



TOWN OF CALAIS

3120 Pekin Brook Road
East Calais, Vermont 05650
802-456-8720

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Location: Calais Town Hall (note no Zoom option)

Attendees: Denise Wheeler, Rick Kehne, Marc Mihaly, Sharon Fannon & John Brabant

Public attendees: ORCA media, Jamie Moorby, Scott Bassage, Barbara Butler, Heidi Thompson, Marge Sweeney, John Stafford, Anne Winchester and Reenie DeGus

7:05 PM Call to Order

- Additions/Changes to the Agenda - NONE
- Review and Sign Warrants - Circulating

Personnel Update – Nothing at this time.

Denise Wheeler brought to the board's attention a form from the listers called "Errors and Omissions" with a quick turnaround time for the board sign so it can be filed with the State tax department by the due date. We can sign the form tonight and ratify it with an agenda item at our January 23, 2023 meeting. This is a form we sign off on every year.

Rick Kehne made a motion to sign the errors and omissions form so that it can be timely filed with the tax department and to ratify the signing with an agenda item for January 23, 2023, this was seconded by Marc Mihaly and unanimously approved.

Public Comment (for items not on the agenda):

Scott Bassage read a statement requesting a salary increase for the current town clerk for FY 24 (attached).

Town Meeting

* Finalize FY 2024 Budget – Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the general government (\$738,397) and highway (\$891,433.) for a budget total amount of \$1,629,831 which does not include social services appropriations or other warned articles; this was seconded by Rick Kehne and unanimously approved.

* Finalize Town Meeting Warning – in process

* Selectboard Annual Report – in process

* Review selectboard items and timeline - reviewed

Continued to Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6 PM

Public attendees: ORCA media, Reenie DeGus, Robert Fletcher, Esq., John Rosenblum, Jamie Moorby, Marge Sweeney, Meg Dawkins, Jonathan Herz, Fred

Satink (VLCT PACIF), Allison Caldwell, Less Birnbaum, Jeff Dean

The board reconvened at 6:05 pm

Curtis Pond Dam (Marc Mihaly recused himself from the dam discussion)

Discussion with Town Attorney, Robert Fletcher, Esq. included: special assessment district, bonding must have a public benefit and liability insurance.

Discussion with Fred Satink, Deputy Director, Underwriting & Loss Control, VLCT PACIF- insurance coverage is \$1M downstream liability only, will seek information on a secondary insurance provider.

At 7:50 pm Denise Wheeler made a finding pursuant to § 313(a)(1) that premature public knowledge would place the public body at a substantial disadvantage, this was seconded by Rick Kehne, an unanimously approved. At 7:51 pm Rick Kehne made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to § 313(a)(1)(F) and to invite the town attorney to join the board, this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved. The board exited executive session at 8:05 pm and had nothing to report.

Public Comment:

John Rosenblum – Maple Corner Store’s financial survival is dependent on the seasonal revenue generated by Curtis Pond without this revenue the MCS would close; no flood insurance for the store.

Jeff Dean – there is a liability risk if the dam is not repaired. The town could be sued if the dam fails because it wasn’t repaired.

Marge Sweeney – she and her family have lived on the pond for 40 years and is speaking from the heart as to the importance of repairing the dam.

Marc Mihaly – the town and Curtis Pond Assn. has already signed a permit application that has been submitted to the State (Dam Safety); the contractor(s) have certain insurance requirements that they provide; if the dam fails there are 7 to 9 homes that will be destroyed; set up a reserve fund for future maintenance; the dam does provide a public benefit.

Town Meeting – outstanding items/actions - NONE

At 8:53 pm Denise Wheeler made a finding pursuant to § 313(a)(1) that premature public knowledge would place the public body at a substantial disadvantage, this was seconded by Rick Kehne, and unanimously approved. At 8:54 pm Rick Kehne made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to § 313(a)(1)(F) and to invite the town attorney to join the board, this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved. The board exited executive session at 9:55 pm and had nothing to report.

At 10:00 pm Rick Kehne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

from Scott Bassage 1/9/23

I ask the board to increase the salary for town clerk by \$15,000 to reflect the merit of the individual and the market conditions for someone with his knowledge, experience and education. I ask similar consideration for the assistant Town Clerk.

Jeremy has served Calais very well over the past few years. He has kept the town office on a fairly even keel during very difficult time. He has stepped up to do many different jobs well outside statutory requirements. He has given us great elections, he is courteous and helpful to everyone who contacts him about town business. He is knowledgeable about the Town and the office, but constantly learning

I have known each of you for a long time. I, or Charlotte, have served on boards or committees with each of you for years.

I know each of you are dedicated, honest, hard working and smart.

I know we are neighbors and on the same side for all important issues.

I know the past few years have been difficult and I appreciate your persistence and willingness to do your best with the job.

Thank you. Each of you.