

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

June 27, 2011

7pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Peter Harvey, Rolf Mueller, Ron Gray, Priscilla Daggett, Lesley McCreedy, Jeff Fannon, Janet Ancel, Timothy Azarian, Mary Azarian, Gail Graham, Wayne Morse, Larry Orr, Molly McCreedy, Dillon Burns and Rose Pelchuck.
Absent: Toby Talbot

Actions:

Gray Road and Tucker Road Discussion – Ron Gray, Regional Construction Engineer, from the Vermont Agency of Transportation met with the town to discuss the Route 14 “Singing Bridge” project. He brought the project sign plans with him tonight. In response to Selectboard concerns after the last meeting, Ron Gray reported suggested sign changes were made last Friday. AOT made the offer to fund DMV enforcement officers and sheriffs to do some patrols looking for overweight trucks and speeders. Some detour signs at the bridge were removed to decrease confusion. Mike Garand noted the message on the message board at the junction of Routes 2 and 14 in East Montpelier is not visible because of the sun beating on it and suggested the sign should be moved (possibly to the old Jockey Hollow garage lot). Ron Gray reported the original bridge re-opening date was changed to accommodate a sidewalk on the new bridge. The expected re-opening is now September 18th. Ron went on to explain the contractor would receive a bonus if they meet that date and more money for each day prior to the deadline date. The Selectboard and residents of the area affected by increased traffic offered suggestions for improving present signage locations. Ron Gray will look at the area; talk with Chris Williams to try to find a resolution to concerns voiced this evening with suggestions as follows:

- 1) Can't see the message board due to sunshine – check about moving it to old Jockey Hollow garage
- 2) Check signage at the intersection of Routes 2 & 14 in East Montpelier; marrying Route 14 sign with the Route 2 sign and they should both point north towards Plainfield
- 3) Check message board on Route 14 south in Calais and move it past Lightening Ridge Road so as to not indicate going up Lightening Ridge is the detour
- 4) The Selectboard prefers to have bridge closed sign instead of road closed
- 5) Have someone survey commuters to find out where they are coming from (are they local traffic only?)
- 6) For people who take the detour into Plainfield, are they seeing the detour signage onto Route 214?
- 7) Drive through with Mike Garand and Chris Williams to review the signage
- 8) Mike Garand will tell Ed on the Calais Road Crew to put LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY signs up on the Calais side of Gray Road and Tucker Road and to cut the brush from around the speed limit sign on Gray Road.

Public comment on non-agenda items – none.

Approval of June 13th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and noted a spelling error. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Budget Review – As the FY 2011 winds down, the Selectboard and Town Treasurer, Donna Fitch, began to review end of the year figures to determine if there is any surplus left and where those funds may be allocated. Donna Fitch estimates about \$46,000.00 may be remaining in this year's total budget, Selectboard and Highway budgets combined. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting when better figures are available. Short term borrowing per annual practice was discussed. John Brabant made a motion to approve the authorization of short term borrowing from Merchant's Bank for \$450,000.00 in anticipation of taxes to be paid by September 15, 2011, to sign the note, resolution and tax certificate. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

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.

Leonard Road Issue – Gail Graham informed the Selectboard some people have gone around a downed tree on Leonard Road, drove in her hayfield, and came back out near her barn. Gail Graham just wanted to inform the Selectboard this happened and is not expecting anything to happen. Some discussion took place about options to limiting vehicular traffic, posting signs or making the road a pent road.

Calais Swim Program – Dillon Burns informed the Selectboard of a projected deficit in the Calais Swim Program budget she just found out about. They will adjust participants rates now that they know the total money picture Dillon reported. Dillon noted the poor condition of the raft on Curtis Pond and the opportunity to buy a new one. John Brabant made a motion to approve \$800.00 for the Calais Swim Program towards the purchase of a new raft that will be repaid in the fall. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Curtis Pond Dam – John Brabant reviewed the Agreement for Engineering Services from Dubois & King for the Curtis Pond Dam rehabilitation project; to do the engineering work and to submit the application for permits to repair or replace the dam. John Brabant will bring the exact figure of how much is left in the state appropriations earmarked for the dam to the next meeting.

Beaver Baffles – Scott Bassage is in favor of going ahead with putting in two more beaver baffles on the Adamant Pond. Scott Bassage made a motion to buy the pipes for a cost up to \$800.00 for the beaver baffles. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried. The State Department of Fish & Wildlife will install them at no charge.

Other Business – Scott Bassage proposes the creation of a new position called the Gospel Hollow Warden to act as caretaker of the Town Hall in historic Gospel Hollow. The appointee would receive a stipend of \$50.00 per month with duties as outlined in the draft job description provided and reviewed this evening. Ernie Parrish is willing to serve in this position; further discussion at the next meeting.

Town Highway 44 Discontinuance Process – In summary, John Brabant noted the process was not followed properly in the early 1970's to change a part of TH 44 and the town needs to discontinue a portion of the road and follow the correct legal process to do so. Denise Wheeler has the directions from the attorney to proceed as follows:

- 1) Schedule a site visit to TH 44 Wheeler Road,
 - 2) Have a public hearing 30 days with notice of the intent to discontinue a portion of the road, and
 - 3) Send notice by certified mail to abutting landowners of the portion of the road to be discontinued.
- Denise Wheeler asked Scott Bassage to come up with dates noting Chuck Storrow is not always available.

R-O-W Permit for placing a shed in the town's R-O-W – As reported at the June 13, 2011 site visit and Selectboard meeting, the Heise's decided to change the location of their proposed shed to out of the town's R-O-W and withdrew their permit application. The Heise's have since changed their intent and submitted a permit application to locate an outdoor shed one foot in the town's R-O-W. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the permit application from Don & Bev Heise for installing a shed one foot in the town's R-O-W on the Worcester Road. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-1. Mike Garand voted against the motion.

Curb Cuts – Rolf Mueller, Zoning Administrator, raised the issue about town curb cut files in the town office. There is no record of old curb cuts. Rose Pelchuck provided the Curb Cut Ordinance that indicates all previously issued curb cuts are grand fathered prior to 9/13/2004. Rose Pelchuck can give curb cut data to Rolf from her records if necessary.

Other Business (continued) – Denise Wheeler received a note from Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator & Selectboard Chair, about two bills from Lambertson Electric and RB Technologies for work done at the EMFD Emergency Services Facility desiring the Calais Selectboard's input on paying these

bills. Final sealing of the concrete near the pavement still needs to come out of the funds and there are drainage issues with the flow of water off Route 2 near the insurance company. John Brabant said a lot more info needs to come back before agreeing to pay the bills; the Selectboard needs to be fully informed. Mike Garand is getting quotes for driveway crack sealer.

CVRPC – The initial payment for the grant we received \$6,270.00 was discussed.

Training / Continuing Education – Scott Bassage made a motion to authorize that he along with Rolf Mueller, Zoning Administrator, and John McCullough attend a two day GIS software training class. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Tentative Agenda for the July 11th Meeting

- Leonard Road issue
- Vote on engineering agreement for Curtis Pond Dam
- Gospel Hollow Warden position and appointment
- Set dates for TH 44 discontinuance process
- Health benefit plan changes from VLCT
- Curb cut for Jim Buckley
- Sheriff contract for FY 2012
- Road Commissioner appointment

Mike Garand made a motion to adjourn at 10:00pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Administrative Assistant