

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

December 27, 2010

7pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Cy Lamberton, Scott Bassage, Peter Harvey, Gary Root, Jack Russell, Darby Bradley and Rose Pelchuck.

Absent: Mike Garand

Actions:

Approval of the December 13th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and offered a few corrections. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0-1. John Brabant abstained from the vote.

Town Invoices and Road Commissioner's Orders of the Day - The Selectboard reviewed and processed the invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Public Comment – none.

Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to the Land Use & Development Regulations for the Town of Calais – At 7:15pm the Chair commenced the public hearing to discuss the changes the Planning Commission is proposing be made to the zoning regulations. Jack Russell, Planning Commission Chair, reported the Planning Commission has worked closely with the Conservation Commission saying this is the first time in many years that natural resources have been this closely looked at. The changes include a set of priorities from the Conservation Commission that will be incorporated into the revised Town Plan. Jack also noted the Planning Commission received an \$8,000.00 grant to assist in their work. John Brabant made a motion to approve the Proposed Changes to the Land Use & Development Regulations (zoning regs.) as presented. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. Public notice was published in the Times Argus on Friday, 12/10/10 and in the usual places around town. The public hearing portion of the meeting ended at 7:35pm.

Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads Update – Darby Bradley, Chair, recommended the town obtain a clean copy of the AOT Town Highway Map for use by the committee to outline the unmapped and unmaintained roads the committee is working on. Gary Root offered to work with Darby to obtain the map. Darby reported the following results on the 24 ancient roads done thus far:

- a) 9 ancient roads are recommended for formal discontinuance. The Selectboard was urged to see if the legislature could clarify some language in the law since Darby believes the statute is unclear.
- b) 13 ancient roads do not need any further action because they are not clearly observable; the committee did not see a road on the ground during field search phase.
- c) 1 ancient road needs no further action because there are three possible locations for the road.
- d) 1 ancient road the committee could not make a recommendation on since the committee hasn't been able to conduct an investigation. The landowner in this case would not participate or grant permission for the team to conduct a field search

The file for each of the 24 above-mentioned ancient roads was presented to the Selectboard. Gary Root offered to scan the data and make an electronic file for each road. The paper files will be permanently filed in the Town Office.

Darby reported there are 16 ancient roads left to investigate as follows:

- a) 3 ancient roads will be investigated by a field team using the same process in place.
- b) 13 ancient roads will be investigated by the entire committee and will be duly warned as a public meeting (4 or more committee members together constitutes a quorum and must be warned).

Darby Bradley noted by March there should be criteria to help determine how to weigh what is significant public interest vs. significant private interest. The draft annual report by this committee was discussed and Darby will file it for publication by January 15th with Eva.

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department Budget Discussion – The Selectboard heard that WFD would be increasing their annual funding request in order to buy a new truck. The Selectboard discussed their ownership in the new emergency services facility in East Montpelier and payments related to it. Denise Wheeler will request WFD representatives attend the January 10th meeting.

Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System – Cy Lamberton made a motion to accept the creation of a 457 Plan within the VMERS to allow town employees to roll over present retirement funds from the National Life retirement fund into a 457 Plan if so desired. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. Current town employees may leave their current retirements funds with National Life if so desired. Going forward, all new town employees will be required to join the VMERS plan.

eVermont Grant Update – Scott Bassage provided an update and informed the Selectboard that Calais was one of 12 towns selected to receive this eVermont Grant. The grant will enable us to:

- 1) Provide the fifth and sixth grade students with netbook computers and professional development for the use of them;
- 2) Provide town government with the assistance to improve the town's website; including an all day conference in March; and
- 3) Help business and stores in town if everyone has high speed Internet. The grant will assist in efforts to develop a town wide strategy to get broadband, wi-fi to the entire town and for lobbying costs.

Scott Bassage will keep the Selectboard apprised of developments as they occur.

January Selectboard Meetings Schedule – As usually done in years past, the Selectboard agreed to meeting each week beginning January 10th to work on the regular town business, budgets and annual reports. Refer to posted agendas for details.

Various Reports:

- Predisaster Mitigation Plan is due in January and Toby Talbot, Emergency Plan Coordinator is working on it.
- Posting of Collar Hill Road re: truck traffic – John Brabant will contact the Worcester Selectboard Chair to discuss this since part of the road is in Worcester.
- VLCT Conference “Preparing for a Successful Town Meeting” – Scott Bassage recently attended this conference.
- VLCT Conference “Town Energy Coordinators” – The Selectboard agrees the Town Energy Committee needs to be re-energized and this would be a good opportunity for the committee.
- GMTA meeting – Scott Bassage offered to attend the initial meeting on January 5th.

Tentative Agenda for the January 10th Meeting

- Predisaster Mitigation Plan – Toby Talbot
- VLCT Health Insurance representative
- Draft Beaver Management Policy – Candace Shafer
- Follow-up on Bennett dog complaint resolution
- Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department budget presentation
- Transfer Station on Moscow Woods Road – John Brabant will check into it.
- GMTA update – Scott Bassage

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Secretary