

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2015
Approved

Present: Selectboard members Scott Bassage, Rose Pelchuck, Denise Wheeler, Toby Talbot, John Brabant was absent; Donna Fitch, clerk; Larry Smith – VLCT; Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee, Earl Schrader, Dot Naylor, Will Walters – Hardwick Gazette, Jody Bayne, Joe Bayne, Lori Bayne.

Chair Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Non-agenda Items

Scott Bassage made a motion to move \$3,474.69 from account #1802 Town Hall Fund to account #1811 Town Hall/Office Reserve Fund, reserving the \$3,474.69 for use on the Town Hall only. Toby seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0. This is money left over from a 1993 allocation for town hall maintenance and repair.

Road Commissioner Update

Alfred Larrabee will be attending a supervisory workshop on managing employee performance.

The new six-wheel truck has arrived.

Sid Griggs is leaving the Calais highway department, moving to Cabot and working for the Cabot highway department. November 6th is his last day. Donna will advertise the position immediately.

The road crew is hauling gravel in anticipation of mud season. Mirror Lake Road work will take place next year.

Dot Naylor asked Alfred to grade the washboards on Collar Hill by Rosemary Wheelock's. He agreed.

Rose made a motion to sell the shed at the recycle/trash center on Moscow Woods Road for \$500. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Trash was being left in and around the shed and it has served its useful purpose for the town.

The town is selling a pick-up truck. Some interest has been expressed, but may have to lower price from \$7,500.

Operations Manager Update

Alfred will be on vacation and during that time he will be working on Still Brook Road using his own equipment.

Toby has been working with Barbara Weedon to identify how to remove a berm near Barbara's house in Adamant without harming the trees. The berm must be removed to get water off the road. Barbara has hired Tree Works.

The Selectboard signed the paperwork for the town to be reimbursed for paving the last mile of the County Road.

Dodge Road Discontinuance

Denise received an email from surveyor Paul Hannan stating that his research shows that Karen Lane's land (parcel #110100) does not border Dodge Road but lies somewhat to the west. The Selectboard was waiting for confirmation that discontinuing Dodge Road would not landlock this parcel. Toby made a motion to discontinue Dodge Road. Scott seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Zoning Administrator Position

The Selectboard interviewed Earl Schrader from E. Montpelier for the zoning administrator position. A decision will be made at a future date.

Health Insurance for 2016

Larry Smith, VT League of Cities and Towns, discussed 2016 health plan options/costs.

- Most towns with under 50 employees are in the BCBS Platinum Plan as is Calais.
- Most towns have an employee contribution of 10% to 15% toward the premium.
- The cost of the Platinum Plan has increased 5.2%.
- Calais' utilization of its Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is low.
- The deadline for any plan changes is November 30.
- A new plan is available, the Gold (CDHP) Plan, which is similar to the high deductible plan the town had two years ago:
 - All expenses in this Gold Plan would go to the deductible and then there would be 100% coverage.
 - The deductibles (\$2,500/\$5,000) are the same as the current Platinum Plan but you get there in different ways. The Platinum Plan has co-pays and co-insurance that eventually add up to the deductible; the Gold Plan expenses go directly to the deductible.
 - \$25,000 would be the cost to the town if all employees used all of their HRA money in one year.
 - The Gold Plan would save \$20,000 in premium costs but use of the HRA money would increase.
- The town's HRA is currently with Choice Strategies but it may be more convenient - administratively and for employees - to establish an HRA at BCBS (called Health Equity) which would be integrated with the BCBS plan.

The federal Cadillac tax will come take effect in 2018. The details are still being worked out at the federal level. Calais' premium costs are below the tax amount but, depending on how the

federal government decides to deal with HRAs, the money in the HRA could increase the Calais cost of health care which could cause Calais to be taxed.

Washington Electric (WEC) Permit

WEC requested permission to cut/trim trees, chip brush, install utility poles, anchors, guy wires and conductors on Bliss Road near Peter and Helen Johnke's property. Toby made a motion to approve the permit with conditions: The work must comply with Calais Road Standards and trees bigger than 6" at breast height should not be cut. Toby, Denise and Rose voted to approve. Scott abstained. The motion passed.

Selectboard Administrative Assistant

Donna will advertise for an administrative assistant for the Selectboard.

VTel Tower

A site visit sponsored by the Public Service Board's utilities analyst will take place on Bayne-Comolli Road at the proposed telecommunications tower site on Friday, October, 30 at 10 a.m. Toby and Scott will attend.

Agenda Items to Chair on Wednesdays

Denise will no longer send email reminders to Selectboard members asking if they have items for the agenda. It is the Board members' responsibility to let Denise know.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk