

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

August 8, 2011

7pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Mike Garand, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Rolf Mueller, Alfred Larrabee, Sidney Griggs, Peter Harvey, Stephanie Kaplan, Noreen Bryann, Wayne Morse and Rose Pelchuck.
Absent: Toby Talbot

Actions:

Town Clerk, Donna Fitch, reviewed recent tax sale developments. Zoning Administrator, Rolf Mueller, is awaiting the arrival of the laptop he ordered as authorized at the last meeting.

Town Invoices and Orders of the Day – Scott Bassage thoroughly reviewed the checks and orders prior to the meeting. The full Selectboard reviewed and processed the invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Approval of July 25th 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 4-0.

Public Comment – Donna Fitch has answered calls regarding tax bills and tax rates. In summary:

- Town tax rate went up 14.5% to pay for the new fire station, paving County Road, new town truck, etc.
- The estimated 2011 town tax rate at Town Meeting was 0.595 and turned out to be 0.561 (see page 20 in the red book)
- State education tax rate went up 12.7% that is based on the common level of appraisal

Conservation Commission Brochure – Stephanie Kaplan and Noreen Bryann came before the Selectboard to request the use of Conservation Fund to publish a brochure from the Calais Lakes & Ponds Group. The brochure, which is published twice a year, is usually paid for by a grant and this year they did not receive a grant award. Therefore, in order to publish the newsletter, the Conservation Commission is looking for Selectboard authorization to spend up to \$3,200.00 to publish this brochure. This is expected to be a one-time request and next year will apply for grants again. The grant has an 80%-20% split. There are clear guidelines for use of the Conservation Commission reserve funds and the Selectboard needs to review the Conservation Fund Guidelines to see if this use would be allowed as a lawful use for the funds (to publish a brochure for Lakes & Ponds group). No action was taken on the request; this will be put on the next meeting's agenda. The Conservation Commission is also in the process of revising the natural resources section of the Town Plan.

Road Commissioner Update - Alfred Larrabee introduced Sidney Griggs as the newest member of the Calais Road Crew. Sidney has some experience part timing on the road crew in Marshfield. New findings on the old-grader thought were perhaps it was just the water pump; after further investigation, Alfred reported it does not look like it. Alfred will have the mechanic come and look at it. Maybe it is a worn sleeve and can replace just one sleeve and not have to rebuild the whole motor. Gravel resurfacing three miles on Worcester Road will begin soon. Alfred Larrabee reported the material (5000-6000 cubic yards) would be coming from Manosh's pit (municipal discount) in Wolcott and both hired trucks and town trucks will be used to bring the material in. Alfred agreed he does have more work to do on Lightening Ridge Road.

Mike Garand stepped off the Selectboard for this next agenda item.

Curb Cut Permit Application – The Selectboard reviewed the curb cut application from Mike & Laura Garand at 2364 Lightening Ridge Road to move the current driveway. Mike will put in a 15-inch culvert. John Brabant made a motion to approve the curb cut permit application with the installation of a 15-inch culvert. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 3-0. Mike Garand rejoined the Selectboard proceedings.

EMFD Update – Mike Garand reported about crack sealing quotes from Central Vermont Construction, Inc. for the EMFD facility off Route 2 as follows:

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| • Seal crack between pavement and concrete apron | \$400.00 |
| • Hot rubber crack sealing | \$250.00 |
| • Put a couple coats of emulsion coal tar sealer on whole driveway but not on the private road Village Acres | \$1720.00 |
| • Line painting for parking spaces | \$300.00 |
| Total estimated cost: | \$2,670.00 |

Scott Bassage made a motion to accept the recommendation to do this work from Central Vermont Construction, Inc. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. The East Montpelier Selectboard also approved this work at their August 1st meeting. Mike Garand reported that Fire Chief, John Audy, brought up the floor paint issue in the apparatus bay during a recent conversation. Denise Wheeler said she thought the Selectboard decided to sand blast the floor and put down a clear sealer. The Selectboard said the floor issue is done. The next EMFD Quarterly Joint Meeting with the Selectboards will be October 20, 2011. At the last joint quarterly meeting, discussion happened about the possible purchase of a used ambulance to replace Rescue 4, the ambulance EMFD purchased used from The City of Montpelier. Scott Bassage believes we have a responsibility to pay attention to the finances and activities of the Fire Department, and that the quarterly joint meetings are a good way to do that.

Town of Calais Personnel Policy - Since Toby Talbot began the work to develop the new draft policy, the Selectboard decided to postpone further work on this until the next meeting when Toby will be present. Denise Wheeler noted the draft policy is long since Toby used the VLCT personnel policy template.

TH 44 Wheeler Road Discontinuance Process – The list of interested persons and adjoiners that need to be duly notified of the discontinuance action was discussed. The site visit is scheduled for September 12, 2011. In accordance with the recommended process from the town attorney, John Klesch, Esq. the following motions were made:

Scott Bassage made a motion to discontinue a section of TH 44 (Wheeler Road) as described in the letter agreement dated February 22, 2011 and signed by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne & Elizabeth Morse on February 25, 2011, and by Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Melissa Storrow on March 2, 2011. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Scott Bassage made a motion to conduct discontinuance proceedings for a portion of TH 44 as described in the Notice of Discontinuance Proceedings to be executed by the Selectboard upon passage of this pending motion, and in furtherance thereof the Selectboard shall conduct a public examination of the road on September twelfth, 2011 at six o'clock p.m. at TH 44, pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 709 and then convene a public hearing at the Calais Town Hall at seven o'clock p.m. for the purpose of receiving testimony and hearing from all persons interested in the matter. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

The notice form was signed by the Selectboard and dated today. Mike Garand made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to fill in the blanks and sign the Certificate of Service and the Certificate of Posting, Delivery and Publication forms attached. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Other Business – PACE program John Brabant spoke about it for energy efficiency projects. Municipalities are authorized by the legislature to establish a PACE program in towns. There was concern at the federal level about who gets paid in what order. If towns are interested, they can get information mailed to them about the program. John Brabant would like the information to review. This will be put on the next agenda.

Mike Garand noted the Roads Committee has been the agenda with no further action. John Brabant will work on writing a charge for the committee. Action will be taken up at the next meeting.

The Selectboard received a request from a resident on Blackberry Ridge Road, a private road, about reclassifying the Class 4 section of Chapin Road and taking over maintenance of Chapin Road entirely. This will be put on the next agenda and Milo Dewitt will be invited to address the Selectboard at that time.

Tentative Agenda for the August 29th Meeting

- Conservation Fund use for printing a brochure for Lakes & Ponds Group
- Town of Calais personnel policy draft
- PACE energy efficiency program
- Charge for the Roads Advisory Committee
- Update from the Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads with Darby Bradley
- Reclassifying the Class 4 section of Chapin Road

Mike Garand made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant