.

The boards will meet to discuss the EMFD budget request on December 11, 2017, 7:15 p.m. at the Calais Town Clerk's Office.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

**Approved: December 18, 2017 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting**