

**Calais Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 26, 2016**

**Unapproved**

**Present:** Selectboard Members Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Rose Pelchuck (arrived at 7:11 p.m.), Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage

**Others Present:** Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee, Constable Wilson Hughes, Melanie Rodjenski (Fothergill, Segale & Valley), Attorney Jim Barlow, Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette), Dick Rouelle, Sgt. Brandon Doll (VT State Police), Linda Sand, Eddie Walbridge, Tammy Leno, Garrett Ryan, Cynthia Johnson, Bruce Westcott and Bill Rowen (CVSWMD), Clerk and Treasurer Donna Fitch

**Call to Order:** Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Administrative work and changes or additions to the agenda:** Denise noted changes to the agenda:

- **Errors and Omissions document:** Toby Talbot moved to approve the Errors and Omissions document for the change in appraisal of parcel #460154, David and Kathryn Morse. Seconded by Scott Bassage, this motion carried unanimously. This will be ratified at the next board meeting, since this was not warned as an action item for tonight's meeting.
- **Town Garage addition:** Toby presented a list of bids to consider for the town garage addition. John Brabant moved to hire contractor Sterry Leno. Seconded by Scott Bassage, this motion carried unanimously.

**Sgt. Brandon Doll, Vermont State Police (VSP):**

What warrants an emergency response from the VSP?

- Sgt. Doll explained that an emergency response is when "life is in danger." In such a case, the police would travel with lights and sirens. Covering 18 towns, the VSP has to triage when responding.
- Depending on the number of troopers on duty, each is assigned an area to cover. Often the sergeant on duty is working on administrative tasks in the office unless that person is needed to respond to a "bad call."
- Calais does not initiate a lot of calls. The troopers on duty are often in the "hot areas" where lots of calls originate.
- Denise Wheeler reviewed the recent issues with an individual at #10 Pond and asked Sgt. Doll to explain the process of deciding how, or if, to respond to related calls. He explained the need to triage; he also explained that he is able to review the call log in his car. There have been five calls related to the individual at #10 Pond. He stated that a trespassing call is triaged and, for example, a call involving domestic assault would take priority over a possible trespassing call.

Ms. Wheeler gave the community an opportunity to address this issue.

- A Montpelier resident spoke about her concerns and her experiences with this individual; she believes the situation is more than “just trespassing.”
- Concerns expressed by Calais residents included:
  - The issue is more than simply trespassing; it is more of an emergency situation than is portrayed.
  - Constable Wilson Hughes stated the person has been reasonable when he has dealt with him; however, he has concerns that he is a danger and mentally unstable.
  - A woman stated she has been swimming at the pond for over 15 years and has never experienced anything like this. She believes the person’s mental health has deteriorated even in the last few months. She states that he becomes belligerent, drives unsafely and drinks throughout the day.
  - Another resident expressed concern the man is going to fall through the cracks; he needs help that he is not getting. She explained this has been crushing to the community.
  - Sgt. Doll said he has a log of five calls and he explained, to the extent possible, the response to those calls. He said there is confusion over whether the road is private or public and that clarifying the status of that road would be helpful when police respond. He noted that when someone comes onto someone’s property and is asked to leave, then that is a trespassing charge as well.
  - Sgt. Doll was asked if a written statement would be helpful and he stated that a sworn written statement is very helpful in providing concrete evidence and building a case.
  - He suggested a No Trespass Order served by the sheriff in situations where that might apply. Those forms are in the Town Office and a form was given to Denise to share with others.
  - Wilson Hughes noted no one has given the VSP a written notice. He has encouraged everyone who has called him to sign a statement and to file a no trespassing order.
  - Denise Wheeler shared a letter from Peg Bowen, property owner, in the area.

7:35 – Sgt. Doll and several of the community members left the meeting.

**Review audit with Melanie Rodjenski of Fothergill, Segale and Valley, CPA:** Melanie Rodjenski explained the results of the audit. Toby expressed the difficulty in planning a budget when guessing what amounts will be received in grant monies. Some discussion followed around the town’s share to match grant monies. Ms. Rodjenski explained the accounting procedures that are appropriate. Scott Bassage asked if grant monies can be kept separate from the rest of the budget. Melanie explained that often the nature of the grant requires for it to belong in the budget for better accountability. She explained that the overarching principal is that you have to show your revenue and expenses. You should not be “netting” revenue and expenses. Some discussion followed around having an appointed town auditor since the town’s voted auditor positions remain unfilled. Discussion followed regarding the need for segregation of duties around accounting at the town office. Melanie explained that Quickbooks is not meant to be the accounting software for government entities; this is why Calais Town is moving to NEMRC. Scott Bassage moved to approve the management letter, dated September 26, 2016, from Fothergill, Segale and Valley, CPA. Seconded by John Brabant, this motion carried unanimously.

**Bruce Westcott, General Manager of CVSWMD:** Mr. Westcott, the new executive director, introduced himself and asked the Board to call with questions or concerns either as a board or to represent constituents from the town. He reviewed *CVSWMD Financial overview, FY 2017* and explained the benefits Calais receives by belonging to CVSWMD, including hazardous household waste events. John Brabant shared that the Worcester transfer station is very popular. Some discussion followed around items like infant car seats, which are difficult to recycle. Denise Wheeler asked which items are recyclable and suggested that periodically a list be shared so that people are kept updated, since recycling processing changes. Bruce suggested *802recycles.com* as an up-to-date resource. Some discussion followed around a location for CVSWMD to grow a new facility.

**Designate Selectboard and Conservation Commission members to attend Vt Housing and Conservation Board meeting on Wednesday, October 5 re: Armstrong Farm:**

Denise Wheeler moved to appoint Scott Bassage and John Brabant to represent the Selectboard, and Stephanie Kaplan to represent the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Rose Pelchuck, this motion carried unanimously.

**Review and Approve Minutes:** Toby Talbot moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016. Seconded by Scott Bassage. A few edits were suggested. This motion carried unanimously.

**Town Hall update:** Scott Bassage shared that on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>, an Open House will be held at the Town Hall from noon to 2 p.m. as part of the Calais Fall Foliage Festival.

**Next meeting Monday, 10/10/16 – Columbus Day:** Denise Wheeler checked with Board members to be sure this date is acceptable.

At 8:48, Scott Bassage moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rose Pelchuck, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Stoudt, Selectboard Recording Secretary