

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

June 5, 2017

8:00pm East Montpelier Municipal Building

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

Attending: Calais Selectboard Members: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Sharon Fannon, Rob Richert and Rose Pelchuck; East Montpelier Selectboard Members: Seth Gardner, Gene Troia, Kim Swassey, and Amy Lewis; Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator; EMFD Board Members: Ty Rolland, Chief, Toby Talbot, President, Paul Guare, Officer, Elliot Morse, Founding Member, and Sandy Conti and Albert Petrella, EMFD Board Members.

Denise Wheeler called the special meeting to order at 8:00 pm for the Calais Selectboard to review and discuss the proposed plan for replacement of EMFD's heavy rescue vehicle R-2. Introductions were made.

EMFD Chief, Ty Rolland, made the presentation on the new proposal to replace R-2, a 1994 heavy rescue/pumper instead of Engine 4 at this time. The goals outlined were as follows:

- replace R-2 with a used 2013 KME Rescue/Pumper that is in like new condition, low miles, low hours on the pump for \$330,000.00
- save \$130,000.00 over the proposed replacement of Engine 4
- move replacement of Engine 4 out five years allowing for additional financial planning
- finance this with a five-year loan from FASNY Credit Union for \$250,000.00 (down-payment of \$80,000.00 from the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund). Interest rate of 3.5% with annual payments of \$55,000.00. Ty Rolland is waiting to hear back from Northfield Savings Bank if they can offer a lower interest rate.

Paul Guare went to Rochester, NY to inspect and test drive the truck; he concurs that it is in excellent shape with only 6,800 miles and 69 hours on the pump. It has pumping capacity that will allow the department to not rely so heavily on Engine 4. It has a bigger pump with 400 gallons more water than our current heavy rescue/pumper. The width is exactly the same and it is rear wheel drive. It also has a foam fire suppression system and meets all NFPA standards. New, this vehicle would cost over \$600,000.00 Toby Talbot reported. There are not many of these trucks on the market and this department is holding it for EMFD waiting to hear the outcome of this meeting.

The Selectboards discussed ambulance staffing salary needs. It is estimated that \$50,000.00 would be needed for two full time EMS staff, on 24/7, which is not going to happen right off. Toby Talbot has applied for a grant to assist with staffing costs. Serving other towns with the ambulance service is under consideration; could be a positive unknown. The EMFD Capital Reserve Fund and funded replacement and/or refurbishment of two ambulances and a tanker truck to the tune of over \$300,000.00 Toby Talbot noted. Ty Rolland stated 2002 was the last time EMFD came to the towns to buy a new fire truck.

Seth Gardner pointed out on the up side, the towns don't have to open the service agreement (Contract for Fire, Ambulance and Emergency Services) with EMFD at this time and this proposal takes the tax

burden away from the taxpayers. The down side is after five years, EMFD is going to need an engine. The Capital Reserve Fund is going to be tight on salaries, too. Further discussion ensued and questions were answered.

Gene Troia, East Montpelier Selectboard Member, made a motion that the East Montpelier Selectboard authorizes East Montpelier Fire Department, Inc. to spend \$330,000.00 to buy the used 2013 KME Rescue/Pumper using \$80,000.00 from the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund and making annual payments of \$55,000.00 with the first annual payment in July 2018; further the net proceeds of the sale of the current R-2 will be deposited back into the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried.

John Brabant, Calais Selectboard Member, made a motion that the Calais Selectboard authorizes East Montpelier Fire Department, Inc. to spend \$330,000.00 to buy the used 2013 KME Rescue/Pumper using \$80,000.00 from the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund and making annual payments of \$55,000.00 with the first annual payment in July 2018; further the net proceeds of the sale of the current R-2 will be deposited back into the EMFD Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried.

Other Business – The emergency generator pad behind EMFD Station 2 has developed a sink hole and the concrete pad is tipping. The estimate to repair it from Connor Contracting is \$4,000.00, which can come out of the remaining unspent bond monies per Bruce Johnson. The Selectboards agreed to have Connor Contracting make the repair.

Sharon Fannon made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck, Selectboard Member