

Selectboard Memo

July 13, 2020 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

➤ Appointments: Selectboard Vacancy

- Casey Northrup resigned mid-way through the first year of a 3-year term; any appointment would be through the end of the first year of the term, 2021 Town Meeting Day, Mar 2, 2021; the last two years of the term would be up for election at 2021 Town Meeting
- If executive session is desired, it should be under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)

Conversation with Carolyn Brennan, Kellogg-Hubbard Library Co-Director, Library Director

- Ms. Brennan will be here to provide an update on how KHL is handling the Covid-19 pandemic

Conversation with Selectboard Candidates

- Current list of interested applicants to replace Casey Northrup on the board:
 - Gene Troia
 - Judith Dillon

Consideration of CAI Technologies WebGIS Support Contract

- This is the annual contract for the town's online map that includes lister assessment data along with the standard mapping elements; the support agreement's cost is \$2,400, the same price as the previous two years; the only change is the addition of an auto-renew aspect to remove the need to approve a new agreement every year; there is still a 30-day notice to cancel at any time
- If comfortable, board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign the agreement on behalf of the board

Review of Treasurer's Financial Management Questionnaire

- 24 VSA §872 requires the SB to review the town treasurer's financial management questionnaire (a form provided by the VT State Auditor), describing the town's internal financial control mechanisms; there is no change from last year – either in the form or the answers
- If comfortable, the board should authorize Chair Gardner to sign the form

Preview of 2020-2021 Property Tax Rates

- The state has released the education rates for the upcoming tax year:
 - Homestead rate: \$1.8929, up 0.0547 from FY2020 (3.0% increase)
 - Non-homestead rate: \$1.7352, up 0.0629 from FY2020 (3.8% increase)
- Using a current estimate of \$3,070,000 for the grand list (0.08% increase), the projected tax rates for the 2020-21 tax year:
 - Homestead rate: \$2.5391, up 0.0827 from FY2020 (3.4% increase)
 - Non-homestead rate: \$2.3814, up 0.0909 from FY2020 (4.0% increase)
- The tax rates are expected to be set at the August 3, 2020 board meeting

Discussion on Town Management in Light of Covid-19

- There have been no changes since the board's June 22nd meeting; the town office remains closed to the public, with researchers/attorneys allowed to 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
- Absentee balloting will be a major component of the upcoming primary election (as well as for the November general election); as of today the town has sent out 629 ballots (28% of

the checklist) with four weeks to go; special thanks to Amy Willis and Scott Hess for their help with the ballot mailing process

- This evening the Recreation Board is taking advantage of the Selectboard's relaxation of the rules for committee meetings by holding an outdoor in-person meeting at the recreation field

Access Permits

➤ 20-027; Thomas Brazier, access to subdivided lot

- Lot 2 of the 2005 Brazier subdivision was never sold/developed; Lot 1, to the south, became the home of Chuck Haynes, 1216 Brazier Road; Lot 2 is now to be developed as a residence for Michelle Brazier and her partner Cody Blake
- Both Lot 1 & 2 received Selectboard-approved curb cuts at the time of the subdivision; Lot 2's curb cut (05-011) is to the north side of the lot; Mr. Brazier would like to give up that curb cut and put the driveway in the location of an old agriculture drive about 97' (on center) to the north of Lot 2 over the Brazier main farm property; if Lot 2 is transferred to Michelle, an easement will be necessary
- Road Foreman Perry is fine with the shift; site lines are better (it's near a knoll, so has good site lines in both directions) and no culvert is needed
- If comfortable, board should approve curb cut and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the permit on behalf of the board

Warrants

➤ July 13, 2020 Regular Warrant for Approval

- Just like other recent warrants, 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

- Concerns Regarding "Defacing" of Public Property:
 - The town's speed cart, which has the word "Police" on it along the sides, was marked up with multiple versions of "Abolish the"
 - This was allowed to stay untouched for a few days before the road crew removed the writing today (and they will also stencil over the "Police" in favor of "East Montpelier")
- See the letter of appreciation from the Recreation Board for the Selectboard's and road crew's assistance in the transformation of the recreation field's entrance area
- Update on Codling Road Dry Hydrant Project:
 - The town has been paid for all its out-of-pocket expenses for last year's dry hydrant project; EMFD received \$11,843 in grant funding plus \$3,000 in FY2020 budgeted funds for the project and had \$8,361.58 in direct expenses; rather than allow all that excess accrue to EMFD, the town requested and has now received payment of \$4,739.30 in direct expenses (the town did not bill for the significant force labor and equipment costs or for permitting expenses)
- Meeting Schedule:
 - August 3, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
 - August 13, 2020 7:00 pm EMFD budget & service update at ESF
 - August 24, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard "special" regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 7 new applications since the June 22nd SB meeting; 28 total applications in 2020
- The next DRB meeting is tentatively (no applications yet) scheduled for August 4, 2020