

Selectboard Memo
August 24, 2020 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

- **Consideration of EMFD Capital Reserve Fund Use for New Ambulance Cot**
 - EMFD has an opportunity to add a second power cot for \$17,000 so that both ambulances have them; since this purchase puts the gross capital reserve fund usage for the power cot purchase above the \$20,000 EMFD-decision limit, the purchase requires Calais and EM board approval

Road Foreman Report

- **Consideration of Options for Winter Maintenance of East Montpelier Village Sidewalk**
 - Real question is whether to look for a contractor or handle in-house:
 - Barre Town has used, for the past eight years, a town resident with a tractor-mounted blower to clear the small stretches of sidewalk in the east & south parts of town
 - Marshfield last year utilized a town resident to snow blow the village sidewalks at \$120/storm, which worked well, at least in the sense of villagers being happy that at least the town was trying; in prior years the town struggled to find anyone to do the job
 - In-house option would require the decisions on necessary equipment along with necessary employee use
 - Either option requires some refinement of the winter roads policy; there is no conceivable way for the town to ensure safe walking given the frequency of state plowing through the village corridor

Town Treasurer Report

- See the two reports provided by Treasurer Welch – current status and FY2020 end-of-year; the end-of-year reflects the external auditors' recommendations for alterations
- Tax bills will go out the week of September 8th

General Discussion on Upcoming Selectboard Activities

- Potential topics of interest:
 - Town garage facility upgrade/replacement
 - Town office building upgrade/replacement
 - Tax collection protocols

Delinquent Tax Collector Report

- **Discussion on Potential Tax Sales**
 - This year is a bit of a challenge to compare to previous years – not because of Covid concerns, but rather due to the fact one large taxpayer is delinquent (\$93,545); without that taxpayer's delinquencies we would be running better than normal; with them, we are running somewhat worse than normal
 - Delinquency as of August 16, 2020: \$193,592
 - Same time in 2019: \$140,139
 - Same time in 2018: \$127,250
 - Same time in 2017: \$143,164
 - Same time in 2016: \$180,894
 - There are six taxpayers more than one-year delinquent; in the past this is the type of delinquency we would potentially take to tax sale

Discussion on Upcoming State Traffic Committee Meeting with Regard to Proposed US Rte. 2 Speed Limit Change Through EM Village and Continuing Past Towne Hill Road

- VTrans is supporting a change in the speed limit through EM Village along US Rte. 2; the recommendation to be presented to the state traffic committee on September 15th is:
 - Current 35 mph zone should become 30 mph;
 - East toward Plainfield for 1,200 feet should be 40 mph;
 - South/west to a point 830 feet past Towne Hill Road should be 40 mph
- Town, in some form, should attend the state traffic committee meeting
- After the traffic committee makes its decision, VTrans will provide recommendations for updated signage for the Towne Hill Road intersection

Discussion on Town Management in Light of Covid-19

- Once again, there have been no changes since the board's last 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
- Final tally on the election, which went smoothly: 969 voters (43%), of which 731 voted early/absentee (75% of voters)

Warrants

- **August 24, 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

- Update on Sale of Old LaPerle Farm:
 - Closing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Thursday, August 27th
- EM Sidewalk Project Update:
 - Project is winding down; completion date is September 4, 2020; the formal substantial completion walkthrough is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 28th
- Meeting Schedule:
 - September 14, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard "special" regular meeting
 - September 15, 2020 1:00 pm State Traffic Committee meeting
 - October 5, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 4 new applications since the August 3rd SB meeting; 38 total applications in 2020
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2020; one hearing for a setback waiver to allow construction of a garden shed