

SELECTBOARD MEETING  
*Approved Minutes*

August 19, 2013

7:30pm East Montpelier Municipal Building

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CALAIS SELECTBOARD, EAST MONTPELIER SELECTBOARD and  
EMFD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Attending:** Calais Selectboard Members: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot and Rose Pelchuck; East Montpelier Selectboard Members: Seth Gardner, Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup and Kim Swasey; EMFD Board Members: Ty Rolland, Chief, Paul Guare, and Bill Amell; Sandy Conti, Will Walters and Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator.

Denise Wheeler called the Continued Meeting of the Calais Selectboard from August 15th to order at 7:50pm. Copies of a new draft EMFD Contract for Fire Suppression, Ambulance & Other Emergency Services by the East Montpelier Selectboard were distributed. Seth Gardner, East Montpelier Selectboard Chair, went through the list of items they decided needed further discussion/change and/or compromise.

Contingency Fund – The Selectboards and EMFD discussed the contingency fund at length. After further discussion, it was agreed that EMFD may continue allocating ambulance revenue with 75% net ambulance revenue going to the Capital Reserve Fund and 25% net ambulance revenue going to the Contingency Fund.

Public Open Meeting Law – EMFD is not subject to the Open Meeting Law since it is not a public body but rather a private, nonprofit corporation. After further discussion, agreement was reached. Notice of the EMFD Board meetings will be sent to Seth Gardner and Bruce Johnson in East Montpelier and Denise Wheeler and Donna Fitch in Calais.

Appendix A - East Montpelier wants the ability to review any future ambulance service contracts but took out the veto power. Seth Gardner explained the rationale. John Brabant voiced concerns about getting bigger but not taking into consideration the top rate service. John Brabant said, “We have checks and balances just to be there; most of what we do is pro-forma; we have the ability to ask questions and redirect things if we feel.” Denise Wheeler noted a fiduciary obligation. John Brabant said it’s about the flow of money, a huge amount of money. Carl Etnier explained his take on this. Seth Gardner said there was nothing in the original contract. He did want to go the full banana but felt giving them (EMFD) the responsibility, to give them the opportunity to go to another town. Seth continued by saying he’d defer a little bit to their judgment; respect what you have to say but defer to their (EMFD) judgment. John Brabant was emphatic about this. Ty Rolland explained his view. After the discussion, the Selectboards agreed to put up to three years contract in the document.

Bruce Johnson will redraft the document tomorrow.

John Brabant made a motion to support the agreement articulated tonight with the changes noted and authorize Denise Wheeler to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0-1. Toby Talbot abstained from the vote.

Carl Etnier made a motion to accept the agreement as amended tonight and authorize Seth Gardner to sign it on behalf of the East Montpelier Selectboard. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

The Selectboards expressed sincere thanks to EMFD.

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck  
Calais Selectboard Member and Administrative Assistant  
EMFD Administrative Assistant