

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

September 26, 2011

7:00pm Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Mike Garand, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Wayne Morse, Chuck Storrow, Kurt Janson, Wilson Hughes, Fred Bushway, Libby Kellington, Owen Kellington and Rose Pelchuck.

Absent: Toby Talbot

Actions:

Town Invoices and Orders - Scott Bassage thoroughly reviewed the information prior to the meeting. The invoices and orders were processed per usual protocol.

Approval of September 12th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made a few changes. Mike Garand made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0. (John Brabant arrived after the vote.)

Public comment – none

Road Commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee reported there is no news on the old grader except that parts have been bought.

Streetlights in East Calais – The town spends \$1,300.00 annually in electricity for these two streetlights. Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont are willing to replace the lamp with a LED fixture in an effort to save money. Denise Wheeler will call and inquire if the bill will go down with this new fixture. Alfred Larrabee mentioned there used to be three streetlights in East Calais Village. Scott Bassage made a motion to go forward with this offer to change the light to a LED light. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Dog Complaint Follow-up – Colin Doolittle is meeting with Central Vermont Humane Society tonight to see if they will take the dog for placement or recommend a specific training program. Denise Wheeler spoke to the complainants to apprise them of the situation.

PACE Program – The Selectboard is considering forming a Clean Energy Assessment District whereby the townspeople in Calais would be eligible to participate in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Voters would need to approve forming the Clean Energy Assessment District at town meeting. Participation in the PACE program is purely voluntary. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve a letter to Peter Adamczyk, PACE Energy Finance and Development Manager indicating the town's desire to move forward with obtaining info on PACE. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Tax Rate Update Letter – As previously discussed at the August 29th meeting, it was agreed that the Selectboard, the School Board and State Representative, Janet Ancel, would devise a document to better explain the tax rate to the townspeople. Scott Thompson, School Board Member, provided a draft and would like the Selectboard to add details regarding the town tax. Scott Bassage will come up with language to explain the town's share of property tax. Once approved, the document will be put on the town's website, Front Porch Forum, in the local stores and at the town office.

Town Constables Issuing Citations - Fred Bushway, First Constable, and Wilson Hughes, Second Constable, came before the Selectboard to discuss issuing citations for speeding. Both Fred and Wilson, who received training at the Vermont Police Academy, gave examples of speeding in town. Fred Bushway needs a new constable badge (expense has been approved) and Wilson Hughes needs a blue light for his vehicle. Both constables are willing to get more training, if necessary. Denise Wheeler will inquire at the VLCT what the

requirements are for town constables to issue citations and if there are policies that need to be in place prior to initiating this. Liability was also discussed.

Dogs: Animal Control Ordinance, Unlicensed Dogs & Animal Holding Facility – The list of unlicensed dogs was provided to Animal Control Officer, Fred Bushway, by the town clerk. Fred would like a holding facility in town since the town utilized the former town garage in Gospel Hollow. Fred suggested the town garage in East Calais could again be utilized. Fred brought up difficulties with the humane society and noted many times they are not willing to take a dog. It was agreed to get a holding pen at the town garage – details will be worked out between Fred Bushway and Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner.

Warrant for unlicensed dogs will be sent to each person that has not licensed their dog and given 10 days to respond; after such time the dogs can be picked up by the animal control officer.

Animal Nuisance Control Ordinance – The Selectboard looked at the Town of Waitsfield Animal Control Ordinance once before but never revised the Calais ordinance. The Selectboard now believes it is time to review and revise the Calais Animal Control Ordinance. Fred Bushway, Wilson Hughes and Kurt Jansen will work on revising the present ordinance that was adopted in 1999. The State of Vermont views the Waitsfield Animal Control Ordinance as the model ordinance per Wilson Hughes.

Marion Gray / Libby Kellington Dog Complaint – Libby Kellington stated she has trained the dog since coming before the Selectboard in April. Marion Gray was not present. In a letter to the town, Marion Gray reported the dog has been on her property on five occasions late August and September. Libby did have someone taking care of the dog while she was away and thinks that is when the dog was running free. Libby showed the Selectboard the shock collar the dog has been wearing since Sept. 5th and a GPS tracking devise she uses on the dog. Denise Wheeler explained the process the Selectboard has to follow to respond to the complaint letter from Marion Gray. Mike Garand will call Steve Gray to update him about tonight's meeting. It was agreed there is no need to pursue a fine at this time under the nuisance dog ordinance.

Personnel Policy – The Selectboard met on September 20th to work on devising a personnel policy for town employees. Toby Talbot agreed to make some changes based on the discussion at that meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF TH 44

TH 44 Discontinuance a portion thereof: The public hearing was continued from the public hearing that began on September 12th. Denise Wheeler, Chair, called for further information to be added to the record or further testimony from those present. Denise Wheeler reported after consulting with attorney, John Klesch, nothing changes in this discontinuance process based on the fact that George Morse owns a small parcel of land on TH 44. Having heard no further public comment or testimony, Scott Bassage made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. The Selectboard will have a closed, deliberative session and has 60 days to render a decision.

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Poplar Cemetery - Mo Cerutti informed the Selectboard about storm damage in Poplar Cemetery, which is privately owned and in need of repair. No action was taken.

Road Advisory Committee – At the April 11, 2011 Selectboard Meeting, Mo Cerutti, Doug Lilley, Greg Pelchuck, Cathy Kashanski, and JC Meyer were appointed to serve on the Roads Advisory Committee. The Selectboard has not yet given the committee a mission and they have not begun work. Mo Cerutti agreed to Chair the committee and would like to get the committee going. Denise Wheeler will put this on the next agenda.

Tentative Agenda for the October 10th Meeting

- Roads Advisory Committee – mission to begin work
- Trails committee charge - expires in fall 2011
- Tax explanation letter

- Constables issuing citations update
- Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads
- Dog Complaint: Ed Bennett on George Road

Other Business: The Planning Commission is working on proposed changes to the zoning regulations and will have a public hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:00pm at the Calais Elementary School.

Town's Website – Scott Bassage has made some incremental changes to the website and has applied for a grant for more website work. Further updates will be forthcoming.

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant