

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Approved Minutes

August 27, 2012

7:00pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Mike Garand, Toby Talbot, Scott Bassage, Donna Fitch, Alfred Larrabee, Peter Harvey, Rick DeWolfe, Don Singleton, Wilson Hughes, Gail Graham, Peter Finnie, Rose Hayes, Will Walters, Jim Schumacher and Rose Pelchuck.

Actions:

Approval of the August 13th Meeting Minutes – The Selectboard postponed approval until the next meeting.

Budget Update – Donna Fitch, Town Clerk & Treasurer, reported a budget update would be available at the next meeting. Scott Bassage suggested adding another column to compare current expenses to expenses at this time last year.

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

Small Claims Court Matter – The town is being sued again by Doug Lilley from Lightening Ridge Road regarding a bill for lawn damage as a result of town road work from August 2011 plus interest \$342.50. The court hearing is Monday, September 10, 2012 at 10:00am at Superior Court in Main Street. The town disputed the claim because the work was performed in the town's right of way without the town's permission. Toby Talbot and Alfred Larrabee will attend the court hearing on behalf of the town.

Hutch Crane Insurance Claim with VLCT – Donna Fitch had nothing to report. Donna did receive notice that VLCT will approve one of the two road claims.

Public Comment – Donna Fitch reported there is Internet access at the town garage. Other discussion ensued about water and plumbing (new pressure tank) at the town garage.

John Brabant excused himself from the Selectboard for these two curb cut permit requests.

Finnie Curb Cut Application – Patrick Finnie applied for a residential curb cut on Adamant Road on land presently owned by Gail Graham near the intersection with Leonard, Singleton and Fowler Roads. The curb cut location was changed based on discussion at the last meeting in order to improve sight distance. Alfred Larrabee will relocate the town road signpost (missing a sign) that is in the proposed curb cut. Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the curb cut permit application as presented. A letter from the tree warden indicates the two ornamental trees nearby the curb cut have been inspected and are dead. They can be removed. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0.

Schumacher Curb Cut Application – James L. Schumacher requested a permit for a residential curb cut on Adamant Road on land presently owned by Gail Graham. Toby Talbot made a motion to approve the curb cut permit application with the condition the applicant install of a 15" culvert at the entrance where it meets the road. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 4-0. John Brabant resumed his seat on the Selectboard.

Road Commissioner Update – Denise Wheeler spoke about interpretation of the town employee vacation policy. Does it mean fiscal year or employee anniversary date? The Selectboard agreed the intention is to use the person's anniversary date of employment for tracking both vacation time and sick time. The town clerk is keeping track of the town employees' time accrued and anniversary dates.

Alfred Larrabee reported the Balentine Road project is about to begin as he awaits final confirmation of

the Better Back Roads grant. Singleton Road culvert projects are about to go out to bid. Alfred called some contractors to submit bids. Although he didn't advertise for bids, the state grant only requires that you obtain three bids (it doesn't say you have to advertise for bids). The bid opening will be at the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on September 10th. The culverts are 48 square foot and 40 square foot in size respectively. Alfred has been in contact with the state engineer, Patrick Ross for this project. According to state regs, the stream alteration permit wants one out by October 1st but gives you two weeks grace; Rick DeWolfe said the state might give you the month of October to complete the project.

Denise inquired about filling out the state AOT questionnaire for the accelerated bridge program for the state to replace three bridges on Route 14. Rick DeWolfe, Professional Engineer, offered his expertise in understanding the questionnaire and said it could take up to 10 years before the state does the work. Denise will collect comments from Alfred and Rick and fill out the form as requested.

Alfred Larrabee reported re-graveling of four miles of Max Gray Road is progressing along. Alfred said it would be done to Sadie Foss Road by the end of this week. The new truck went down again yesterday, fan motor and hopefully will be back by Wednesday.

Discussion turned to understanding the test analysis performed on road materials at the state lab. Rick DeWolfe provided information he termed "Aggregate 101" for everyone to better understand road materials and how to make the best choice for each project. The Wolcott material (Manosh's Pit) passed on the sieve analysis but what didn't pass is the shape test. It appears to be schist (a lot like slate and disintegrates into dust with wear). Rick recommends getting a shape elongation test and wear test at an independent lab he uses in White River Junction. Alfred explained he wants a crust on the top of the road. Alfred said, "Bickford's is great for sub-base material and great in mud season". Rick acknowledged philosophical differences between his opinion and Alfred's. Denise inquired about the price difference and Rick said the price is driven by the demand and Bickford's is popular in this area. Since the Worcester Road and Max Gray Road both have Manosh's material and Bickford's material is on the lower part of Max Gray Road, the town should make note of how it is holding up, to think about all the different characteristics to assess wear Rick DeWolfe said. Alfred said the Worcester Road has only been graded twice in a year since it was resurfaced and is very happy with the results. Alfred did add a small amount of gravel this year on the Worcester Road.

In summary, Denise Wheeler said to do the sieve and wear testing next year and put the word out ahead of time to get a good price for material. Alfred will do the elongated test on the material from Manosh and Bickford's at the state lab this year to keep while monitoring the material's performance over the next few years. Mike Garand will get samples to Rick for independent comparison at the lab he uses in White River Junction.

Road Complaints – Denise Wheeler would like to draft a spreadsheet to log road complaints to see where they are in town and from whom. Toby Talbot said, "The most important thing is to relay the complaints to Alfred". Alfred passed out business cards for Selectboard members to give to people who are complaining. Rick DeWolfe explained the importance of keeping historical records for all work done on the roads in town.

Revised Draft Dog Ordinance – Wilson Hughes provided this new draft ordinance based on the model from VLCT, there is no leash reference anywhere in it. Discussion ensued about impounding animals and how the cost should be borne by the dog owner Toby Talbot said. "How do you get someone to pay the penalty?" Donna inquired. Wilson Hughes will make the revisions discussed this evening and circulate the document.

Vote Tabular Machine Discussion – Denise Wheeler said the issue has come up again at the yearly update on election procedures for town officials. Toby Talbot reported the results of the last statewide recount in the state auditor race in 2006 saying our hand count was off by 18 votes. Calais and Warren were both off by 18 votes but all other towns in Washington County were mostly off by zero, one or two votes. There is pending legislation for mandatory use of a vote tabulator for towns that have 1,000 voters or more. Toby Talbot made a motion to have a special election to ask the voters to answer the question "Does the town want to use a vote tabulator for some elections in Calais?" The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. It was suggested the special election could be held at the Town Office. Proper notice will be warned by the Town Clerk.

Staffing for Primary Election – The schedule has been circulated and Donna Fitch is all set for the Primary Election tomorrow.

Executive Session – Toby Talbot made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with 1 V.S.A. subsection 313 (a) (1) for the purpose of discussing legal issues with Alfred Larrabee at 9:05pm. The motion was seconded, voted and carried 5-0. The regular session resumed at 9:20pm. Denise Wheeler had nothing to publicly report.

Tentative Agenda for the September 10th Meeting

- Recap meeting with EMFD and VSP Commander, Paul White, from August 20th
- EMFD contracts for fire protection, emergency services and ambulance service
- Constables authority in Calais
- Right-of-Way permit application from Suzie Shedd for underground work
- Bid opening for culvert project on Singleton Road
- Ancient Roads – next steps in the process
- Rail Passenger Service Resolution

Mike Garand made a motion to adjourn at 9:23pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Administrative Assistant