

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

February 13, 2012

7:00pm Calais Elementary School

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Wilson Hughes, Rolf Mueller, Peter Harvey, Pam DeAndrea, Gus Seelig and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Conservation Commission Appointment – Toby Talbot made a motion to appoint Pam DeAndrea to the vacant seat on the Conservation Commission that expires in 2015. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. Pam DeAndrea informed the Selectboard about another person interested in joining the Conservation Commission.

Approval of the January 26th Meeting Minutes - The Selectboard reviewed the Minutes. John Brabant made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The vote was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Approval of the January 30th Meeting Minutes will be taken up at the next meeting.

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

Highway Capital Budget: Culvert inventory was discussed. It is done free of charge by the State VTrans department and includes culvert inspection and documentation of culvert condition, with headers or no-headers and done with GPS. This enables the town to put culverts into a maintenance record and know when to replace them. John Brabant asked if we use steel or plastic culverts. Alfred Larrabee said we have a combination of both; plastic culverts are easier to install but if not done properly, can present problems. Steel culverts are twice the price.

Alfred Larrabee reported an employee six-month review is due on Feb. 22nd. This will be discussed in Executive Session as a personnel matter. Alfred Larrabee reported things are stable in the roads area although he is trying to cut back on the sand a little. Report of Highway Mileage Certificate (due February 28th) and Structures Grant application (due in April) were discussed. The Selectboard signed the form for work performed on the TH 1 County Road paving project and will get \$150,000.00 state funds reimbursement for the town portion.

Letter from Wayne Morse - Wayne Morse sent a letter requesting a stop sign be installed at the Wheeler Road and County Road intersection. Denise Wheeler noted according to the town traffic ordinance there should be one there. Mike Garand reported that last week a tractor trailer truck that delivered to Cozy Corner Gardens attempted to go up Wheeler Road and got stuck. Thane Martin assisted the stuck driver and sent him out in the right direction. The Selectboard discussed putting up a No Outlet sign in addition to the stop sign on Wheeler Road. Alfred Larrabee will contact Wayne Morse and tell him this is where the sign will go per MUTA traffic standards and it will not be open for discussion. Denise Wheeler offered to also contact Wayne Morse.

National Life Pension Plan – Toby Talbot made a motion to appoint Donna Fitch trustee for the old National Life Pension Plan in order to sign necessary paperwork to close out the old retirement plan for the Town of Calais. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. Former and present town employees will then be able to keep an individual retirement fund there or move it somewhere else.

Town Meeting Discussion – Town Moderator, Gus Seelig, was welcomed by the Selectboard in preparation of Town Meeting 2012. Gus Seelig said, “It is the one-day when they can show up and are equal legislators; you need to let them have their say”. Warning articles were discussed. U-32's Project Graduation committee did not submit a request for an appropriation this year. The town meeting will be audio recorded as a public meeting and will be announced at the beginning of the meeting. Donna Fitch asked about using a microphone and Gus thought it was a good idea.

Revised Dog Ordinance – Cy Lamberton, Fred Bushway, Animal Control Officer, and Wilson Hughes met to discuss revisions to the town's dog ordinance. They reviewed dog ordinances from several towns all modeled after the state ordinance and made a few suggested changes to the current ordinance. Denise asked what do you do with a nuisance dog that doesn't destroy property but continues to infringe on other's property? Wilson will go back and add something to address this issue. The Selectboard will look at the final ordinance then go through the process of warning to amend the Town of Calais Animal Nuisance Control Ordinance, effective August 30, 1999.

Bridge Weight Limit Restriction Discussion – Donna Fitch, Town Clerk, asked the Selectboard for some direction with regards to weight limits on some bridges in town since annual overweight permit requests are coming in to the town office. The State AOT would need to inspect the bridge and designate the appropriate weight limit. Mike Garand told Alfred Larrabee to call Tom at District 6 office to have the Max Gray Road bridge and Moscow Woods Road bridge looked at for weight restrictions. The Selectboard would like it cleared up and to have the correct data on the annual overweight truck permits that are being issued for 2012.

Roads Advisory Committee – Alfred Larrabee attended the meeting earlier this evening.

EMFD Letter re: Capital Fund – The Selectboard reviewed a letter from East Montpelier Fire Department, Inc. asking for the existing, old capital fund balance of \$7,955.54 from 2010 be rolled into the existing Capital Reserve Plan. The East Montpelier Selectboard received the same request. Denise Wheeler noted Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Selectboard Chair, asked Don Welch for some clarification on the matter. After some discussion, John Brabant made a motion to approve the request from EMFD to transfer the \$7,955.54 in unallocated 2010 existing Capital Account funds to the EMFD General Capital Reserve Fund, to be spent as needed by the department, following all the stipulations and restrictions, which are applied to the current capital monies collected from EMFD ambulance revenue. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0-1. Toby Talbot abstained from the vote.

Final Budget – The Selectboard was asked to consider what if the article to transfer \$47,000.00 from surplus highway funds to the Equipment Fund does not pass on Town Meeting Day. The town needs \$99,000.00 just to make the loan payments for the year and is depending on receiving that approval from the voters.

Letter from Gary & Jill Schultz – The Selectboard reviewed a letter from Gary & Jill Schultz dated January 31, 2012 to discontinue TH 7, a Class 4 Road that dead ends at their property. It will be taken up in the springtime.

Personnel Policy – still a work in progress; Donna Fitch inquired about what is left to do on it.

Letter to the Selectboard from Doug Lilley – The Selectboard reviewed a letter from Doug Lilley requesting \$400.00 for yard work on his property. It will be reviewed and a response will be formulated.

Zoning Violations, Appeals, Litigation, Personnel Matters – Scott Bassage made a motion to go into Executive Session with Joe McLean, Esq. by phone at 8:32pm in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing a real estate matter. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. The regular session resumed at 9:10pm. Denise Wheeler reported there is no information to report and no action was taken.

Curtis Pond Dam Update – The town received a bill from DuBois & King for engineering services. Steve Bushman has been asked to give us some state appropriated monies to pay the bill.

Other Business: Alfred Larrabee reported that from Camp Road to top of knoll was plugged up with parked cars from people skating on Curtis Pond. He barely got through with the town truck. Denise Wheeler will talk to Don Heise about the parking situation.

Toby Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant