

## **Minutes of the East Montpelier Selectboard**

### **December 29, 2020 Selectboard Emergency Meeting**

**This meeting was conducted remotely using the Zoom conferencing platform. Participation options were provided to the public.**

#### **Emergency Meeting Called under 1 V.S.A. §312 (c)(3)**

- **Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, with posting of notices, and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body**

**SB Attendance:** Chair Seth Gardner, Jon Jewett, Carl Etnier, Judith Dillon and Amy Willis;  
Town Administrator Bruce Johnson

**Public Attendance:** Road Foreman Guthrie Perry

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **Consideration of Purchase of a Used 2012 Freightliner Truck Decommissioned from Barre Town Fleet**

The town has the opportunity to purchase a 2012 Freightliner 6-wheel truck for use as a replacement pavement/salt route plow truck. The town's regular 6-wheeler, a 2015 International, remains in the shop due to a blown head gasket and related engine issues. Even when it comes back, perhaps within two weeks, its reliability/dependability is now very much in question. The Freightliner is an on-schedule decommissioned Barre Town truck still in good shape with a reliable Cummins engine. The truck is available for \$38,000 and comes fully outfitted for the desired service.

Road Foreman Perry and the board discussed the advisability of having an extra truck in its fleet, which is not something previously done by the town. The desire to stretch out the lives of trucks, which is a goal of the board, means a greater likelihood that one will be out of service for significant time. The extra truck provides the security to push the life limits, which can result in a net financial savings to the town, and also enables one of the trucks to be set up for specialized uses during the summer season.

Board members were comfortable with the use of an emergency meeting for this agenda item due to the unforeseen and time sensitive opportunity to remedy a public safety issue.

**Motion: To approve the purchase of the 2012 Freightliner from Barre Town at a price of \$38,000 using the capital reserve fund.** Made by Ms. Willis; second by Mr. Etnier. Passed unanimously.

### **Consideration of the EMFD FY2022 Ambulance & Emergency Services Budget Request**

The board was set to consider the East Montpelier Fire Department's FY2022 budget request from the two host towns, Calais and EM:

Service	Calais		East Montpelier		Total	
	FY2022 Request	% Increase over FY21	FY2022 Request	% Increase over FY21	FY2022 Request	% Increase over FY21
Fire	\$ 61,038	-5.9%	\$122,076	-5.9%	\$183,114	-5.9%
Ambulance	\$111,580	17.3%	\$223,159	17.3%	\$334,739	17.3%
<b>Town Total</b>	<b>\$172,618</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>\$345,235</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>\$517,853</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

At its meeting of December 28, 2020, the Calais Selectboard agreed to include as presented its portion of the FY2022 EMFD operating budget requests in its FY2022 general fund budget.

Due to concerns that the agenda item for approval of the EMFD budget requests did not meet the stringent requirements for emergency meetings under the VT Open Meeting Law, the board decided to table the issue and take it up at the January 11, 2021 board meeting.

### **Warrants**

#### ➤ **December 29, 2020 Regular Warrant for Approval**

- Board members reviewed the warrant. Following a protocol developed at the board's April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to deal with the difficulties inherent in individually signing a warrant during a remote meeting, board members decided to approve the warrant by motion and have Chair Gardner sign the warrant as certification of the board approval.
- **Motion: To approve the December 29, 2020 expense warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign the warrant on behalf of the board.** Made by Mr. Etner; second by Ms. Willis. Passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

#### **Town Administrator Report**

##### ➤ Meeting Schedule:

- January 11, 2021      6:30 pm      Selectboard "special" regular meeting
- January 14, 2021      7:00 pm      AT&T cell tower public information meeting
- January 18, 2021      6:30 pm      Selectboard regular meeting
- January 25, 2021      6:30 pm      Selectboard special meeting

**Motion: To adjourn.** Made by Ms. Willis; second by Ms. Dillon. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

**Approved:    January 11, 2021 East Montpelier Selectboard meeting**