

**Selectboard Memo**  
**November 16, 2020 SB Meeting**

**Update on CVFiber: Tom Fisher, Town Representative to CVFiber Governing Board**

- Mr. Fisher will present a report on the November 10<sup>th</sup> CVFiber annual meeting

**Conversation with Town Constable Jon Boucher**

- The board requested an opportunity to talk with Constable Boucher about the constable position in general (duties, workload, etc.) and the possibility of shifting the position from elected to appointed

**Conversation with Town Tree Warden Paul Cate**

- Mr. Cate will present a conceptual plan to do a couple of pilot projects to proactively manage roadside trees (culling diseased/aged trees) to decrease the need for emergency work, generally due to storm damage
- The board is currently mulling the possibility of providing a stipend for the tree warden position and would like to hear Mr. Cate's opinion on the idea

**Discussion with Recreation Board Regarding Potential Installation of Ice Rink at Recreation Field**

- The Recreation Board is investigating the possibility of installing a portable rink owned by the Washington Central Unified Union School District at the recreation field; the rink was formerly used at Doty Elementary in Worcester
- This is a 42' x 60' NiceRink purchased in 2017

**Discussion on Proposed AT&T Tower East of Jacobs Road**

- The town has received the formal 60-day advance notice of a potential application for a certificate of public good from the Public Utility Commission for an AT&T wireless communication facility (cell tower) located about 950 feet east of Jacobs Road on the Fusco property (750 Jacobs); this tower is categorized as one of "limited size and scope"; both the Selectboard and the Planning Commission are statutory parties in the PUC permit process
- The board should review its options for participation; the PC will be doing the same thing at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting; one possibility is to set up a joint meeting date that would allow the town to take advantage of the early notice opportunities, which include (from the 30 V.S.A. §248a(e) Statement of Rights & Opportunities):
  - A letter from your entity / organization will create a rebuttable presumption with the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("PUC") respecting compliance with the applicable plans.
  - Municipal officials may request that the Petitioner attend a public meeting within the 60-day notice period, before the Petitioner submits its Petition.
  - Municipal officials may also request that an official from the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") attend a public hearing during the 60-day notice period. The Department, if in attendance, shall consider any comments made and information obtained at the meeting in making its recommendation to the PUC on the petition, and on whether to retain additional personnel to evaluate the project.
  - Municipal legislative bodies and municipal planning commissions may, at the commencement of the 60-day notice process, request that the Department, at Petitioner's expense, retain experts and other personnel to provide information essential to full consideration of the petition.

**Update on Property Tax Collection**

- All but \$207,773 (5.4%) came in for the Tax Year 2020-21 first installment; last year we were at \$184,069 (5.0%); overall taxes still due stands at 42.6% compared to 42.1% last year

### **Discussion on Center Road Mallory Brook Culvert Replacement Engineering Study Status**

- Semi-final plans have been developed by our consultant, Doug Newton, and sent out to the various state and federal agencies for comment; the intent is to finalize the plans and submit permit applications to the state (wetlands & stream alteration) and Army Corps of Engineers
- The town will need easements from the four affected property owners; in some cases there may be an expectation of payment for the necessary easements

### **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
- Governor Scott has extended the state of emergency through December 15, 2020; as part of that order he has tightened restrictions due to the recent surge in cases

### **Appointments**

#### **➤ Town Health Officer**

- The term for Town Health Officer Ginny Burley expires at the end of December; this post has a 3-year term and the board is essentially recommending someone for appointment by the state; Ms. Burley would like to be reappointed; form needs to be signed by Chair Gardner

### **Warrants**

#### **➤ November 3, 2020 Special Warrant for Review**

- This was a between-meeting warrant for property tax credits to be paid out to three property owners in town; no board action necessary

#### **➤ November 16, 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 TA Johnson (in the absence of Chair Gardner) to sign to that effect

### **Town Administrator Report**

- Jan/Feb SignPost Issue Deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup>:
  - This issue will come out in late December; Is there any desire to provide a town meeting update (this is not the town meeting issue, which tends to have a late January deadline and is available mid-to-late February)
- Meeting Schedule:
  - December 3, 2020      7:00 pm      EMFD FY2022 budget presentation
  - December 7, 2020      6:30 pm      Selectboard regular meeting
  - December 21, 2020    6:30 pm      Selectboard regular meeting

### **Zoning Administrator Report**

- 2 new applications since the November 2<sup>nd</sup> SB meeting; 51 total applications in 2020
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2020; one warned hearing for after-the-fact approval for the four Orchard Valley Waldorf School outdoor classroom pavilions built to allow continued outdoor classes as winter closes in