

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2014
Approved

Present: Selectboard members – Scott Bassage, John Brabant, Rose Pelchuck, Toby Talbot, Denise Wheeler; Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette), Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee, Stephanie Kaplan; Stephen Morse, Samantha Slayton and Paul Cerutti (Woodbury Fire Department).

Denise Wheeler, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes - Scott Bassage made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2014. Rose Pelchuck seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Road Commissioner Update - Alfred Larrabee reported that a culvert was installed on an emergency basis on Fowler Road. The damaged plastic culvert was replaced with a used steel culvert which had been removed from Singleton Road. Toby Talbot said the road crew had fixed over 1,000 feet of road these last few weeks. Ed Rowell, former road crew employee, is available to fill in when needed. He has helped this summer and will be available this winter. He will be paid \$18 an hour based on his experience and the fact that he is not receiving benefits.

The culvert for Martin Road will be delivered October 2. There is a hole in the road and replacing the culvert is somewhat of an emergency. The road will be closed. There will be some large rocks available to give away. Do Adamant residents want them for use in the village?

The Board discussed run-off from Camp Road to Worcester Road. Toby referred to the curb cut engineering standards. Denise asked Toby and Alfred to talk with David Ellenbogen, a member of the Lakes and Streams Committee, who lives on Camp Road.

Calais Roads Advisory Committee (CRAC) – Stephanie Kaplan, representing the committee, said CRAC desperately needs new members. Stephanie handed out a road classification map (updated since the map given to the Board in June), classifying the roads as paved, collector (main roads), secondary, and very low traffic roads. Lightening Ridge Road is a big issue as it is a secondary road being used as a collector road. West County Road is also an issue. Speed limits are set by the classification of the road. Toby handed out data from the traffic count done by Central VT Regional Planning (CVRP). The speed count is affected by where on a road the counter is placed. The traffic study indicates the road, the weekly average of cars traveling on the road and the speed. This information is the official traffic study that is required in order to reduce speed limits. Stephanie stated that it is up to the Selectboard to decide how they want people to drive on specific roads and then “you treat the road to direct people toward that goal.” Denise suggested a traffic study by Lilley Hill Farm and the Franks’ farm now that school is in session. (The previous data was collected during the summer break.)

Toby reminded the Board they has asked the sheriff to be stationed at Lightening Ridge Road near Lilley’s and the sheriff reported that, while it seems as if people are driving fast, he only issued one speeding ticket. The speed limit is 35 miles per hours. The speed cart will be moved to the intersection of George Road and Lightening Ridge Road.

Stephanie said CRAC planned to go road by road and discuss problems on each road. A subcommittee has done some work in that regard and CRAC will look at what they did. Standards for each type of road are in the Calais Road Standards. Toby made a motion to accept the roads identified as paved, collector, and very low, leaving secondary roads open for further discussion. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0. Toby asked CRAC to identify where traffic counters should be placed to check speed so the data can be collected and speed limits changed. The town road ordinance will need to be updated through the ordinance hearing process with these speed limit changes.

Woodbury Fire Department (WFD) – Denise disclosed her daughter-in-law is an architect with Black River Design, the firm working with the WFD on a new building, however, she is not working on this project. Scott disclosed that he has very strong feelings based on Calais' experience with East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD). The WFD building is in a flood plain. The WFD has drawings and construction estimates for a new building, including purchasing land. The building is approximately 8,500 square feet. A special town meeting will be called for October 30 for Woodbury to vote on the site acquisition, construction and financing of the new building. Total cost is \$2,184,598. Woodbury voters will be asked to fund \$158,320 a year. WFD would own the building. Denise pointed out that the EMFD building is bonded, and both Calais and East Montpelier own the building. The WFD has not determined how much they would be asking Calais to fund, but would sit down with the Calais Selectboard to discuss it together. WFD would proceed without Calais if necessary. It hopes to raise 10% of the cost through private fundraising. John Brabant pointed out that when EMFD was raising money to build a new firehouse, \$2.8 million was the amount they asked Calais and East Montpelier voters for and it was turned down by both towns. The amount was adjusted to \$2.1 million which passed after further outreach and communication with the two communities. Citing rising property tax rates, John said it is a big number to put before Woodbury voters, when Woodbury has a lower population than Calais. Calais contributes one-third of the annual payment for the EMFD building. Currently, for Woodbury fire services, Woodbury pays two-thirds and Calais pays one-third. John pointed out that Calais is already paying for EMFD operations and building and WFD operations, and now Calais is being asked to help pay for another building.

Paul Cerutti acknowledged that the fire station's location in a flood plain is a Woodbury problem and if Calais doesn't go forward with the new building proposal, Woodbury still has to deal with the issue. There are no Calais members in the WFD which has about 20 members. Recruiting volunteer firefighters is a problem nationwide. Hardwick covers Woodbury only through mutual aid. More than 50% of WFD responses are to Calais. Toby said that in 2015 Calais will pay \$192,476 toward the EMFD, \$126 per capita. East Montpelier pays \$374,000, \$145 per capita. Toby reminded people that the voters will make the decision, not the selectboards. Paul mentioned the potential impact on Calais residents' insurance costs.

Right-of-Way (ROW) – A ROW application from Doug Lilley for an underground conduit is, apparently, for a telephone line. If the conduit is only for telephone, it doesn't need to be six feet deep. The ROW was approved with the condition that 1) the \$60 permit fee be paid; 2) Doug contact the road commissioner (Alfred) with at least 24 hours notice before installing and install only with Alfred's approval as to the depth; 3) the road be put back in its previous condition. The ROW with conditions was approved 5-0.

Operations Manager Update – Toby asked the Board to verify that road crew vacation time can be carried over into the next calendar year. Yes, it can be. Alfred is taking Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept 23 and 24, as vacation.

Town Plan – The Selectboard and Planning Commission (PC) will meet on Monday, September 29, at 7 pm to continue reviewing the Town Plan. The PC's public meeting for input from residents is Tuesday, October 7, 7pm, at the Town Hall. [THE JOINT MEETING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2.]

Meeting With All Town Boards – A dinner meeting with all town boards and commissions will be held at 6 pm at the Town Hall on Monday, October 20, 2014. The town will provide food. There will be a topic for general discussion and, as last year, each board will give a brief update of their work.

Ancient Roads – Referring to an email from attorney Sarah Jarvis at Vt League of Cities and Towns, Denise reported that all roads to be discontinued must be visited by a quorum of the Selectboard. Grist Mill is the only road the Ancient Roads Committee recommended keeping. Toby will make a spreadsheet of the roads recommended for discontinuance so that site visit dates can be set and warned to the public.

Special Town Meeting – The Board signed the warning for a special town meeting on November 8, 2014 at 10 am at the Calais Elementary School to vote on whether future contributions to Kellogg Hubbard Library should be voted by Australian ballot.

Denise made a motion to continue the meeting until Monday, September 29, to meet with the Planning Commission to review the Town Plan. The motion was seconded and passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned 9:17 pm.

[THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2.]

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fitch, Clerk