

**Selectboard Memo**  
**May 4, 2020 SB Meeting**

**Consideration of Resilient Roads Committee's Recommendation of Contractor to Handle Ash Tree Management Pilot Project**

- The town received 4 bids for the ash tree management pilot project in the Gallison Hill/Wheeler/Schoolhouse Roads area:
  - Vermont Arborists, Inc. \$13,500
  - Marshfield Tree Service & Logging LLC \$13,925
  - Foxfire Tree Care LLC \$29,600
  - Field's Logging & Excavation \$40,000
- The Resilient Roads Committee recommends the town award the contract to Vermont Arborists, Inc. subject to reference checks; committee members will attend the meeting to update the board on the results of the reference checks
- Side note on the committee: The East Montpelier Resilient Roads Committee has been awarded the 2020 Arbor Day award by the VT Urban and Community Forestry Program for going above and beyond in its efforts on behalf of the East Montpelier community forests

**Discussion on Town Employee Northeast Delta Dental Plan**

- The dental plan, purchased through VLCT, is run on a fiscal year basis, so the new plan starts July 1<sup>st</sup>; no changes in terms this year – the cost is staying at \$37.19/employee; contract auto-renews unless board decides to make alterations

**Town Treasurer Report: Don Welch, Town Treasurer**

- See budget status update

**Discussion on Town Management in Light of Covid-19**

- Town office and garage are operating under the revised guidelines that took effect today; employees have completed the required training; all employees at work sites must pass a pre-work health survey every day; Municipal Assistant Sparrow's work station has been relocated to the large entrance area on the other side of the counter from the clerk's area to enable mandatory spacing
- The town office remains closed to the public, but researchers/attorneys can once again access vault materials under the terms originally set up before all in-person actions were banned – one at a time and only by appointment from Town Clerk Laquerre; mandated protocols (masks; health survey; etc.) are in effect for such appointments
- S.344 has passed both chambers; that's the bill designed to meet some of the issues the board lobbied for – governing boards can waive property tax penalties & interest and move tax deadlines; unknown whether the governor has received or signed the bill; no clear path yet for a change to the school payment deadlines; currently we are scheduled to pay \$2,117,139.83 as part of the June 1<sup>st</sup> warrant
- The May 15, 2020 property tax payments are coming in regularly – many through the town office's back door slot; we will be operating a drive-thru/walk up "window" at the town office front steps to allow in-person payments the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>; tax payments are running a bit off last year's pace (nearly 10% down as of last week, but still early in the process)

## **Warrants**

- **April 27<sup>th</sup> Special Warrant for Review**
  - Chair Gardner signed a special warrant for time sensitive invoices; see warrant
- **May 4, 2020 Regular Warrant for Approval**
  - Just like on April 13<sup>th</sup>, this evening's regular warrant needs to be approved as normal, which generally is shown by a quorum of board member signatures; given our current limitations, the board should once again approve the warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign to that effect

## **Town Administrator Report**

- Update on EM Village Sidewalk Project:
  - Project remains on hold; utility work is ongoing (some finish work on the three power pole shifts needs to be completed and the old poles removed)
- Update on Lister Deadlines:
  - Listers remain on track for a “normal” preliminary grand list filing in early June; there is likely to be a significant issue with the state homestead filing – at this point over 300 filers from last year have not filed this year and with the state income tax deadline extended to July 15<sup>th</sup>, this situation is unlikely to change prior to the grand list filing; this will result in large numbers of “change of appraisal” notices going out in early June and then again in late July/early August as the homestead filings come in; this is more of a costly paperwork game – the net effect will likely be minor
  - The state has changed vendors for the grand list management software (from NEMRC to Axiomatic) effective in late 2021; this will result in some alterations in how elements are handled, such as CAMA (which is provided by NEMRC now) and the Marshall & Swift cost tables (formerly provided to towns through a contract with the state, but we have been notified that we will now be charged standard market pricing)
- Meeting Schedule:
  - May 18, 2020      6:30 pm      Selectboard regular meeting
  - June 1, 2020      6:30 pm      Selectboard regular meeting
  - June 11, 2020    7:00 pm      EMFD budget & service update at ESF [**tentative**]

## **Zoning Administrator Report**

- 4 new applications since the April 13<sup>th</sup> SB meeting; 10 applications total in 2020
- There is no DRB meeting scheduled at this point; appearing likely that there will be need for a June meeting