

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

December 23, 2013

7:00pm Calais Town Office

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot, Rose Pelchuck, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Dan Durkee, Rachael Bliss, Candi Smith, Peter Harvey, Ehren Nogueira, Stephen Morse, Paul Cerutti, Tim Neill and David Schutz.

Absent: John Brabant

Actions:

Approval of Meeting Minutes was tabled until next time.

Public Comment – Peter Harvey reported the next Roads Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2014. Trey Martin and J.C. Myers are leaving the committee. Craig Line is unavailable to participate this winter. Peter Harvey is trying to pull the committee together.

Road Commissioner Update:

Substitute Road Crew Driver – The Selectboard met Dan Durkee, the newly hired substitute driver, who lives in Woodbury. He drives for SD Ireland Concrete Company and did apply for the vacant position in the road crew.

Holiday Bonus for Road Crew - The Selectboard voted at the last meeting to give a bonus to each member of the road crew prior to finding out that Jim Corson had resigned. The motion stands and he will receive the holiday bonus.

Winter Weather Watch and Pager Time Pay – Denise Wheeler stated Alfred Larrabee currently gets 4 hours pay each week for watching the weather in the winter months, which amounts to about \$100.00 per week. As far as pager pay, Denise Wheeler checked with other towns and some pay \$100.00 per month for both watching the weather and carrying a pager. Toby Talbot suggested Alfred should track the time spent in weather watch. Denise Wheeler asked Alfred to keep track of the time spent looking out the window to see if a storm event has started. Alfred Larrabee would really like the road crew to be paid for being available and ready to work any time day or night; he wants them to be compensated more (not \$1,700.00 each). The town presently does not pay them to be ready to come to work.

Review Road Grader Hours - According to the logs provided by Alfred Larrabee, the 1997 John Deere grader worked 152.5 hours from June to mid-November. The 1997 CAT grader worked 101 hours in the same period. Alfred stated the John Deere grader needs shims on the table, which Alfred can replace. It also needs shims on the wear blade but overall was an excellent deal per Alfred Larrabee. The CAT grader needs a final drive rebuild job (not as expensive as a motor job). Alfred said it is in good shape through the spring but will talk to the mechanic to get a number to put in the budget repair line.

Borrowing a town truck – Denise Wheeler asked what a fair amount would be to charge to loan out a truck to another municipality. Insurance would not be an issue since they are all insured through VLCT. Denise Wheeler said it is good to help out neighboring towns. Toby Talbot has a Draft Mutual Aid Policy that details how municipalities can share trucks and equipment. Toby will bring it to the next meeting.

Shelter over fuel tanks – Alfred Larrabee got one price for building a shelter over the aboveground fuel tanks that was too high and will get some other prices.

New Truck Prices – Alfred Larrabee will be getting prices for trucks in time for the next meeting.

Vacancy on the Road Crew – Today was the application deadline to apply for the road crew position. The applications came in and Donna Fitch gave them to Alfred Larrabee. Denise Wheeler and Toby Talbot will sit in on the job interviews with the applicants and Road Commissioner.

Miller-Nogueira R-O-W Permit Application – Ehren Nogueira came before the Selectboard to discuss the notice of violation received for placing structures (boulders) on her property in the town's right-of-way. Denise Wheeler explained the history of the town ordinance and process for obtaining the permit to work in the town's right-of-way prior to commencing work. Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner, advised the Selectboard that there are big rocks, boulders, within 3-4 feet of the traveled portion of the road. The rocks are a safety hazard for the traveling public and road crew when plowing. Ehren Nogueira disagrees that this is a problem and explained the rocks provide protection. Peter Harvey, Roads Advisory Committee member, noted R-O-W do move over time. Alfred Larrabee noted that the home/garage on both sides of the road are so close to the road that this road has not moved over the years since the buildings are in the same locations. Alfred Larrabee will measure the distance from the centerline to the fence on the property that may also be in the town's right-of-way. Ehren Nogueira agreed to have the boulders moved to the other side of the fence. The Selectboard tabled a decision on this permit application until the next regular meeting on January 13, 2014.

Woodbury Fire Department Contract for Fire Protection FY2014-2015 – Stephen Morse, Paul Cerruti and Tim Neill from WFD came before the Selectboard to discuss the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The proposed budget overall was 5-7% increase with a dramatically high call volume. Calais accounts for about 2/3 of the call volume of the WFD. The WFD is requesting a 3% increase to the truck fund for \$13,250.00 in a separate article. Denise Wheeler requested the actual call volume for the year and proposed budget figures. No final action taken this evening.

Town Hall Restoration Project – David Schutz, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, came before the Selectboard to provide the commission's Recommendations Regarding Maintenance of the Town Hall dated 8-3-13. To review, Arnold & Scangas Architects from St. Albans conducted a feasibility study of the Town Hall earlier this year and issued a comprehensive report. The Historic Preservation thoroughly reviewed the report and David Schutz provided the Selectboard with a three-page summary. The recommendations begin with the roof replacement, which is set to begin very soon according to Scott Bassage. The next category is to address exterior maintenance issues to try to prevent further deterioration that includes wall, trim and window maintenance issues. The next category is Minor Life Safety and Accessibility Code Compliance issues. David Schutz explained the Town Hall is a government building so accessibility is a big issue. The committee realizes the town has a lot on its plate for capital expenditures and recommends a long-term plan to deal with it. Toby Talbot asked David for the committee to identify the cost structure for the whole project, including inflation. David noted the building has had a lot of deferred maintenance. Our town hall as a government place and not a cultural place is a detriment to getting grant funding. Toby Talbot is aware of federal and state grants for handicap accessibility to a voting place. David Schutz will investigate it. David also spoke about a committee to do fundraising for this restoration project of the Town Hall. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet in January to devise a plan with numbers for the Selectboard to consider.

Zoning Regulations Public Hearing – The Selectboard will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed changes to the zoning regulations on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:30pm. Donna Fitch will publish the notice.

Executive Session – Denise Wheeler made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:09pm with Donna Fitch, Town Clerk and Treasurer, in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing ongoing legal matters. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. The Selectboard resumed the regular session at 9:18pm.

Tentative Agenda for the January 6th Meeting

- Proposed Selectboard and Highway Budgets for FY 2015

Tentative Agenda for the January 13th Meeting

- Public Hearing on proposed changes to Zoning Regulations at 7:30pm
- Miller-Nogieura R-O-W Permit Application
- Kellogg Hubbard Library appropriation request
- Calais Energy Committee re: solar
- Roads Advisory Committee
- VLCT Finance Training with Scott Bassage
- Review Warning Articles

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:20pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Member and Administrative Assistant