

Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard

December 5, 2019 Special Joint Meeting with the Calais Selectboard

SB Attendance: Chair Seth Gardner, Gene Troia, Carl Etnier, and Casey Northrup; Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

Calais SB Attendance: Chair Denise Wheeler and Clif Emmons; Recording Secretary Katie Lane-Karnas

EMFD Attendance: Chief Ty Rolland, President Toby Talbot, and Albert Petrella; EMFD Clerk Judy Woodbeck

Public Attendance: None

Chair Gardner called the East Montpelier Selectboard meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Presentation of the Proposed FY2021 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 FY2021 EMFD budget for fire and ambulance services is \$552,053 an increase of \$32,177 (6.2%) over the FY2020 budget of \$519,876. The ambulance budget includes a \$15,000 revenue item reflecting an off-the-top (like other up-front costs, this is taken prior to the determination of the ambulance service revenue contributions to the EMFD capital reserve and contingency funds) transfer from ambulance service revenue to the operating budget. After subtracting the ambulance service revenue contribution and the revenue from the anticipated ambulance service contracts with Plainfield (\$52,062) and Marshfield (\$42,436), the expected contribution from the two towns is as follows (these are revised splits as the originally presented budgets were not equal to the contracted one-third Calais, two-thirds East Montpelier split):

	<u>Fire Service</u>	<u>Ambulance Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
East Montpelier	\$129,796	\$165,241	\$295,037
Calais	\$ 64,898	\$ 82,620	\$147,518

This represents a 7.6% increase over FY2020 town contributions. There were four major areas of increase: staffing (up \$11,236); insurance (up \$5,500); ambulance tax (a state tax on ambulance service revenue; up \$4,290) and hose testing (up \$3,400). 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. Full per

diem 2-per-shift staffing, which is not anticipated for at least 3 or 4 years, is expected to cost a minimum of \$400,000 and upwards of \$450,000 if the desired staffing of highly trained paramedics is achieved. Ambulance staffing, including payroll costs and workers compensation, for FY2021 is preliminarily budgeted at \$297,636.

EMFD presented an updated capital plan that reflected the recent purchases of two ambulances and a loan refinancing of Rescue 2, the heavy rescue/pumper vehicle purchased in 2017. The planned replacement of Engine 4 is listed as a FY2021 expense (\$350,000 estimate), but was not discussed. The planned expenditure of \$20,000 for power cots (gurneys with power-assisted leg assemblies) in both ambulances was discussed. Chief Rolland took the board members on a field trip to the facility bays to view the new ambulances and see just how difficult it can be to get a stretcher into the back of an ambulance (the show-and-tell made it clear why power assistance would be a good thing).

Chair Gardner thanked Chief Rolland for the excellent, very productive meeting.

The boards will meet to discuss the EMFD budget request on December 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m. at the East Montpelier Municipal Office Building.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Mr. Troia; second by Mr. Northrup. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

Approved: December 16, 2019 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting