

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

January 29, 2014

8:30am Calais Town Office

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot, Rose Pelchuck and Donna Fitch.

Actions:

Denise Wheeler, Chair, called the continued meeting from January 27th to Order.

FY 2015 Budget Review – The Selectboard reviewed the proposed budget line by line and discussed any possible way to lower the proposed budget. Reductions were agreed upon in some line items in both the Highway budget and Selectboard budget. Currently Calais taxpayers are looking at 0.22 increase in the tax rate as follows: 0.04 from U-32, 0.07 from state education tax and 0.11 related to our common level of appraisal being off the mark. It was noted that one penny on the tax rate is equal to \$18,000.00 in spending (two cents is equal to \$36,000.00 in spending, etc.).

Regarding the capital purchase items for FY 2015, John Brabant spoke about not replacing the F-550 truck this year. John reiterated it is important to cut the budget and find savings. After reviewing the Highway budget carefully, the Selectboard was able to decrease it from \$762,705.00 down to \$735,809.00.

Donna Fitch provided an explanation of the proposed Cemetery Budget to the Selectboard after having recently spoken to John Simanskas. Perhaps down the line, the town could purchase lawn equipment instead of equipment being hired out. Donna envisions the Operations Manager overseeing the cemetery department sometime in the future.

Donna Fitch and the Selectboard spoke about having a town-wide reappraisal this year due to the drop in the common level of appraisal (CLA).

The printed Town Reports get mailed to registered voters and others that request one.

The Selectboard agreed on a reduced budget amount for FY 2015 of \$1,260,264.00 of which \$934,678.00 will need to be raised from taxes. The total budget is about \$33,000.00 higher than this year's total budget. Tax breakdown as follows:

Town tax rate:	0.508
School tax rate:	0.1215
Total tax rate:	0.6295 if all articles in the Warning are approved
Last year's tax rate:	0.6358

Scott Bassage made a motion to adjourn at 10:20am. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Member and Administrative Assistant