

Calais Select Board Meeting
@ Calais Elementary School
Monday, January 10, 2011
Approved Minutes

Select Board members present: Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage, Mike Gendron, and Cy Lamberton – John Brabant was absent.

Other members of the public: Dale Lafirira, Seth Frisbie, Peter Harvey, Ed Bennett, Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee, Kristina Bielenberg, Alice Blachly, Steve Freihofner (WFD), Paul Cerutti (WFD), Steve Morse (WFD) and Dorothy Naylor acting recorder.

7:00 p.m.

- **Call to order and administrative work**
- **Approval of minutes of December 27, 2010** – minutes not yet available
- **Pick date for Joint Meeting with School Board** – Denise reported finding a date is still elusive
- **Quarterly budget updates (when available)**

Bennett roaming animals – At the December 8th SB Meeting Mr. Bennett and neighbors, Dale Lafirira and Seth Frisbie, were asked to return to tonight's meeting to report Mr. Bennett's attempt to restrain his dogs and other animals. Some fencing was erected and so far all the animals are staying on Mr. Bennett's property. Several people said that during winter they tend to stay at home – and wondered what would happen when the snow leaves and grass starts sprouting. Mr. Bennett claimed he will be installing a more substantial fence and hoped to have a perimeter fence in. Neighbors thanked Mr. Bennett for his efforts to restrain his animals during a very busy time in his life. Mr. Bennett said this was all he would agree to.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – Alice Blachly came forward to read a letter – (attached) describing her experience on Kent Hill Road on January 5th. Somewhere along the flats west of the substation, Alice hit some ruts that threw her off the road. Attached is the letter she read describing the experience and requesting various actions by the town. The board expressed their concern about the accident and was glad she was not hurt. Alice's request to post the road restricting heavy trucks during thaws such as the one in December is not possible as there is a process for that and posting a few days here and there is just not possible. The frequent snow showers this year cover the sand almost as soon as it is laid down. Mike explained that usually a skim coat of gravel is laid down when ruts are bad but that is not a perfect cure. R.C. Larrabee said they focus on bus routes first and Kent Hill Road is one of the first ones plowed. The road crew recently put a skim coat of gravel on Kent Hill Road. Peter Harvey who lives on Old West Church Road near Alice offered his solution which is to try going to Maple Corner via Bliss Pond Road & County Road, or simply crossing Kent Hill Road at Kent Museum and taking Robinson Cemetery Road to West County Road and then south to Maple Corner.

Woodbury Fire Dept. Budget Request (Stephen Morse & Steve Freihofner) – The WFD members presented the board with several documents related to their budget. Bottom line is that this year their rescue vehicle became unusable and they dipped into the truck fund to buy a 1999 chassis and refit it for their use. But they also need to replace one of their two pumper trucks. Calais' usual contribution to the Woodbury Fire Department has been 50/50 for operating budget (\$12,979.00 proposed) and both towns contributed annually \$6,000.00 to the truck fund since 1998. But, because they dipped into that fund this year for the rescue vehicle they need both towns to contribute \$12,500.00 to the truck fund – the WFD has found that leasing a truck will actually be more economical than buying one – buying one would have required \$18,000.00 from each town for the truck fund. Scott told the WFD that Calais was facing the first bond payment of about \$90,000.00 this year for the new emergency services facility in East Montpelier and an additional \$6,500 for the WFD truck fund seems like too large a hurdle. WFD told the Board fire truck costs are going up 7% per year. Of the 39 calls to Calais last year, only 2 were for structure fires – the rest were car crashes, chimney fires, CO calls, fire alarms, hazardous material, fire alarms, and grass/wood fires.

WFD asked for the article on the Calais Warning be as late as possible on the Town Warning so some members could be on hand to explain the need. The article for consideration in Woodbury will be early on so the WFD members could get to Calais in time for the article here.

At about this time the WFD beepers sounded and they had to leave to respond to a car crash south of East Calais village.

There was then a general discussion of East Montpelier/Calais FD expenses and if our actually having a fire department changed anything.

Work on FY 12 Budget (Town and Highway) and Town Report – using some documents of the actual and proposed highway budget the Board began to work on the proposed highway budget for town meeting. Since Alfred had not had a chance to see the papers, they decided to have Alfred and Mike work on it for discussion at the next meeting – January 17, 2011. Alfred will also have his recommendation for replacing one of our trucks.

The Board will meet January 17th and 24th to complete the budget – the warning for town meeting will have to be signed on Saturday, January 29th.

Reports/Updates

- Curtis Pond Dam (John) – John not here to report
- Ancient Roads Committee (Denise) – Nothing new since Darby reported to the SB
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (Toby Talbott/Denise) January 31st meeting (?) after budget is done?
- Adamant beaver baffle (Scott) – Beavers are under the ice – Scott recommends removing this from the agenda til ice-out.
- Website design (Scott) – no news
- Posting Collar Hill Rd. – Cy talked to John Anderson and Amy Gambel at AOT and signs reading “Preferred Truck Route” will be acceptable. Waiting for John to co-ordinate with Worcester the Worcester SB since the last bit of Collar Hill is in Worcester.

Other/Old Business that may come before the Board – Denise reported that Doug Lilley is now requesting money to pay him for his time preparing for small claims court and also interest on the amount the town was ordered to pay him. This will be taken up at a later meeting.

Scott reported that he had represented the town at a GMTA meeting – and he found it very interesting. He also asked for permission to attend the 2nd meeting of VLCT’s “Introduction to Municipal Finance”.

Zoning Enforcement Issue: executive session (if needed) – Denise announced the SB needed to go into executive session – At 9:09 PM Cy moved and Mike 2nd the motion to move into executive session to discuss a legal issue. Passed 4-0. They came out of the session at 9:20 and Denise announced it was related to a question posed by the town’s attorney in regard to the Weisbart Environmental Court appeal of a Zoning Violation.

Legal/litigation updates – nothing

At 9:23 PM Cy moved and Scott seconded a motion to adjourn. Vote was 4-0.

Next/Future Meeting

- Pre Disaster Mitigation Plan (expires January 2011) – 10/29/10 Toby has contacted CVRPC
- Candace Shafer – CC working on draft beaver policy, remind landowners’ beaver management best practices and F&W contacts – Candace phone 456-7047
- Town Invoices and Road Commissioner Orders
- Tanya Chambers or Larry Smith, Member Relations Representative from VLCT – 1/24/11 @ 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Naylor – sit-in secretary at Rose Pelchuck’s request.