Selectboard Memo
April 5, 2021 SB Meeting

Consideration of Bids for Contractor to Handle County Road Ash Tree Management Project

- The County Road ash tree management project is operating under a $5,000 federal funds grant from VT Forests, Parks & Recreation, so a formal contractor bid process is required; the town put the RFP out in mid-March, with a bid deadline/opening on April 2nd and a targeted June 4th project completion date
- The town received two bids for the project, both of which include outside (non-town road crew) traffic control:
  - Foxfire Tree Care LLC: $17,900
  - VT Arborists: $29,250
- If the board is comfortable with one of the bids, it should authorize TA Johnson to award the bid subject to successful contract negotiation
- The issue of traffic control will be a challenge for this project due to the nature of County Road; one option would be to have rolling closures (local traffic only), handled by the road crew; this would provide the contractor crew safety necessary to get the job done as quickly as possible; this would also be the least costly form of traffic control, but will lead to potentially significant effects on neighboring roads

Discussion on Size Decrease of Resilient Roads Committee

- The committee currently has nine listed members, with only five actively participating, resulting in quorum challenges for meetings; the committee would like to shrink to five members for the time being (Jeff Cueto, Paul Cate, Steve Justis, Mark Lane and Guthrie Perry)

Discussion on Calais Notice of Non-Renewal of the EMFD Service Agreement

- Calais submitted notice of non-renewal on March 30, 2021, seeking to negotiate a new emergency services agreement prior to the expiration of the current agreement on September 1, 2021; no specific reason for the non-renewal has been provided
- On April 8, 2021 EMFD will be providing a service and budget update; normally the board does not warn the EMFD updates as board meetings; given the circumstances and the likelihood of discussion on substantive matters outside of the normal dissemination of information from EMFD, it might be advisable this time

Consideration of Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

- Annual requirement to adopt a LEMP; same basic framework as last year, but with updated information to reflect new people/new positions; once again the separate signature page includes two signature lines – one for someone that has taken the required coursework (TA Johnson is listed as signer) and one for the SB (Chair Gardner is listed as signer)
- The major change this year is an update to the NIMS Typed Resources table (page 3) to eliminate some individual resource categories; items are now more likely to be typed as "other" instead of the defined Type 1, 2, 3 or 4 for specific categories

Consideration of NEMRC Annual Disaster Recovery Contract

- This is the annual renewal of the main off-site back-up program for our NEMRC modules; the cost last year was $734.27; this year is $756.30, the standard NEMRC 3% increase

Discussion on rbTechnologies Solar Facility Certificate of Public Good Application

- rbTechnologies (1970 VT Rte. 14 S) has filed the formal PUC application for a proposed 2-array, ground mounted, net-metered 44.2 kW solar project on the field north of its parking lot, across Carleton Blvd from NorthCountry FCU; the Selectboard and Planning Commission have standing to challenge this project; the PC will be considering formal intervention at April 15th meeting (first agenda item) to push for condition imposition to ensure removal at end of life and visual impact screening

Consideration of Liquor License Applications

- **Fox Market LLC: First Class, Second Class, & Outside Consumption**
  - Mr. Cain is proposing to turn the old Video Box Office location, 3070 US Rte. 2, into a combination market and restaurant, with beer & wine sales from both; the First Class and Outside Consumption permits are for the restaurant use to serve beer & wine; the Second Class permit is for the sale of beer and wine from the market for off-premises consumption; the business use of the parcel is the subject of a hearing before the Development Review Board on April 6th

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

Appointments:

- **Revolving Loan Fund Advisor: Becca Schrader**
  - Presuming she is reappointed, Ms. Schrader would like to meet with the board in the near future to discuss the direction of the loan program and use of program funds; the fund is expected to end FY2021 with a $74,000 balance, of which $50,000 is committed to the state's pandemic-related business restart loan program

Warrants

- **March 24, 2021 Special Warrant for Review**
  - This was a between-meeting warrant for time sensitive invoices that arrived after the March 15th warrant, including the credit card bills; no board action necessary
- **April 5, 2021 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 approve the warrant and authorize Chair Gardner to sign to that effect

Town Administrator Report

- 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Local Governments:
  - Details remain sketchy but it now appears the town will receive around $750,000 in funding; program guidelines are still being developed; the expectation is that the funds will be sent in two equal parts, the first $375,000 arriving in June, the second a year later; funds need to be utilized by the end of 2024
- Meeting Schedule:
  - April 8, 2021 7:00 pm EMFD budget/service update
  - April 19, 2021 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting
  - May 3, 2021 6:30 pm Selectboard regular meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- 4 new application since the March 15th SB meeting; 16 total so far in 2021
- The next DRB meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021; one warned hearing (the Doni Cain proposal for 3070 US Rte. 2 discussed above) and two sketch/conceptual reviews, one for a 2-lot subdivision of the 964 Bliss Road parcel and the other for an 8-home planned residential development of the Old LaPerle Farm parcel the town sold to Pat Malone in 2020; on April 5th the Malone Properties item was removed from the agenda to allow the applicant more time to refine the proposal