

Selectboard Memo October 21, 2019 SB Meeting

Conversation with Candidates for Selectboard Vacancy

- Current list of interested applicants to replace Kim Swasey on the board:
 - Ed Deegan

Discussion on 2020 Employee Health Insurance Options

Kelley Avery, VLCT

- We are currently operating under a BCBS association health plan through BRS (Business Registry Services) with a health reimbursement account providing up to \$5,500/employee; plan premium split 85% town, 15% employee; this plan will not be available in 2020 and the alternative plan developed for the town by BRS & BCBS, based on actual town employee statistics, is more expensive than the comparable VT Health Exchange plans
- The town has a calendar year 2019 HRA exposure of \$27,500 covering 5 employee plans; to date \$15,646 has been utilized
- 7 employees qualify for the town's health benefit; 5 currently partake; 1 is currently under contract with a significant incentive to not use the benefit; and 1 has for years accepted the town's \$1,600/year stipend in lieu of option; both the last two could choose to take the town's insurance offering during the upcoming open choice period (and, in theory, any of the first 5 could choose not to take the insurance)
- The shift off the association plan means the town will be without VLCT health insurance assistance unless we go back into the HIAS (VLCT's health insurance advisory services) program at a cost of \$1,400/year for 5 employees taking the town's insurance (add/subtract \$180/employee choice change)

Conversation with Capital Improvement Committee on FY2021 Capital Plan Development

- Committee chair and Selectboard member Troia will lead the conversation; this discussion is designed to set up the finalization of the committee's proposed FY2021 capital plan, which will be before the Selectboard at its December 16th meeting

Discussion on Stipend Allocation for Elected & Appointed Officers

- The stipend allotment for each position is set and will be paid out as part of the November 14th payroll; the issue is the split between those who served from March 2019 until resignation and those that serve from mid-term appointment until March 2020; this has been an unusual year with 5 such positions – Animal Control Officer, Assistant ACO, Constable, a Planning Commission seat, and a Selectboard seat
- See proposed stipend allocation sheet

Consideration of ESF Bond Fund Use for Flooring Improvements in Two Bays of the Emergency Services Facility

- The EM Fire Department is requesting funding to put in permanent protective flooring in the two large truck bays at the ESF; the concept is to protect the floors from winter chain damage; for many years EMFD has utilized roll-out rubber strips that don't stay in place; EMFD will handle the installation; cost of the flooring is \$3,077.25 and would come out of the ESF remainder bond fund if authorized; the bond fund sits at approximately \$16,800

Consideration of Conservation Fund Advisory Committee's Recommendation to Accept Cross VT Trail Association's Request for \$5,000 from Conservation Fund for Easement Purchase as Part of Fairmont Dairy Conservation Project

- This trails easement is over the main Lylehaven Farm property, now owned by Fairmont Dairy, and is designed to bring the Cross VT Trail up from the town-owned Benton property on US Rte. 2 and bring it within range of VT Rte. 14 S as it makes its way toward Plainfield
- The VT Housing and Conservation Board has approved the requested grants for both the development rights purchase by the VT Land Trust and the trails easement; the \$5,000 from our conservation fund will complete the fundraising element of the trails easement purchase

Consideration of Letter of Support for CVSWMD's Grant Application for a Household Hazardous Waste Facility

- The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District is submitting a proposal for the construction of a permanent household hazardous waste facility in our region under the Department of Environmental Conservation's 2019 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility Grants program; the concept is to have a year-round facility available to the community rather than relying on a few collection events scattered throughout central Vermont; CVSWMD has requested a letter of support for its proposal; see draft letter
- If comfortable, board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign letter

Consideration of rbTechnologies Agreement for Computer Network Backup Services

- As part of the computer system upgrade project, we have added a monitored off-site backup service through our IT provider, rbTechnologies, using a licensed Veeam Cloud Data Management portal; the cost of the service is per GB of data storage, with a current estimate of around \$100/month (agreement states an estimate of \$98.41 based on our first month of usage); this agreement will operate as an addition to our existing Perception IT services contract with rbTech (base cost generally of \$265/mo)
- If comfortable, board should authorize TA Johnson to complete agreement

Consideration of Letter of Support for CVFiber's Broadband Innovation Program Grant Application

- CVFiber is applying for the first round of the state's, through the Department of Public Services, new Broadband Innovation Program grant funding for feasibility studies and plan development; the entity is requesting that each member municipality submit a letter of support for the application; see draft letter
- If comfortable, board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign letter

Appointments:

➤ Selectboard Vacancy

- Kim Swasey resigned mid-way through the first year of a 2-year term; any appointment would be through the end of the first year of the term, 2020 Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020; the second year of the term will be up for election at 2020 Town Meeting

Town Administrator Report

- Central VT Solid Waste Management District's FY2021 budget public hearing:
 - Hearing will be held Wednesday, October 23rd, 5 p.m. at the CVSWMD conference room at the ARCC facility, 540 North Main Street in Barre (the back part of the old Times Argus building, now starring Dollar General roadside)
 - Preliminary budget calls for a continuation of the \$1/capita dues assessment for towns
 - Interim General Manager Cathleen Gent will meet with the board on November 4th
- Central VT Economic Development Corporation's 42nd annual meeting:
 - Thursday, October 24th, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza; \$35/seat
- Murray Hill Water System has provided the town with its latest source protection plan
- Meeting Schedule:
 - October 25, 2019 All day State Government Municipal Day event
 - November 4, 2019 6:30 p.m. Selectboard regular meeting
 - November 5, 2019 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Special school district vote at EMES
 - November 18, 2019 6:30 p.m. Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 1 new application since October 7th SB meeting; 60 applications so far in 2019
- The next DRB meeting is November 5, 2019; the meeting will include the biennial compliance review of the Casella transfer station permit and a hearing for a two-lot subdivision of the Clemons 435 Guyette Road parcel