

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2014

Approved

Present: Calais Selectboard members Scott Bassage, John Brabant, Rose Pelchuck, Denise Wheeler, Toby Talbot. Donna Fitch, Clerk. East Montpelier Selectboard members Seth Gardner, Carl Etnier, Casey Northrup, Steve Sparrow, Kim Swasey. Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator. Calais Cemetery Commissioners John Simanskas, Randy Koch, Jennifer Whitman, Fletcher Dean. Calais Roads Advisory Committee members Rick Kehne, Peter Harvey, Stephanie Kaplan. Zoning Administrator Renee Carpenter.

The meeting was called to order by Denise Wheeler, Chair, at 7:15pm at the Town Office.

Cemetery Commission: The cemetery commissioners presented a cemetery budget of \$49,000 for FY2016. The budget includes:

- A raise from \$11/hour and \$12/hour (workers and cemetery sexton respectively) to \$13/hour for all cemetery workers.
- \$35,000 for routine mowing, cleaning up brush and trimming trees.
- \$5,000 to trim the hedge at Fairview Cemetery.
- \$9,000 to clean stones.

The town pays equipment rental costs of \$5 an hour for each weedwhacker and push mower that used and provided by the cemetery workers. Sexton Wyatt Healey has inventoried broken stones and estimates a cost of \$100,000 to repair. Toby Talbot suggested a capital plan be developed showing work that is necessary to be completed on a cycle, hedge trimming every six years, for example. Donna Fitch said she would multiply past fiscal years' cemetery hours by \$13 to show what the wage increase would be and would send to commissioners. It was agreed that the \$14,000 cost for cleaning stones and hedge cleaning will go in the town meeting warning. \$35,000 will go in the cemetery budget. John Simanskas said that Patrick Healy (no relation to Wyatt Healey), Green Mount Cemetery director, spoke highly of Wyatt and said the town should make sure to keep him as cemetery sexton.

East Montpelier Fire Department Budget: The East Montpelier Selectboard and Town Administrator attended the meeting to review the FY2016 EMFD and ambulance budget. The fire department budget is increasing by about 5% (approximately \$7,000) with the biggest increase being in the cost of dispatching. \$2,500 has been added to the budget for hose testing. Seth Gardner said he supported the small increase. John Brabant stated the towns are getting a lot for their money and pointed out the value of the volunteer labor.

East Montpelier Ambulance Budget: Toby reported the cost of additional personnel (increase of \$15,000) is driving up the budget. A paid person is on duty from 8pm to midnight. This started when the ambulance began serving Plainfield. Denise expressed concern about paying for staff costs that are related to Plainfield and not to Calais and E. Montpelier. Bruce Johnson said there was paid staff even before service began to Plainfield. Dense said that, except for the salary increase, the budget looks reasonable. There was discussion of the use of contingency funds. Toby explained the EMFD builds the fund to \$40,000 and then it goes into the capital reserve fund.

Scott made a motion to accept the EMFD and ambulance budgets as presented. Rose seconded the motion. Toby abstained. The motion passed 4-0.

Calais Roads Advisory Committee: Stephanie Kaplan stated CRAC wants to work out a process to share suggestions with the Selectboard. Denise said CRAC should come to the full board with plans and ideas. Denise said she would put CRAC on the agenda once a month. Toby said general comments can come to him as Operations Manager. Rick Kehne offered to liaison between CRAC and Toby. CRAC has been reviewing Lightening Ridge Road and will send a list of suggestions to the Selectboard. The Committee is moving on to West County Road next. Plowing intersections was discussed. They are plowed as "sweeps" not Ts. Stephanie reported the intersection at Lightening Ridge and Adamant Roads is 120 feet across. Could the town start plowing as Ts now? Toby said he would talk with Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee; there may be considerations that need to be taken into account. He suggested CRAC members ride with the road crew to better understand the road crews' perspective. A dead maple on Juanita Nunn's land on George Road is affecting site distance. Toby said the tree could be removed now. A school sign on Lightening Ridge Road is covered by branches. CRAC will redo the committee's charge and bring to the selectboard for discussion along with a list of the main connector roads which are a priority.

Zoning: Zoning Administrator Renee Carpenter said she has been asking to meet with the Selectboard and though she was not on the agenda, she asked for time to discuss an enforcement issue.

Executive Session

At 8:45 John made a motion to go into executive session with Renee in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. After coming out of executive session at 9:08, Denise said there was nothing to report.

It was agreed that Renee will meet with the Selectboard monthly at the last meeting of the month.

CVSWM Appointment: Denise made a motion appointing John Brabant as alternate to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District. Toby seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

CVHS Contract: Toby moved to approve the Central VT Humane Society contract for calendar year 2015. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0.

Road Crew Bonus: John made a motion to give the road crew a bonus of \$250 each. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0.

Denise made a motion to continue the meeting until December 22 for continued discussion of Dodge Road discontinuance at 6pm and Selectboard meeting at 7pm to discuss the agenda items that had not been covered (time of school and town meetings and FY2016 budget).

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk