

# Read will seek re-election to legislature Agenda Item IV.7

Ed Read (I-Fayston) is seeking re-election as state representative for the Washington-7 district. That district includes Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown and Duxbury.

Read has just completed his first year in the Legislature having been appointed by Governor Scott to fill the seat formerly held by Adam Greshin. He was appointed last summer. Read stepped down from his seat on the Fayston Select Board after a decade on that board when

the legislative session opened this year.

"I wasn't interested in just learning the ropes in my first year and quickly found my voice as one of balance and reason in what was often a divided house. From the marijuana vote in the first week of the regular session to the budget battle of the special session, there was no shortage of debate and action. As an Independent, I've been able to work collaboratively with other legislators from all

over the political spectrum representing the constituency by analyzing policy issues and voting on their merits without the pressures of party persuasion."

"My primary focus has been on protecting and promoting small businesses and Vermont's rural economy. Economic development is

critical for the health of our small communities, and I will continue to advocate for this need. Done responsibly, this can be accomplished while supporting our longstanding agricultural traditions and environmental stewardship. Nothing here is mutually exclusive, but it takes a determined independent and

influential voice to make it happen. That's why I'm running."

There will be a campaign kickoff party on Wednesday, July 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Avalanche Pub (formerly Terra Rosa) at 527 Sugarbush Access Road in Warren. All are welcome.

## How do other towns handle unused vacation?

By Katie Martin

While the town of Warren has allowed employees to accrue large amounts of vacation time in the past, select board members are learning how other towns handle the issue of unused vacation times, with an eye to changing its policy.

The board, at its July 9 meeting, received information from Dayna Lisaius, town treasurer and assistant town clerk, on how other towns handle unused vacation time. The board first discussed the issue of town employees accruing large amounts of vacation (up to six months) at its June 25 meeting.

Lisaius contacted Barre, Marshfield and Winooski to get a sense of how those towns handle accrued vacation time. Lisaius researched other

towns' policies and whether they pay their employees for the whole amount of accrued time or just a portion of it. She found some towns have restrictions on the amount of unused vacation time that an employee can accumulate and said that for some towns, if an employee goes over a certain number of hours, they can't gain anymore unless some time is used.

"All three towns did not pay or cash out at the end of the year for time not used," said Lisaius.

Waitsfield employees receive six sick days per year which can accrue no more than 30 days over multiple years. Sick leave over 30 days is transferred to vacation days at 50 percent, with the balance forfeited. Waitsfield's personnel policy caps

accrued vacation at 30 days, except with select board permission.

Moretown, like Warren, encourages employees to use their allotted time. But unlike Warren, Moretown does not allow employees to accrue vacation or carry it into the next year.

"Employees are strongly encouraged to take an annual vacation. Any unused vacation days will be forfeited. There will be no payment in lieu of vacation taken," reads the personnel policy on Moretown's website.

Fayston's policy is similar. Employees cannot carry their vacation time forward from one year to the next.

The Warren Select Board did not come to a decision at this week's meeting on July 10 ultimately deciding to do further research on the issue.

"Before we write that policy, we have to figure out what to do. ... It's a fairness issue, it's a legal issue, and it's a budget issue," said select board member Randy Graves.

The road crew and vacation time presents a unique challenge when it comes to finding the best time during the year for employees to take a vacation. The board mentioned the surplus of work that needs to get done in the winter, to be followed by construction season and then by a summer full of projects.

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