

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

June 25, 2012

7:00pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Alfred Larrabee, Donna Fitch, Peter Harvey, Renee Fair, Don Fair, Mo Cerutti, Paul Cerutti, Stephen Morse, Jim Buckley, Lesley Fitch and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Approval of the June 11th and June 18th Meeting Minutes - Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the Minutes with one corrected typo. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

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.

Paul Gilles dropped off the survey of the Weisbart TH 8 proposed entrance off the Worcester Road.

FY 2012 Budget Update – Donna Fitch reported that there is \$26,000.00 remaining in this year's highway budget. The repair quote for the 1997 road grader is \$34,935.00 that will be paid in FY 2012.

Borrowing – Toby Talbot made a motion to approve and sign the loan papers for short term borrowing for \$350,000.00. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Dog Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs – After approval by the Selectboard, the town clerk will send the Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs to Fred Bushway, Animal Control Officer, to call the people. John Brabant made a motion to sign the dog warrant as presented by Town Clerk, Donna Fitch. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Road Commissioner Update – Alfred Larrabee has been working with Tom Anderson, District 6 Engineer, on the Singleton Road culvert replacement project. Alfred provided photos of a galvanized culvert that is more readily available than a box culvert. They are not ready to make a decision on what kind of culvert to use. Engineer costs come out of the grant. Discussion turned to road graders. The town is presently trying out a CAT grader. The road crew tried out a Volvo and John Deere grader prior to this. Alfred reported County road is paved; shoulder work and line painting will happen soon. Toby Talbot has heard positive comments about the paving, especially the shim coat.

Reappointment of Road Commissioner – Toby Talbot made a motion to reappoint Alfred Larrabee as Road Commissioner. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Hutch Crane claim – Donna Fitch has not heard anything regarding this matter.

Curtis Pond Dam – John Brabant had nothing to report.

Resolution re: Adoption of PACE Program Description & Guidelines dated March 6, 2012 – Toby Talbot made a motion to adopt the resolution as written (full text is at the Town Office). The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0.

Woodbury Fire Department Contract for Fire Protection FY2012-2013 – Stephen Morse and Paul Cerruti met with the Selectboard and answered many questions regarding services provided to Calais residents by the Woodbury Fire Department. John Brabant made a motion to approve the Fire Protection contract with Woodbury Fire Department for 1/3 of average operating expense in the amount of \$17,680.00 for the FY 2012-2013 contract year. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. The Selectboard thanked Stephen and Paul for WFD service to the town.

Summary Report of Delinquent Taxes – Lesley Fitch, Delinquent Tax Collector, came before the Selectboard to give an overview of the delinquent tax burden in town and process for working with taxpayers that have outstanding taxes due. Lesley’s philosophy has been if they continue to pay and communicate with her then the property will not be put up for a tax sale. Lesley outlined different scenarios and how she has dealt with taxpayers in different situations. Lesley explained her system for collecting delinquent taxes and keeping both electronic and paper records. Lesley’s computer has an external hard drive back up system but the system is not password protected. Toby Talbot recommended backing up the data on a thumb drive and putting it in the town vault. Lesley said the amounts of taxes owed have gone up over the years. First elected in 1998, Lesley had five properties that went to tax sale last year. Of those, four were resolved and only one went to tax sale. Donna Fitch spoke about the impending tax sale in early August. The redemption period on a property expires August 2, 2012. Discussion ensued about helping this homeowner and significant other that resides at the property.

Finalize Dog Complaint Letter – Renee Fair and Don Fair came before the Selectboard and reviewed the draft letter from the Selectboard to Colin Doolittle and Erica Gongloff regarding a vicious dog. Toby Talbot made a motion to authorize the animal control officer to impound the animal so it is no longer a threat to the community. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. John Brabant offered an amendment to instruct the animal control officer to put up a run at the town garage; furthermore, the dog would be impounded for a maximum of 10 days, during the time the owners will meet with the Selectboard. Denise Wheeler said the owners would have to meet conditions in order to get the dog back. The Selectboard is continuing the meeting to get more info from Fred Bushway, Animal Control Officer and to take action on this motion. *See last paragraph below; motion withdrawn.*

Constables: Change of Authority – The Selectboard discussed new regulations effective July 1st that came in a letter from VLCT dated June 15, 2012. VLCT has also mailed a letter directly to the constables informing them of the changes to the law and encourages the Selectboard to have a direct conversation about ACT 103 with them.

Roads Advisory Committee Update – Mo Cerrutti, Chair, updated the Selectboard of the committee member’s names and guest speakers they have had over their nine meetings. Mo noted there is a broad spectrum of interest of the committee members. They have talked about starting up the meetings again. Denise Wheeler reported that Dan Weston from WEC is interested in talking to the committee. Toby Talbot reminded everyone that it is the duty of the Selectboard to provide safe roads for the traveling public. Other considerations Denise mentioned were safety and cost. Mo Cerutti said, “The town has the basic stuff in place to have the roads the way they should be.”

On a similar note, Denise Wheeler reported that Anne Winchester is willing to help with the ancient roads writing of decisions.

Tentative Agenda for the July 9th Meeting

- Set the town tax rate
- Review Draft Financial Policy
- TH 8 entrance relocation process

Scott Bassage made a motion to continue this meeting until Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at a time determined to discuss the motion regarding dog complaint as above at 9:40pm.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Denise Wheeler and Scott Bassage met in Denise Wheeler’s office with Toby Talbot on the phone. The meeting was reconvened from June 25, 2012. Denise Wheeler shared information received from Jim Barlow, VLCT attorney. Toby Talbot withdrew the motion above under “Finalize Dog Complaint Letter”. The Selectboard agreed to proceed with a letter to Fred Bushway and make personal visits to Colin Doolittle and Erica Gongloff and Don and Renee Fair (from John Brabant and Denise Wheeler). The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant