

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5 pm at the Calais Town Offices

Present: Denise Wheeler (Chair), John Brabant (Vice Chair, joining by phone at 5:25 pm for the Budget item discussion), Sharon Winn Fannon (Member), Clif Emmons (Member), Katie Lane-Karnas (Recording Secretary), Sandra Ferver (Town Treasurer)

Absent: Rose Pelchuck (Member)

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Review, Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
4. Webcast Domain Reauthorization: Clif Emmons made a motion to allow the Chair to sign the website domain reauthorization letter (GOV-105553). Sharon Winn Fannon seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.
5. Delinquent Taxes: The delinquent taxes from 2018 and 2019 to send to collections include a taxpayer who has not paid, created a plan, or made any communication with the Town. The property in question was purchased with some support from the Town Conservation Fund through the Vermont Land Trust. The protections created through the contract with the Land Trust remains with the land, even if it is sold. The Town, like the Land Trust, has supported conservation of the land, which is recorded in the deed. Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the submission of delinquent taxpayer number 1 of 2018-2019 (parcel number 030008) to the attorney for collection. Clif Emmons seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.
6. FY 21 Budget: The group discussed adding \$12,500 to the Emergency Services budget (for increasing funding for staff). The proposal for FY22 is \$12,500 and FY23 for \$25,000., as discussed to bring the EMFD ambulance staff to fully funded. The funding increase will be reviewed each year and was acknowledged as the Board's plan going forward without any guarantees. The bottom line for the Town highway and general government budget is an increase of 3% (includes the additional Emergency Services \$12,500 and the VMERS and FICA increases). Town Meeting presentation will include breaking down portions of the budget for voters to see where increases are occurring. Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the budget as presented in Version 8.1.2.20, with authorization for the Town Treasurer to finalize the numbers. The Town Treasurer noted that the employers' percentage for VMERS went up from 5.75% to 6.0%, and the Town has no control over this change. The motion was seconded and passed 4-0.

7. 2020 Town Meeting Warning: The woodchipper will be warned as a special item for vote at Town Meeting (for a loan for a used chipper). The group confirmed the total funds requested by social-community services. The draft warning will be sent to the Town Attorney so the Board may sign it at the next meeting.
8. Selectboard Annual Report: Board members have been reviewing the annual report prepared by the Chair. Sharon Winn Fannon will create a pie chart to include in the report to identify the Town's highway and government functions, as well as the other functions that fall outside the select board's direct control, but the citizens of Calais support through their local taxes. The group edited a number of details.
9. Other Business/Old Business/New Business: The Board discussed communication with a member of the public around road maintenance during the past week. The Operations Manager's leadership was appreciated and he will be asked to attend meetings to plan with the Board to improve communications about early morning hour maintenance calls. They considered early morning hours reporting on road conditions.
10. Executive Session for Personnel Matters: Sharon Winn Fannon made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:19 pm per 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (3), personnel matters. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0. The Board resumed Regular Session at 6:27 pm. The Chair will post a SB approved notice on FPF announcing Alfred Larrabee's leave of absence through April 3, 2020..
11. Adjournment: Clif Emmons made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0.

Date: 1/9/2020 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Selectboard at the 3/9/2020 meeting

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<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qCDzYY9Sa62J2OwHX0s7gNDXVeMCCq8I>