



TOWN OF CALAIS

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SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday, August 7, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Calais Town Hall

AGENDA

6:00 Call to Order; Public Discussion About the Future of Calais Town Government.

The Selectboard would like to engage in a town-wide discussion about how Calais should structure itself to manage our town in the 2020s and beyond. Late last year and earlier this year we lost most of our town employees and in March 2023, the Selectboard appointed several interim employees for a term of one year. These include our treasurer, assistant treasurer, road commissioner, highway grants administrator, and selectboard administrator. Calais now has a unique opportunity to examine the tasks involved in running our town and to consider what work needs to be done to manage Town business, which jobs can reasonably be done by volunteers, and what sort of professional help is required.

Donna Fitch and others have been gathering information about the work required to run a small Vermont municipality given current state and federal requirements and modern expectations of service. They have also looked at potential models for managing the workload.

Donna will present the results of her research. We then invite Calais residents to ask questions and to engage in discussion about our future.

7:00 FY'24 Tax Rate and Line of Credit – Sandra Ferver, Town Treasurer

Possible Action: Set the Calais tax rate for FY'24

Possible Action: Authorize Treasurer to establish a line of credit or a short term loan

7:45 Purchase of Radio Communications Equipment – Jake Aho

Jake will present information about purchasing radio communications equipment under an EMPG grant.

Possible Action: Authorize purchase of the equipment

7:50 Curtis Pond Dam

Dubois and King have presented the Town with an addendum to our contract for services which adds an additional \$90,000 to the cost of repairing the dam. Our understanding had been that these services were covered in the original contract. Therefore, we have delayed the release of an RFP until the Curtis Pond Association can meet with Dubois and King in order to discuss this. Jamie will report on the results of that meeting.

Possible Actions: Vote to accept the addendum and choose another date for issuance of the RFP, or delay the project while we put future engineering services out to bid.

8:05 Contract for Operation of Black Rock Coal Quarry and Other Contractors

Possible Action: Vote to sign contracts with Black Rock Coal, T&T Leasing, and other contractors working on town roads.

continued

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8:30 Administrative Items

- Approve Minutes of 7/24, 7/31 and 8/01
- Sign Board Orders
- Sign Orr conditioned Curb Cut Permit
- Sign a letter acknowledging receipt of a reappraisal order from the state. Our education grand list coefficient of dispersion is outside of acceptable parameters. This means that our appraisal numbers are at or below 20% of recent sales. Therefore, we are required to reappraise our properties. The first step is to send a letter acknowledging receipt of the reappraisal order. We have 120 days to file a compliance plan. Prior to receiving this letter we had entered into contract with a reappraisal firm to conduct a reappraisal in 2024, so we will have no trouble complying.

8:45 Set August Meeting Schedule

8:50 Selectboard Reports

- Roads: Anne Toolan and Jamie Moorby
 - Possible Action: Sign and file certification of Town Road and Bridge Standards as in compliance with State standards
- Curtis Pond Dam: Jamie Moorby and Gabrielle Malina
- IT Needs: Jordan Keyes, Teegan Dykman-Brown
 - Possible Action: Approve changing internet provider for Town Buildings from Consolidated to CVFiber
- Status of Shedd v. Calais: Anne Toolan and Jordan Keyes
- Collective Bargaining Team: Jamie Moorby, Anne Toolan, Jordan Keyes
 - The Selectboard's Collective Bargaining Team and the Road Crew's Union have reached an agreement. The Board will go into executive session under 3 VSA section 313 (1)(B) for the purpose of discussing a response to the agreement.
 - Possible Action: Vote to sign the agreement

9:00 Adjournment

Possible Executive Session if any of the above items require the Selectboard to discuss privately under Vermont Open Meeting Law. None other than the Road Crew Union Agreement anticipated at this time.

Note: Agenda items may be taken up earlier than noted if items are completed more quickly than anticipated.

Join by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85084418130?pwd=WGUxNmYxRS9ZN0xIMU45QVdFMIRVZz09>