

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

December 17, 2012

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Toby Talbot, Will Walters, Chris Cochran and Rose Pelchuck.

Absent: Mike Garand

Actions:

Town Invoices & Road Commissioner's Orders of the Day – The Selectboard reviewed and processed the town invoices and orders of the day as per usual protocol.

Central Vermont Humane Society – The Selectboard discussed the renewal contract with CVHS. Denise Wheeler made a list of questions and noted they haven't been much help recently especially since they can't take dogs that have bitten people. The Selectboard is going to sign up for the training offer at CVHS, which will then entitle the town officials to drop off stray animals after hours with the use of a secret code. The Selectboard also discussed the responsibilities of the Animal Control Officer and what are the town's expectations. Scott Bassage will check the state statute. The Selectboard agreed to not sign the annual contract with CVHS until our concerns are addressed.

Engineering Study on the Town Hall – The Selectboard reviewed the contract with Arnold & Scangas Architects for architectural and engineering services related to a flood proofing study for the Town Hall. A grant has already been secured for \$10,000.00 to pay for the study with an in kind match by members of the Historic Preservation Commission. Scott Bassage reported the Town Hall roof is badly in need of replacement. The Historic Preservation Commission urges the Selectboard to put a warning article on the March Warning for \$22,000.00 to replace the roof with a standing seam roof. Ernie Parish is soliciting three bids for the roof. Toby Talbot made a motion to authorize Denise Wheeler to sign the contract with Arnold & Scangas Architects for the architectural and engineering services related to the flood proofing study for the Town Hall. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

TH 7 Discontinuance Update – John Brabant will meet on Saturday to review the town files relating to this matter and have a report for the next meeting.

Adamant Pond – Scott Bassage spoke to Eric Royea, Adamant Music School Caretaker, who noted the water stabilized in the summer but stated at the other end of the pond they have septic problems. One suggestion would be to block off one set of beaver baffles and see if the end of the pond near Porter's changes.

Meeting Notice – The Selectboard agreed to meet on January 7th at Calais Elementary School due to the public hearing warned for 7:15pm to discuss proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations. Jack Russell will be here to answer questions. All other January Selectboard meetings will be held at 7:00pm at the Town Office.

Retaining Wall Replacement Project in North Calais – The first part of the project happened in 2011 with the culvert replacement under North Calais Road and the retaining wall replacement near Chris Cochran's house is the second part of the project. DeWolfe Engineering Associates did the engineering work for the project. Chris Cochran will contact Rick DeWolfe to obtain a current project cost. The matching funds for the AOT Structures Grant (10% town match) will be asked for at town meeting. The Selectboard acknowledged there are many projects coming up and are not sure how much the Selectboard will be able to ask the taxpayers to support.

EMFD Interlocal Agreement – Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the proposed draft Interlocal

Agreement from the Town of East Montpelier. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The document calls for a cost allocation agreement with East Montpelier paying 2/3 and Calais paying 1/3 for both budget allocation split and capital requests. Toby Talbot questioned with the \$12,000.00 Calais pays to WFD would mean Calais is essentially paying 34% or \$56.00 per head (includes WFD) compared to \$36.00 per head East Montpelier pays for fire/emergency services. If you look at it based on call volume, Calais is 29% and East Montpelier is 70% consistently. If you look at it based on housing units, Calais is 47.2 and East Montpelier is 57.2, recognizing East Montpelier has several businesses and schools, including U-32. Population is another way to compare towns. Toby Talbot offered to meet with Bruce Johnson to get some other commercial and industrial list data in order to understand the final formula figures. Scott Bassage withdrew the motion and John Brabant withdrew his second. Toby Talbot will have the numbers for the next meeting.

Contract with Respect to Fire Suppression, Ambulance and Other Emergency Response Services – The Selectboard reviewed the draft document as presented by the Town of East Montpelier. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the draft as presented. Scott Bassage went on to explain he thought only the two towns should be part of the Interlocal Agreement and not EMFD. Toby Talbot clarified that it is a contract to provide the services to the towns with the fire department and annually renews unless otherwise specified. The Selectboard discussed the fact that Woodbury Fire Department covers Calais fire calls also. The Selectboard discussed publishing EMFD Minutes and agendas. Rose Pelchuck explained that EMFD is a 501 C 3 corporation, a private, non-profit organization. John Brabant noted different regs govern that and we'll let EMFD weigh in on that language when they review the document. John Brabant offered language about adding other town coverage to the contract and will send the language to Bruce Johnson to be added to the draft document. Appendix C "List of Rolling Stock" appears not to be current; Rose Pelchuck will provide the current list to Bruce Johnson for inclusion. Scott Bassage made a motion to amend the draft and approve as amended. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 3-0-1. Toby Talbot abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Draft Revised Dog Ordinance – The Selectboard discussed the draft revised Dog Ordinance that appears to be interpreting the law differently than we intended. Denise Wheeler said, "Dogs roaming who are not friendly, we have to have a way to deal with it." John Brabant wants to be certain the law is clear, that the town is not misleading people and that the laws are applied fairly and equally. Garrett from VLCT will come to the meeting on January 7, 2013 to explain the rationale behind the suggested language he put in the draft Dog Ordinance.

Other Business – Toby Talbot inquired about any data from Stone Environmental with regards to the McCullough Crushing gravel pit in East Calais. John Brabant will give an update at the next meeting.

Executive Session: Zoning Enforcement, Appeals, Litigation, etc. – Scott Bassage made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) at 8:50pm for the purpose of discussing a legal and real estate matter. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. The Regular Session resumed at 9:17pm. Denise Wheeler had nothing to publicly report.

Tentative Agenda for the January 7th Meeting

- Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Zoning Regulations
- Allocation Agreement between the towns and EMFD
- Public informational meeting re: revising the Calais Dog Ordinance
- Stone Environmental update re: McCullough Crushing property in East Calais

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:18pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant