

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

December 5, 2016

7:00pm East Montpelier Municipal Building

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CALAIS SELECTBOARD and
EAST MONTPELIER SELECTBOARD**

Attending: Calais Selectboard Members: Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage and Rose Pelchuck; East Montpelier Selectboard Members: Seth Gardner, Carl Etnier, Kim Swasey and Gene Troia; Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator and Don Welch, East Montpelier Town Treasurer.

Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm for the Calais Selectboard. In review, the Selectboards met with the East Montpelier Board of Directors on December 1, 2016 and reviewed the proposed EMFD Fire and Ambulance budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Bruce Johnson explained three different scenarios for the salary line item in the ambulance budget as follows:

- Scenario 1 the original EMFD proposed amount that includes paid staff coverage for evenings, nights and weekends (\$170,000.00);
- Scenario 2 with added paramedic coverage minus nights and weekends (\$202,000.00); and
- Scenario 3 with added paramedic coverage plus nights and weekends (\$219,000.00).

Early into the discussion, Seth Gardner stated these amounts in the proposed budgets are not sustainable and suggested the Selectboards look at a change in structure. There should be a way to look at different options that would take people to crunch numbers, looking at hard numbers to deliver the service in a more affordable manner. Discussion ensued between all those present.

Scenario 1 with one full time paramedic staff person would be a 7.5% budget increase over FY 2017. The Selectboards were in agreement the towns want the full time paramedic staff position. Seth Gardner asked the boards to look into different options before the next Joint Selectboard Meeting on December 12, 2016. This is not to say the towns don't appreciate the countless hours of dedicated service EMFD provides and has provided for 50 plus years, it's about the continually rising costs that are not sustainable for small town taxpayers.

One idea was to cap the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund whereby putting more ambulance revenue in to supporting the overall budget and another was to look at pre-owned fire trucks instead of brand new trucks. The Contract for Emergency Services and the Interlocal Agreement will need to be reviewed as well. A new fire truck will be on demonstration Tuesday, December 6th at the EMFD monthly meeting. The Selectboards were in agreement that it is time to look at doing things differently to bring down costs.

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Calais Selectboard Member