

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

December 12, 2011

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Rolf Mueller, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Carlene Moulton, Donald Moulton, Robert M. White, John McCullough, Reese Hersey, Dot Naylor, Gary Root, Charlotte Root, Peter Brough and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Approval of the November 28th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes and made one change. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Budget Update – postponed until January 2012

Property Tax Payments – As discussed at the last meeting, Donna Fitch, Town Treasurer, reported our accounting firm requests the town have a policy how to handle tax payments received that are over or under by \$5.00. Denise Wheeler reported according to VLCT, the town needs to issue a refund for an overpayment or a bill for any balance due.

Memorial Hall – Dot Naylor, Woman's Relief Corps. member, informed the Selectboard that they have received a historic preservation grant to replace the porches on Memorial Hall (originally built in 1885). In order to replace the porches, the group needs to get a variance for the DRB. Dot Naylor requests the DRB hearing fee for \$75.00 be waived in this case. The non-profit group has very limited income and can pay the permit and filing fee. Mike Garand made a motion to waive the \$75.00 DRB hearing fee. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Calais Lakes & Ponds Group – The Lakes & Ponds Group has applied for a Vermont Watershed Grant for \$3,050.00 for the Project Year 2012. This will pay for two newsletters and good stewardship packages for community outreach. Noreen Bryan submitted the grant application.

Road Commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee reported the road crew has been busy cutting brush; all seems to be doing fine. Dot Naylor inquired about white line stripping on the County Road. Mike Garand explained the cost associated with white line stripping; yellow lines are put down by the State for municipalities.

Public Comment - Don Moulton, Lightening Ridge Road resident, asked why he was targeted about tearing up our lawn. "I don't like the ditch there, as big as it is" Don told the Selectboard. Robert White, works at AOT, stated, "work that was done wasn't necessary". "Ditches like that were never done in front of their house. There was a problem on the hill, washout is to be expected with the two storms we had this year. The road material is not on the Moulton's lawn, the material is down further; the problem area is the hill. There are three culverts along that stretch of road." Robert White went on to say, "Work done that wasn't necessary and communication in this case, was no communication with the Moultons". Carlene Moulton presented photos of the house, pictures of what the town did for work, and a bill from a contractor who did work to rebuild what the road crew did. Denise Wheeler responded by saying, "Okay, we'll get back to you." No other public comment was heard.

Proposed Changes to Zoning Timeline – The Selectboard decided to have a public hearing on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Calais Elementary School to allow public input on the proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations. Donna Fitch will publish the notice in the Times Argus. All other notices will be posted accordingly. Copies of the changes are available online and at the town office.

Decals for town trucks and letterhead – Toby Talbot presented three potential designs to use. No action was taken.

Zoning Violations, Appeals, Litigation, and Personnel Matters – John Brabant made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing pending litigation with town attorney, Joe McLean. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. The Regular Session resumed at 8:50pm. Denise Wheeler had nothing to publicly report.

Parcel Mapping – Gary Root and John McCullough, Planning Commission members, came before the Selectboard to discuss updating the town's land parcel maps. Gary Root noted the current Planning Commission budget request is \$1,200.00, of which \$800.00 would be used for updating parcel maps through CVRPC. Gary Root explained the current process when an application is filled out, it gets collected by somebody in the town, then goes to digital file, then to Regional Planning commission for rendering. By having an electronic application, all the data would automatically correspond to the parcel map. All the information collected, will not need to be reconciled. This most specifically addresses data right now and moving forward; this will significantly reduce the chance for errors. This will not go back through all the present records.

Donna Fitch, Town Clerk, said the 2006 and 2009 GIS data is in the computer. Gary Root has done some work at CVRPC doing this kind of work. "These maps are just our best representation of what the town thinks is the boundary." "The real boundary has to be determined by a surveyor," Gary said. John McCullough and Gary Root are willing to work on this project. Gary Root can get more software for \$186.00 for the project for a total Planning Commission budget request of \$1,386.00 (rounded to \$1,400.00). The ongoing cost should be reflected in a higher permit application fee.

Central VT Regional Planning Commission – Peter Brough, Calais representative to CVRPC informed the Selectboard about an upcoming vote tomorrow night about whether or not to merge with Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation. Peter Brough stated he was not informed enough to make a recommendation since he missed a couple of recent meetings. Peter urged the Selectboard to voice an opinion if we have one. John Brabant spoke about historical prospective since he represented Woodbury back in 1988 on the CVRPC board. John Brabant thinks separation is a healthy thing and both entities can come to common agreement. John said not healthy for good planning and open government for these organizations to merge. The Selectboard was in the same opinion and gave Peter Brough his authority to say no to the merger.

Other Business - Scott Bassage attended some of the open meetings held around the state by the Secretary of State. Scott noted the Secretary of State recommends audio recordings of the meetings. The Selectboard agreed to try it and Scott Bassage is willing to handle it. The tapes will be kept in the vault available for anybody who wanted to listen to them. The printed Minutes will be available in the usual manner. Approved Minutes will remain the legal record of the meeting.

Mike Garand asked Alfred Larrabee a question about the culverts on Don Moulton's property. Alfred said that originally, there was only one culvert and more were installed over the years. Denise Wheeler told Alfred he needs to develop a timeline on the Moulton ditch project he did in November.

Tentative Agenda for the January 9, 2012 Meeting

- Public hearing on proposed changes to Zoning Regulations
- Budget update
- Funding request from Kellogg Hubbard Library

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant