

Selectboard Memo
December 2, 2019 SB Public Forum & Meeting

PUBLIC FORUM ON CREATING AN EAST MONTPELIER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Additions to Agenda:

- **Consideration of Transfer of Funds from General Fund to Other Town Funds as Budgeted:**
[Essentially this is authorizing the treasurer to make the transfers when appropriate]
 - \$3,500 from General Fund to Recreation Fund
 - \$17,250 from General Fund to Cemetery Fund
 - \$435,234 from General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund
- **Discussion on Options for Taking of Board Meeting Minutes**
 - Carl Etnier has been taking the minutes for over 5 years, with no remuneration; it may be time to consider other options
- **Renewal of HIAS (Health Insurance Advisory Services) Agreement with VLCT & Hickok & Boardman**
 - Prior to the town's shift in 2019 to the health insurance association plan we had been paying \$1,400/year to VLCT to be part of HIAS, which essentially gave us the services VLCT had always provided at no direct cost (as the cost was buried in the health insurance premiums) before the Affordable Care Act and the development of VT Health Connect; while under the association plan, VLCT once again could receive direct payment through the premiums; now that we're back on the Exchange, we need to re-up the HIAS agreement; same cost as previously with a couple of service elements removed (not ones we utilized)
 - If comfortable, board should authorize TA Johnson to complete agreement

Conversation with Candidates for Town Representative to the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors

- Ann Stanton and Chris Beling have expressed interest

Consideration of VLCT Cannabis Resolution Re Municipal Role in Commercial Cannabis Marketplace Regulatory Scheme

- VLCT is asking towns to support a resolution upholding a strong local role in whatever regulatory scheme put in place for the commercial cannabis marketplace; VLCT reports that 5 towns have signed on: Springfield, Brattleboro, Stowe, Windsor, & Williston (others may have adopted but not reported to VLCT);

Adoption of 2019 East Montpelier Hazard Mitigation Plan

- The updated plan has received "approval pending adoption" status from VT Emergency Management; VEM is in the midst of a pilot program whereby it stands in for FEMA in determining the acceptability of plans
- The next step is for the board to formally adopt the plan by resolution signed by all members
- Once the resolution of adoption is finalized, it will be added back into the plan by CVRPC, which will ensure that the plan is in a clean, final state (eliminate any "draft" reference; add adoption date; etc.); the plan will be shipped back to VEM for a final check and formal approval; VEM then notifies FEMA, which will issue the necessary approval letter, which completes the process

Preliminary Discussion on FY2021 Budget Development

- The not very pretty draft budget anticipates a north of 5% increase overall (3 cent increase in the municipal tax rate)
 - Revenues down 5% due to the removal of the EMES treasurer payment (\$9k), the normal decrease in the Calais bond interest payment, and a decrease in traffic fines to match our new reality (drop from \$9k to \$1k)
 - Expenses up 3.5%, driven by \$20k+ increases in health insurance and EMFD
- The highway budget aspect will be discussed at the January 6, 2020 board meeting

Preliminary Discussion on 2020 Town Meeting Warning

- The very preliminary draft warning includes potential articles still under consideration:
 - The shift of the constable from an elected to an appointed position;
 - Town authorization to sell a portion of the town-owned Old LaPerle Farm parcel; and,
 - Numerous funding articles, including the addition of Twin Valley Seniors as a standalone article and the reappearance of an article benefitting Cross VT Trail
- If the board decides to move forward with the Conservation Commission concept with the target of a town vote at 2020 Town Meeting, an article would need to be added for that purpose
- The other aspect in play this year is the meeting format:
 - The concept of a joint town/school meeting has been removed;
 - Town Forum is still scheduled for the Saturday before town meeting, starting at 9:30 a.m.; this could be altered; it's also possible that WCUUSD will ask to piggyback on our forum (no information as yet on how the school district will handle the informational meeting aspect of the school meeting); it's also possible that EMES will ask to participate, perhaps not in any formal way, at either the forum or town meeting

Town Administrator Report

- Town Office Oil Tank Inspection
 - The November 20, 2019 every-three-year fuel oil tank and associated pipes inspection by Packard Fuels resulted in a finding of barely acceptable; we will not pass again; replacement of the tank, pipes, line to the furnace will run \$2,000-\$3,000
- Potential Town Absorption of East Montpelier Trails, Inc.
 - See letter from EMTI
 - The group would like to get the discussion started relatively soon; possibly invite group to a February board meeting?
- EM Village Sidewalk Project Update
 - On track to go out to bid in January with the intent to start construction a.s.a.p. in April/early May
 - The town needs to contract with a resident engineer to monitor/manage construction; we'll use the VTrans At-the-Ready process; we'll need three townspeople officially involved in the selection (TA Johnson will be one); the SB should determine if it wants to be part of the process
- Town Office Heat Pump Update
 - No information as yet from Andy Shapiro; Alco Energy has not submitted a proposal
- Town Office Generator Installation Update
 - Necessary electrical work for the generator, including an upgrade to 200 amp service, successfully completed on November 22nd; awaiting a meeting with our contractor, Bushey's Generator Sales & Service, to complete the installation and training
- Update on Upcoming Joint Meeting with Calais Board
 - The Calais Selectboard has agreed to meet with the EM board as part of our December 16th meeting, forgoing the December 9th meeting; the joint element would be at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting itself will start at 5:00 p.m.; all organizations scheduled for that night have agreed to earlier agenda times
- Meeting Schedule:
 - December 5, 2019 7:00 p.m. Joint budget meeting with Calais & EMFD at ESF
 - December 13, 2019 5:00 p.m. Town volunteer appreciation event
 - December 16, 2019 5:00 p.m. Selectboard regular meeting **[Note special start time]**
This includes a 7 p.m. joint meeting with Calais
 - January 6, 2020 6:30 p.m. Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- No new applications since November 19th SB meeting; 65 applications so far in 2019
- The next DRB meeting is December 3, 2019; two warned hearings, a 2-lot subdivision of the Thornton parcel at 3205 North Street and a 3-lot subdivision of the Coburn property at 139 Daggett Road