

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

January 16, 2012

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Paul Cerutti, Stephen Morse, Dan Pudvah, Robin Sales, Marialisa Calta, Rick DeWolfe, Mo Cerutti, JC Myers, Tim Fillbach, Cathy Kashanski, Greg Pelchuck and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Approval of December 12th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Approved Minutes from November 28, 2011 - The Selectboard re-opened the discussion regarding the Approved Minutes from the November 28th Meeting with regard to Ditching and Culverts on Lightening Ridge Road. The Approved Minutes were corrected to accurately reflect the Road Commissioner spoke face-to-face with Don Moulton about ditching on his property. Toby Talbot made a motion to amend the Approved Minutes. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. Toby Talbot requested a copy be sent to Don and Carlene Moulton.

Approval of the January 9th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made two changes. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Annual Authorization Request for Plowed Highways to be used by Snowmobiles – Jason Fielder from Mountain Tamers Snowmobile Club and Calais resident presented the Selectboard with a list (dated December 28, 2011) for permission to use parts of town roads for snowmobiles from December 15th to April 15th. Jason stated the list is unchanged from last year except to add access for Bill Gray on Jack Hill Road to get trail access (approximately one mile). John Brabant made a motion to approve the updated list to use some town roads for snowmobile trail access. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Note: Mike Garand arrived at 7:45pm after the above votes were taken.

Woodbury Fire Department – Paul Cerutti, Fire Chief, and Stephen Morse, WFD President, came before the Selectboard to discuss the annual appropriation request and funds for the WFD truck replacement fund. The WFD appropriation request is \$17,680.00 for operating budget and \$12,500.00 for the truck replacement fund. Paul Cerutti distributed the Chief's report noting in 2011, WFD responded to 41 calls in Calais, 23 calls in Woodbury and 10 mutual aid calls. WFD acquired a boat for water rescue (cost \$11,500.00 paid out of capital fund). They have trained a lot with it and have used it once so far this year. Paul reported that over the years some expenses, such as fuel, were never tracked separately from the Town of Woodbury budget. Toby Talbot inquired about the \$22,000.00 increase in the budget. Equipment outlay was part of it and now tracking fuel costs that were previously not in the budget. Scott Bassage noted the net increase overall from about \$18,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Scott said, "No doubt about the quality of service but people may say is it coming to the time do we need two fire departments?" Denise Wheeler requested a copy of the WFD budget with all the line items clearly shown. Paul Cerutti noted overall the increase over the past ten years was very small; he is bringing the department into compliance with equipment and training. Hopes for only modest increases in the future Paul reported. Toby Talbot said pull one time expenses out of the request so the Selectboard knows what is for operational expenses. Paul is working on ISO (fire protection rating) certification for WFD. Paul offered to answer questions.

EMFD Quarterly Financial Review at EMFD, Station 2 on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00pm with East Montpelier Selectboard and EMFD Board of Directors.

Kellogg Hubbard Library Annual Report and Budget Request – Dan Pudvah, Executive Director of the library, provided the Selectboard with the budget request for FY 2013. The amount requested, \$24,489.00, is the same as the last three years since the board decided to level fund the budget for next year. Robin Sales provided an overview of the numerous resources, programs and activities at the library over the past year, a very busy, productive year. All were reminded the library’s website is available around the clock as a terrific resource. Marialisa Calta, Calais representative on the Board, offered some comments as well. The library delegation thanked the Selectboard for the town’s support and the support of all those that volunteer to support the library.

Roads Advisory Committee – The Roads Advisory Committee joined the Selectboard to discuss the charge of the committee that was provided to the committee. The Chair, Mo Cerutti, requested the Selectboard narrow the charge and scope of the committee’s work. Mo Cerutti went on to say as a committee, here's what we recommend the Selectboard use as a standard; we can identify the roads in need attention first, use traffic count data and how that standard can apply (road material and ditches). Here is what we think are reasonable exceptions to that standard (aesthetic exceptions applying to that section of that road). Denise Wheeler said, “The charge is a draft and the committee can make changes to it”. JC Myers offered to first look at what exists and become familiar with that, look at state standards and look at the town traffic ordinance. Denise Wheeler said, “What do we want our roads to look like?” Mike Garand in his opinion spoke saying “What crown, what material and make it well aware to the public the 200 year old maples are a hazard (live guardrail); they were once roadside brush”. John Brabant noted we have conflicts on the standard that we signed and spoke about speed on the roads. Mike Garand spoke about law enforcement on Towne Hill Road and the large amount of speeding ticket revenue East Montpelier receives each year. In summary, Toby Talbot said we need a systematic rationale for dealing with roads. Denise Wheeler said take the draft, go back, and make changes. JC Myers will make some changes to the charge and bring it back to the Roads Advisory Committee.

Highway Budget for FY 2013 – Alfred Larrabee presented the proposed Highway Budget for the next fiscal year. Each line item was discussed and projections for each were decided. With remaining funds from this year’s budget, he would like to close in the two cold storage bays, extend the other bay and install a 14-foot garage door. The salt shed needs something done -for little money you can put batten on to reinforce the salt shed. Alfred would like a new decal for the town trucks and recommends just the town name like he has on his pick up truck.

VLCT 2012 PACIF (Matching) grant to improve workers safety – the Selectboard will put a line in their budget for matching grant.

The Road Commissioner would like to ask for a chipper – Alfred Larrabee has some calls in to different vendors for price quotes. Alfred said, “The town is getting closed in by brush, we need to get this stuff cleared up”. Scott Bassage wondered about putting more in the gravel budget since we know the roads need more gravel. Toby Talbot suggested coming up with a per mile cost so that Alfred gets to chose how much extra road resurfacing gravel he thinks the crew can put down in one year. This would be an additional line item on the highway budget. The crew should write the road name on each gravel slip for where the gravel is going in order to track road resurfacing.

Toby Talbot made a motion to authorize Denise Wheeler to sign the Report of Expenditure of Money on Highway Work from AOT for the North Calais culvert project. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Other Business - Letter from Wayne Morse dated January 16, 2012 will be taken up at a later date. Scott Bassage reported the auditors are working hard and almost finished for the year. Toby Talbot will go to the next session on Friday.

Tentative Agenda for the January 23rd Meeting

- Finalize Highway Budget
- Highway Reserve
- Municipal Reserve

➤ Review Draft Warning – Donna Fitch

Tentative Agenda for the January 23rd Meeting (continued)

- Review Draft Selectboard Report – Denise Wheeler
- Review Selectboard Budget FY 2013

Toby Talbot made a motion to continue this meeting to Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00pm at EMFD Station 2, where the Calais Selectboard, East Montpelier Selectboard and EMFD Board of Directors will meet for the Quarterly Financial Review. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant