

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

June 13, 2011

7pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Mike Garand, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Peter Harvey, Alfred Larrabee, Rolf Mueller, Maria Smart, Rob Smart, Wayne Whitelock, Alex Whitelock, Mary Ormsby, Priscilla Daggett, Lesley McCreedy, Chris Cochran, Aime Fannon, Jeff Fannon, Arlyn Bruccoli, Morgan Ecklund, Janet Ancel and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Site Visit Hiese Property – The Selectboard met at 6:30pm at Don & Bev Hiese's home on Worcester Road to review the area where they would like to construct a shed in the town's R-O-W. Denise Wheeler reported the Hiese's have decided to change the location of the proposed shed, out of the R-O-W and have withdrawn their permit application. No further action is necessary.

Bridge & Culverts Inventory – The town received a letter from Dan Currier, GIS Manager for Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, stating the bridges and culverts inventory data is available from their office.

Black Rock Coal, Inc. ACT 250 Amendment for Rock Quarry – The town received notice from the District 5 Environmental Commission informing all that the Black Rock Quarry on the County Road has been granted an administrative amendment to allow for extended hours of operation and truck trips to provide area towns with material to repair flood damaged roads. This amendment is in effect until the end of July 2011.

EMFD Request for Budgeted Funds – East Montpelier Fire Department has submitted a request for budgeted funds beginning July 1, 2011. Donna Fitch will process the request and disburse the funds in FY 2012.

Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs – The Town Clerk has issued warrants for unlicensed dogs in town and has received a good response from the notice.

Resignation of Conservation Commission Member – The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Phil Tonks who served on the Conservation Commission.

Town Invoices and Road Commissioner's Orders of the Day - The Selectboard reviewed, discussed and processed the invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Approval of May 9th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. John Brabant made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Approval of May 16th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. John Brabant made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Approval of May 18th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made one change. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Approval of May 23rd 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 5-0.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – Rob Smart and other Gray Road and Tucker Road residents informed the Selectboard of their troubling concern about increased traffic, especially truck traffic, due to the bridge construction on Route 14. These roads are narrow in places, hard for two-way traffic to safely pass and speed is of concern. School-age children often walk or ride bicycles from Gray Road to school on Lightening Ridge. Residents are very concerned that it is no longer safe to do that anymore. Rob came to the town to request a solution for the next four months and to see what the town can do to help. Denise Wheeler emailed the

Vermont Agency of Transportation today noting there is inadequate signage on Route 14 and requesting the State AOT take action. Toby Talbot suggested residents put up individual signs to “slow down” or “watch out for kids”.

Wayne Whitelock presented a letter to the Selectboard informing the town of his formal objection, along with other area residents, to any proposed development on Apple Hill Road by Jim Chamberlin. Jim Chamberlin had been quoted as saying, “If any neighbors object to my development, I won’t go any further”. Discussion turned to the condition of Apple Hill Road. Wayne Whitelock asked the town if any gravel could be put on the road, it would be appreciated. Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner, stated he would like to replace a culvert on the road in the area where it continually washes out. If the landowners pay for it, the town will install it and spread some gravel at the same time. Wayne will contact the neighbors (including his brother-in-law Ken to be sure there is no objection), collect the funds to pay for a new culvert and give it to the Town Treasurer.

Road Commissioner Update – Denise Wheeler responded to the local comments on *Front Porch Forum* about road conditions. Donna Fitch, Town Clerk, suggested developing a process for a road complaint and publicizing it so people know whom they should call. Rolf Mueller, Zoning Administrator, suggested posting a list of where the road crew is working so people know what they are doing and where. Alfred reported the County Road has been graded once and chloride has been applied to keep the dust down. Alfred plans to put down new gravel before the County Road gets repaved in two months.

Appointments for Town Offices, Boards and Commissions:

Auditors: John Brabant made a motion to appoint Sharon Fannon to a one-year term as auditor, expires 2012 and to appoint Mary Ormsby to fill the unexpired term of Toby Talbot, a two-year term, expires in 2012. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Conservation Commission: Toby Talbot made a motion to appoint Anne Connor to fill the unexpired term of Warren Coleman, a four-year term, expires in 2014. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Historic Preservation Commission: Scott Bassage made a motion to appoint Ernie Parrish to fill the vacant position, a three-year term, expires in 2014.

Arlyn Brucoli re: R-O-W Permit Request - The Selectboard had a site visit on May 18, 2011, discussed the application again tonight and made the following observations: a pull-off space will be allowed instead of a parking space (no overnight parking) and coordinate construction dates in conjunction with Chris Cochran’s barn project. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the application for work in the Town’s Right-of-Way from Arlyn Brucoli on North Calais Road with the following conditions:

1. extend the culvert north of the barn twenty feet or as needed per inspection; install stone at the end of the pipe to prevent erosion; the town will install a catch basin,
2. septic will not be in the Town’s right-of-way but may be built up to the Town’s right-of-way, noting the Town of Calais will not be liable for run-off and/or damage to the leach field or septic system,
3. close the road during foundation work and water line excavation under the road with the Road Commissioner’s input,
4. use of prominent signage and road barricades when the road is closed as deemed appropriate by the Road Commissioner, and
5. road can be closed up to three weeks.

North Calais Culvert Replacement Project – Chris Cochran only briefly discussed the culvert project since Rick DeWolfe, P.E. and neighbor, was not present this evening. It was noted that Chris Cochran would also need a permit to work in the Town’s right-of-way for his barn project. Chris will file the necessary paperwork and come back to the Selectboard for consideration.

Legislative Update from Rep. Janet Ancel – Our State Representative, Janet Ancel (D) Calais, Plainfield and Marshfield, came to the meeting to report the legislature adjourned one week early whereby saving taxpayers money. Janet noted a big list of accomplishments from the session, including bringing broadband

Internet to 95% of Calais. Although this was part of the FairPoint Communications bankruptcy agreement, Janet made sure FairPoint knew Calais needed to be at the top of their list for connecting to broadband internet service. Other items discussed were the use of electronic ballot counters, redistricting legislative districts and education funding. Janet Ancel said she is always happy to come to meet with the Selectboard and share happenings from the State House. Janet offered to lend a hand if the town ever needs the state's attention.

Adamant Dam Beaver Baffles – Scott Bassage reported the water level is still pretty high in Adamant. The goal is to increase drain capacity with two more pipes to remove water faster from one side of the beaver dam to the other. The cost for two pipes is \$800.00 and the Department of Fish & Wildlife will install them for us free of charge. John Brabant noted this to be a great idea but is not in favor of using money from the Conservation Fund. Scott Bassage totally agrees with John. Toby Talbot reported there is about \$900.00 left over from the emergency flood appropriation to assist with flood damage when the beaver dam broke last year. Toby offered to check the language in the appropriation to see if it will allow the town to use these funds for this purpose.

Dental Insurance for Town Employees – The Selectboard reviewed information from Delta Dental since this is the open enrollment period until June 15, 2011. The town currently does not offer dental insurance. Since it has not been budgeted for this coming FY 2012, it may be a future benefit beginning in FY 2013. Toby Talbot suggested finding out what the future benefit would be and to plan ahead for the expenditure.

Upkeep of the Calais Town Hall – Scott Bassage discussed the need for a caretaker for the Town Hall. Scott has filled in that capacity after learning the ropes from Cy Lamberton. Scott recently discovered a few broken pipes and realized the building needs some routine maintenance i.e. heating, roof, lawn, windows. Scott Bassage suggested paying a caretaker \$50.00 per month. Scott will check with someone that may be interested in the position.

Reports and Updates

- Curtis Pond Dam – John Brabant reported we need the design to come up with a cost and need the cost to ask for a bond vote. John will check to see how much money the town has left in appropriations to pay for the design plans from Dubois & King. The Selectboard discussed having a fund people can donate to in an effort to fundraise for the project.
- Joint Meeting with Calais School Board – Toby Talbot suggested making a list of agenda items to discuss then setting a date to meet. It appeared the Selectboard does not have anything substantive to discuss at present with the School Board.
- New town truck – Alfred Larrabee reported the cab and chassis will arrive mid June. After it is outfitted, it is expected in town sometime in September. The cost is around \$150,000.00.

Other Business – Denise Wheeler asked the Selectboard to think about getting out earlier from the meetings, possibly changing meeting times.

Tentative Agenda for the June 27th Meeting

- Caretaker for the Town Hall
- TH 44 Discontinuance
- Charge to Energy Committee
- Charge to Roads Advisory Committee
- Personnel Policies
- Review end of FY 2011 Highway and Selectboard Budgets

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck

Selectboard Administrative Assistant