

**Selectboard Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2014
Approved**

Present: Selectboard members John Brabant, Toby Talbot, Rose Pelchuck, Denise Wheeler; Scott Bassage was absent. Others present: Bill Davis, Paul Rose, Wilson Hughes, Nedene Martin, Alfred Larrabee, Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette), Gail Graham, Steve Gray, Rick DeWolfe, John McCullough, Michael Fullerton, Denise Wilder, Morgan Ecklund, Jan Ohlsson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Town Office by Denise Wheeler, Chair.

Meeting Minutes: Toby Talbot moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes of October 27, 2014. Denise seconded the motion and they were approved 4-0. Denise moved to approve the minutes of the 4th Class Portion of Sand Hill Road (TH #18) Deliberative Session held on October 27, 2014. Toby seconded and the minutes were approved 4-0. The minutes of the November 8th Special Town Meeting were also approved with no changes.

Road Commissioner Update: Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee had been asked by the Selectboard to contact an engineer to look at a temporary repair for the Upper Road bridge in North Calais that connects Upper Road and North Calais Road and that is now closed. Alfred handed out a diagram from Newton Technical Services. The proposed plan removes the road material on top of the bridge, removes the beams and replaces the beams with a slab of precast concrete which would sit on the original flat stone abutments. Gravel would then be spread on top of the concrete. Cost estimate is \$25,000 with the town doing the work. The Agency of Transportation may have grant money to help out. (The match is state 90%, town 10% of cost). Alfred has spoken with the state regarding stream alteration permits. Rick DeWolfe questioned the repair, saying it is not a bridge that an engineer would recommend; the slab would need to be placed on a reinforced, level surface. Alfred explained he had a limited amount of time to work on a possible solution and this is only one direction the town could go in. Mike Fullerton, who lives in North Calais, said spending \$25,000 to open the bridge is too much money to fix a situation that is a minor inconvenience for only a few residents. Rick agreed there are better ways to spend the money when the use doesn't justify the cost. Morgan Ecklund asked for a more attractive barrier at the bridge. Rick suggested putting money toward the intersection of Upper Road and Foster Hill Road increasing the turnaround area. Alfred agreed that other options could be explored. John Brabant expressed concern about the concrete slabs and said he didn't feel comfortable rushing into a decision and spending \$25,000. He suggested talking to the schoolbus company about pick-up locations and turnarounds. Rick suggested moving Upper Road into his property to provide a proper turning area for the school bus and other vehicles. Toby said that a drawing laying out the increased turnaround space should be provided. Rick said he will provide a sketch showing the turning radius. The barriers to the bridge have been moved by people driving over the bridge and, therefore, large concrete barriers may have to be put in. Rick pointed out that culverts in North Calais need to be cleaned out.

Alfred reported street lights are out in East Calais and are dim. Toby will contact Green Mountain Power. Donna has the contact name.

Toby and Alfred attended Municipal Day at National Life. Toby and the Road Crew also attended a local roads seminar. They were disappointed that the seminar covered mostly paved roads. The question was asked: How many people in Vermont live on paved vs. dirt roads?

Mountain Tamers Snowmobile Club: Steve Gray presented a list of roads that snowmobile trails cross. Rose made a motion to approve the list. Toby seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. There was discussion of Leonard Road, the work Mountain Tamers did on it and the barricades. Gail Graham expressed concern about a tree across the road and therefore horseback riders go around the tree and on to her property. Who is in charge of the road? she asked. Steve said Mountain Tamers moved the tree, but they only maintain the road in the winter. Gail and the Selectboard agreed to discuss Leonard Road and the town's 4th class road policy in the spring.

Tax Sale: Delinquent tax collector Nedene Martin requested permission to hire Attorney Gloria Rice to conduct a tax sale on two properties: 12 Durkee Drive and 104 Justa Road. There will be more tax sales coming up. Denise made a motion authorizing Nedene to hire Attorney Rice to conduct a tax sale for these two properties. John seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Twin Valley Senior Center: Rita Copeland, executive director, expressed delight in the new senior center at 4583 Rte 2 Blueberry Commons in East Montpelier. More Calais residents are attending, and the Center delivers meals-on-wheels to four or five Calais families. On Veteran's Day a special lunch brought in 18 vets and their spouses. The Center will be asking the town for a larger contribution at town meeting 2015, noting their annual budget in the new building is \$27,000 higher than when they were in Marshfield. The space is also open to the community for rentals. Calais residents are urged to visit the center. Meals are served at the Center Monday, Wednesday and Friday for \$4 for those over 60 years old and \$5 for their guests. Transportation is provided. Brochures available at the town office list activities or go to www.twinvalleyseniors.org.

Dog Ordinance and Fees: Animal Control Office Wilson Hughes provided information about dog fees in other towns according to first, second and third offenses:

Marshfield	\$50	\$75	\$100
Williamstown	\$50	\$100	\$200
Hardwick	warning	\$50	\$95
Eden	\$50	\$75	\$100

Wilson suggests setting Calais fees at \$50, \$75 and \$100. Half the fee goes to the court and half to the town.

Wilson requested adding to the dog policy: "Failure to register your dog will result in a \$100 fine." He noted that the VT Department of Agriculture estimates that 25% of dogs in the state are not registered. Two other changes to the proposed ordinance were suggested: change vicious dog biting *off* the property (not on) and recover all fees and costs from the owner. Central VT Humane Society will not take a dog that bites, but the Woodbury animal control officer has a kennel and will take a vicious dog for approximately \$10/day.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Kim Mckee from Central VT Regional Planning gave a recap of the town's hazard mitigation plan which involves local strategies to reduce flood risk. The plan needs to be approved by FEMA. The draft plan was sent to FEMA and was returned with FEMA's recommendations. The FEMA changes were reviewed with the Selectboard and two members of the Planning Commission, John McCullough and Jan Ohlsson. When the plan receives final approval, it will be posted for two weeks and notice of the postings will need to be sent to Kim for her documentation. The mitigation plan is updated every five years from the date of FEMA's final approval.

2016 Budget: The Selectboard began planning for the 2016 fiscal year budget starting with budget lines account #6500 through #6515. The cost of renting a sound system for town meeting will be included in Election Expenses. Donna will follow up on cost. A one-time audit, with an associated cost of \$9,000, will be included in the budget. After that audit, the Selectboard will decide if an audit should take place annually. Donna will get a quote for mowing the town hall and town office lawns.

Ancient Roads: Toby passed out a list of clearly observable ancient roads and “uncertain” roads. The Selectboard must walk all 19 roads (4.93 miles) before discontinuing them. John and Toby will walk the uncertain roads to see if they are observable: Grist Mill II, Carver, Joseph Brown, Ormsby and a portion of Sparrow. Public site visits for the ancient roads will be held at 9 am on Saturday, December 13, meeting at the Maple Corner Community Center. The public hearing will be held on Monday, December 22, at 6 pm at the town office. Donna will warn the meeting and contact abutting landowners. Can Selectboard members vote if they have not observed the road? Denise will ask VLCT. The list of roads and their locations are available on the town web site.

Executive Session: At 10:05 pm Toby made a motion to go into executive session in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. At 10:10 the board came out of executive session with nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk