

Selectboard Memo
October 19, 2020 SB Meeting

Additions to Agenda

- **Discussion on Town Options for EM Village Sidewalk Plowing**
 - Road Foreman Perry and Chair Gardner are investigating equipment possibilities
 - See two quotes for small tractor/snowblower/sander combos

Conversation with Julie Potter, PC Chair & CVRPC Representative

- Ms. Potter will be here to provide updates on the activities of both the Planning Commission and Central VT Regional Planning Commission; the PC update will focus on the zoning regulation revision project

Discussion on 2021 Employee Health Insurance Options

Teri Martineau, Hickok & Boardman (town's health care representative through VLCT)

- For 2020 the town reverted back to its long-utilized method of allowing employees to choose a plan of his/her choice from a town-approved list of VT Health Exchange plans, with the understanding that the town would pay up to the value of 90% of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Platinum Plan premium at the level (single, two-person, family, etc.) desired; last year all employees selected the MVP Platinum Plan, which cost just less than the 90% BCBS value, so no employees currently have premium deductions
- 7 employees qualify for the town's health benefit; 5 currently partake (2 two-person; 3 family); 1 is currently under contract with a significant incentive to not use the benefit; and 1 has for years accepted the town's stipend in lieu of option; both the last two could choose to take the town's insurance offering during the upcoming open choice period (and, in theory, any of the first 5 could choose not to take the insurance)
- If the Selectboard sticks with the current plan and the employees stay with current utilization choices, the plan costs would rise from \$117,019 to \$119,064, a 1.75% increase
- The current stipend is 25% of the town's share of the single person BCBS Platinum Plan premium cost; for 2021 that amount would be \$2,538, up from 2020's \$2,430

Town Treasurer Report: Treasurer Don Welch

- See report; Treasurer Welch will also discuss the draft audit

Delinquent Tax Collector Report: Delinquent Tax Collector Bruce Johnson

- See current report; delinquency total is currently \$172,071 compared to \$137,224 last year at this time and \$120,092 in 2018
- Last month the town started the tax sale process against 6 parcels; 3 are now paid off; 1 is in limbo as a probate estate is being established; 2 are on track for tax sale

Discussion on Proposed Stipend Allocation for Elected & Appointed Officers

- The stipend allotment for each position is set by the budget and will be paid out as part of the November 5th payroll; this year there is just one cost split to determine, for the Selectboard seat vacated by Casey Northrup in June and now filled by Ms. Dillon
- See proposed stipend allocation sheet

Consideration of Application to Vermont Emerald Ash Borer Management Grant Program

- The Resilient Roads Committee is developing a grant application to support an ash tree removal project planned for the County Road area; \$15,000 grant with a \$15,000 match (combined in kind and cash); if the Selectboard is comfortable with the concept, members should authorize TA Johnson to submit the application after the committee is done

Discussion on CV Solid Waste Management District Hearings:

- **CVSWMD 2020 Solid Waste Implementation Plan**
 - This is the 5-year (2021-2025) plan for the area towns that are part of CVSWMD along with some neighboring communities; two upcoming hearings – Wednesday, October 21st at 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 22nd noon
- **CVSWMD FY2022 Preliminary Budget**
 - Current budget proposal calls for a return to the \$1/capita town assessment (this year, due to Covid-19, the assessment was cut in half); hearing is on Monday, October 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Consideration of Application to Center for Tech and Civic Life COVID-19 Response Grant Program for Election Equipment Expenses

- The Center for Tech and Civic Life is a non-profit set up to provide resources for local election offices; the organization is providing grants to communities for election equipment, workers, etc. to help offset election challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic; the size of the grant is based on community size and need; East Montpelier qualifies for and has been offered \$5,000
- If comfortable, the board should accept the grant and authorize TA Johnson to complete the grant paperwork

Discussion on Town Management in Light of Covid-19

- Standard statement: 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
- November 3, 2020 General Election Update:
 - The town has received 869 ballots (37% of current checklist of 2,361))
 - Last Thursday a Board of Civil Authority team tabulated (ran absentee ballots through the tabulator; only a count of ballots is made; no results can be observed or generated) 373 ballots; there will be two more Thursday afternoon tabulations prior to election day; these tabulation events are live-streamed to the public

Warrants

- **October 14, 2020 Special Warrant for Review**
 - This was a between-meeting warrant for a gravel bill from LaGue for use on Codling Road; the bill needed to be paid to include it in a grant reimbursement submission due by October 15th; no board action necessary
- **October 19, 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 Town Website Upgrade:
 - The rehabilitation of our website's behind the scenes structure is complete and undergoing testing; the intent is to push it out to the public sometime this week; there should be no significant difference for desktop/laptop users, but mobile devices should see better navigation capabilities along with a more responsive framework for types of displays; the real improvement will simply be that the original template is now updated to match current WordPress expectations, allowing for site updates without triggering constant error messages
- Notice Regarding Water/Wastewater Permit Overshadowing of Tinkham Cemetery:
 - Jeff & Jodi Parker, 1035 Cherry Tree Hill Road, have applied for a wastewater permit to construct a replacement mound system; the isolation zone for the system includes the town-owned Tinkham Cemetery located to the west (away from the road) of the Parker lot
- Grants Update:
 - FY2021 VTrans Better Roads Grant Applications:
 - The town applied for two – a Category C for a culvert repair on Codling Road and a Category D for a culvert replacement on County Road; both were denied; due to budget constraints VTrans only awarded Category B (road erosion improvement work) applications; both town applications were favorably reviewed so would likely be granted if the town decides to apply under the FY2022 program, which should open within the next month
- Meeting Schedule:
 - November 2, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
 - November 16, 2020 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 4 new applications since the October 5th SB meeting; 49 total applications in 2020
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2020; anticipated application from Orchard Valley Waldorf School for outdoor classroom pavilions; at least one subdivision application is also expected