



TOWN OF CALAIS

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SELECTBOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025

6:00 pm Calais Town Hall

Selectboard Attendees: Barbara McAndrew, Christy Mihaly, Jordan Keyes, Bill Davis

In-Person Attendees: Kari Bradley, Barbara Butler, Shana DuBois, Marc Mihaly, Aaron Fuller, James Dailey, Jeff Dean, Jarrod Weiss, Dan Groberg, Tom Blachly, Sam Sudhalter, Hasso Ewing, Devon Sherman, Amber Sherman, David Schutz, Juanita Nunn, Artie Toulis, Nancy Toulis

Zoom Attendees: Teegan Dykeman-Brown, Scott Bassage

Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:57 pm

Check In with State Representative Marc Mihaly

Marc advised the Federal shutdown is having a direct impact on the state, but advised the state is less bonded than a lot of other states. Marc advised a big concern is when the Federal government re-opens, they won't reimburse the state for expenses incurred during the shutdown. Marc advised there are efforts happening to try and fund food and heat programs at the state level.

Marc advised subsidies for insurance premiums are one of the biggest concerns for the state legislature right now as the costs for some insurance premiums are set to increase significantly. Discussion continued surrounding inter-town collaboration, housing efforts, and state-level funding to cover federal shortfalls.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Requests

- Kellogg-Hubbard Library: Wrapped up adding a new HVAC project, had 14,000 program attendees in 2024 as well as 150,000 visitors annually. Asking for a 3% increase over last year to keep up with inflation and active Calais patrons has increased since last year.
- Planning Commission: Jarrod advised they are proposing the same budget and not requesting additional funding.
- Animal Control Officer: Kari advised requesting a modest increase in the stipend and decreases in dog and animal control expenses with a total decrease overall from last year. Jordan advised he isn't sure about decreasing animal control expenses and Kari stated looking historically at the numbers would be helpful.
- Swim Committee: Barbara Butler advised they've received multiple emails requesting budget details, but nothing has been communicated. Staff will request that the committee attend the next meeting.
- Emergency Management Committee: James advised there is a significant increase in the proposed budget but \$11,000 is earmarked for the Central Vermont Planning assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Plan which requires updating every five years. If the town receives a municipal planning grant, that budget item will be reduced significantly.

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- Next steps in budgeting process: Kari advised the items slated for the next meeting.

Emergency Management Committee Check In

- Discussion of Local Emergency Management Plan: James advised there are lots of discussion at the state level surrounding the drought and James discussed possible potable water resources locally are on his radar in the event circumstances worsen.
- Possible Action: Adopt resolution for municipal planning grant: Christy made a motion to adopt the resolution for Regional Planning Commission applying for the municipal planning grant. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved, 4-0.

Committee Appointments

- Possible Action: Increase the number of seats on the Trails Committee to 10-15: Jordan provided context for the request to increase the number of seats on the committee. Barbara made a motion to approve increasing the number of seats on the committee. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.
- Possible Action: Interview and appoint Hasso Ewing and/or Sam Sudhalter to complete a 3-year term on the Trails Committee ending June 20, 2026: Sam introduced himself and provided a background on his history with Calais.

Hasso introduced herself and provided some background on her history with conservation and outdoor efforts.

Bill made a motion to approve appointment of Sam Sudhalter to the open seat expiring 2026 and Hasso Ewing to the open seat expiring in 2028. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

- Possible Action: Appoint Sarah Gallagher to a one-year term on the Social Services Appropriations Advisory Committee: Christy made a motion to appoint Sarah Gallagher for a one-year term. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.
- Possible Action: Reappoint Anne Winchester, Barbara McAndrew and Chris Andresen to a one-year term on the Social Services Appropriations Advisory Committee: Christy made a motion to reappoint Anne Winchester, Barbara McAndrew, and Chris Andresen to one-year terms. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

Curb Cut Application

- Possible Action: Approve, deny or condition application for 8261 County Road, Parcel A18300: Kari provided context of conversations between him, the owners, and John Stafford. A revised location for the proposed curb cut is required due to the sight line minimum. The Selectboard agreed to set aside the the review until an updated application is submitted.

Public Comment: Up to 15 minutes; time will be divided so that everyone has equal time to speak: No comments at this time.

Administrative and Possible Action Items

- Approve Minutes of October 6, 2025 Selectboard Meeting: Bill made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2025. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

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- Vote to Approve Board Orders; Sign Board Orders: Kari provided context about the Kent Hill Road project where the grant awarded, and the budgeted amount still leaves a gap of \$35,534.00 due on the invoice. Kari is proposing to pay the original bid plus the agreed-upon change order and initiate a negotiation with the contractor as the additional work done was not formally approved. Kari will come back to the board after that conversation has happened.

Bill made a motion to approve Board Orders. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

- Approve expenditure for County Road shoulder work: Jordan made a motion to approve the contract with Pike Industries in the amount of \$16,236.00 for application of shoulder material along the edge of paved road for the full three miles including driveways. Motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

Town Hall Management Agreement

- Discussion of potential revisions: Jordan prefaced that a lot of conversations are being had surrounding the building use and management are coming up at the same time as the agreement discussion. Friends of Calais stated they've been working to align long-term visions with their fundraising efforts.

Barbara advised a key piece is the regular reporting to the Selectboard from the Friends of Calais annual meeting as well as fundraising and use goals to ensure all groups are in sync, as well as operational questions surrounding managing the use of the spaces.

Christy highlighted one of the goals is to make sure it's clear to the residents of the town that it's their building and it can be used in various ways, both upstairs and downstairs. Discussion continued surrounded the plans for Town Hall management overall.

- Possible Action: Appoint a SB member to serve as ex officio member to Friends of the Calais Town Hall Board of Directors until June 30, 2026: Barbara McAndrew volunteered; Christy made a motion to appoint Barbara McAndrew. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

Chapin Town Forest Boundary

- Discussion of boundary issue: Kari provided context that the concern was raised on how the boundary drawn and interpreted during a recent land survey and a town forest possibly lost 5 acres when a property was subdivided.

Aaron Fuller, surveyor hired by the landowner who subdivided her land, stated the deeded acres in Town records are 28 acres. Discussion continued surrounding the specific subdivision land survey. Jordan and Kari will meet with the abutting land owners and Aaron to discuss a possible revision to the boundary.

- Possible Action: Approve expenditure for new Town Forest survey: No action at this time.

Reports

- Town Clerk: Teegan confirmed the election is next week and advised to remind folks.
- Town Administrator: Kari agreed to table his update to next meeting.

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Highway Department Labor Contract Negotiations

- Executive Session: Discussion of upcoming negotiations under 1 V.S.A. 313(1)(B): *labor relations agreements with employees*

Barbara made a motion to enter Executive Session under 1 V.S.A. 313(1)(B) at 9:11 pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved 4-0.

Christy moved, Barbara seconded, and the Selectboard voted to exit executive session at 9:44pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Shana DuBois

Recording Secretary