

SELECTBOARD MEETING  
*Approved Minutes*

January 30, 2012

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

**Attending:** Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Rolf Mueller, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey and Rose Pelchuck.

**Absent:** Mike Garand

**Actions:**

Approval of January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. Scott Bassage offered one correction to Other Business. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0. (Note: John Brabant arrived just after the vote.)

Approval of January 19<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting Minutes - The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Auditor Update – Scott Bassage reported we are fortunate to have a terrific team of town auditors this year. Mary Ormsby, Susan Cook and Sharon Fannon have worked hard and are dedicated to their job. 2011-12 was a transition year from the old to the new system of financial record keeping. The town auditors have done an amazing job under difficult conditions. They were imaginative, clever, inventive, astute, capable, and creative. They brought a unique set of problem solving skills to difficult and thankless tasks. We are very, very fortunate to have such a terrific group. What the Auditors have done this year is well done, but perhaps the best thing to come out of this year's audit is that they are committed to continuing to help us improve our financial policies and procedures in the years to come.

Letter from Wayne Morse – The Selectboard received a letter from Wayne Morse at the January 16, 2012 meeting about changing the speed limit on Wheeler Road, TH 44 and lowering the speed limit on the County Road from 50mph to 40mph. Denise Wheeler will check with VLCT and AOT to find out the procedure for such a move. The road crew person that plows up there will check to see if there are any speed limit 30mph signs on Wheeler Road. Meanwhile, Toby Talbot looked online and reported that 23 V.S.A. Chapter 13, Subsection 1007 (Local Speed Limits) requires an engineering study and traffic study needed to lower speed limits less than 35mph.

The Selectboard briefly discussed the Roads Advisory Committee charge that Mo Cerutti and JC Myers developed. It will be further discussed at the next regular meeting.

Town Meeting Warning – The Town Moderator, Gus Seelig, will be invited to the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting just prior to Town Meeting Day. The Selectboard reviewed the Warning articles as amended by Town Clerk, Donna Fitch. An article about creating a PACE district will be included on the Warning. Bill Powell offered to speak about this at Town Meeting.

Highway Budget for FY 2013- The figures in the Highway Budget were again reviewed. Alfred Larrabee is waiting to hear back from Wilson Hughes regarding a Better Back Roads Grant the town applied for to improve ditching on Balentine Road. Wilson Hughes is leading the effort to obtain the grant. Alfred will check with Wilson about the grant status. Donna Fitch reported going forward grant money coming in and going out will be shown respectively under income and expenses in the budget. The Selectboard asked Alfred to determine how much it costs to resurface one mile of gravel roadway. Alfred reported that to resurface one mile of gravel road, 6" thick layer of gravel plus labor, material, trucking & grader use equals about \$42,000.00 per mile.

Selectboard Budget for FY 2013 was carefully reviewed again. It was reported the DRB secretary, Tim,

had to resign for personal reasons. Gary Root and John McCullough are willing to work together on the town parcel maps and funds were put in the budget to reflect that.

The Selectboard proposed budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year is about \$88,000.00 more than the current FY 2012 budget. Toby Talbot reminded us that the Selectboard asks the town to vote it up or down and there are \$468,000.00 in separate articles the voters have control over.

The Selectboard discussed the Cemetery budget and how a private landscaper does the work and gets a 1099 for payments received for using his equipment. The landscaper is paid wages from the town with appropriate taxes withheld. It was agreed that more information is necessary to thoroughly understand this arrangement and whether or not things can be done more efficiently and more cost effectively. Rolf Mueller wondered about how to increase income but not from taxes (possibly from logging the town forests – Denise Wheeler will check into it). Hopefully the school taxes will be lower, the rate will be more in our favor, Scott Bassage reported.

Selectboard Report - Denise Wheeler circulated the report and a few suggestions were made, including talking about the newly revised town website and all the information it contains. Scott Bassage and Rolf Mueller have put many hours into improving the site.

Tentative Agenda for the February 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- Board of Civil Authority meeting beginning at 6:15pm
- Town Meeting preparation
- Roads Advisory Committee charge
- Dog complaint

Zoning Violations, Appeals, Litigation, Personnel Matters – John Brabant made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:00pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing ongoing legal issues relating to McCullough Crushing proposed expansion and the Moultons ditching in their front yard. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. The regular session resumed at 9:25pm. Denise Wheeler reported on the McCullough issue they have to further consult with their attorney. Denise Wheeler further reported the town is sending a letter to the Moultons and a few minor revisions to the letter are necessary before becoming public. John Brabant made a motion to approve sending the letter after revising to the Moultons. All members of the Board will sign the letter. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Curtis Pond Dam Update - John Brabant distributed the 35% design plans for the Curtis Pond Dam Rehabilitation Project (draft of engineering plan) and accompanying email from Shawn Patenaude, P.E., Sr. Dam Engineer at DuBois & King, Inc. dated January 20, 2012. The Selectboard needs to make sure they are good and/or offer any comments. The comments, if any, will be incorporated in the Dam Safety permit application. Steve Bushman, Sr. Dam Safety Engineer for the State of Vermont said he thought the preliminary plans look good. In short, the plans call for a concrete dam behind the original dam. John Brabant noted there are still many items that have to be figured out i.e. financing, ownership and conveying ownership to the town at a certain point. Denise Wheeler reiterated that this engineering design work and permit application submittal would not cost the town anymore than we already have set aside at ANR (state grant appropriations). John Brabant said the next step is the engineer would move engineering plan towards finalization in order to submit the permit application to the Dam Safety office by February 3, 2012. The Selectboard and townspeople need to discuss how to finance the dam rehabilitation project either by a bond effort, fund raising effort or a combination of both. John went on to say this has to be carefully orchestrated.

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck

Selectboard Administrative Assistant