

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Approved Minutes

September 27, 2010

7pm Calais Town Hall

Attending: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Cy Lamberton, Mike Garand, Peter Harvey, Dot Naylor, Bill Powell, Alfred Larrabee, David Schutz, Leesa Stewart and Rose Pelchuck.

Absent: Scott Bassage

Actions:

Approval of the August 23rd Meeting Minutes – John Brabant made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Approval of the August 30th Meeting Minutes - John Brabant made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Approval of the September 13th Meeting Minutes – Cy Lamberton made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

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.

Approval of the Resolution from Southworth-Milton re: new loader – At the last meeting, the Selectboard reviewed the lease to purchase paperwork for the Caterpillar front-end wheel loader from Southworth-Milton dealership in Richmond and discovered it appeared the paperwork did not say the town would own the equipment at the end of the lease. This has been corrected. John Brabant made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the lease-purchase agreement on the above named bucket loader noting at the end of the lease there is a one-dollar buyout and the loader will belong to the town. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System – Denise Wheeler reported the current retirement plan (money purchase plan) funds can be rolled over into another plan such as the 457 Plan (defined contribution plan). The Selectboard again discussed which plan to offer employees, VMERS Plan A or B. Cy Lamberton made a motion for the Town of Calais to enroll in the VMERS under Plan B with the town contribution of 6.2% of the employees gross weekly pay and the employee contribution of 3.3% of the employees gross weekly pay for a total weekly contribution of 9.5% for each employee enrolled. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0. Denise Wheeler will notify Cindy Webster, Director of VMERS, of the Town's intent to participate in this retirement system effective January 1, 2011. Present employees may enroll or not and keep the National Life Group money purchase plan. All subsequent town employees hired will have to participate in the VMERS plan as a condition of employment.

Town Employees Benefits – The Selectboard continued discussion with Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner, regarding paid time-off benefits (sick time, vacation time and holidays). Currently town employees have five sick days per year, accrued to 15 days. Alfred does not believe this is enough sick time and reported the following data from area towns:

Cabot pays 10 sick days per year, accrued to 50 days

East Montpelier pays six sick days per year, accrued to 60 days

Woodbury pays 15 sick days per year, accrued to 125 days

Personal days were discussed. Alfred Larrabee reported Cabot, Plainfield, Marshfield and East Montpelier do not provide paid personal days off. Woodbury does allow three personal days off per year. Regarding holiday time off, Calais has 9 ½ paid holidays off per year. The Selectboard agreed to work on a personnel policy handbook outlining all benefits (medical, retirement, sick days, vacation time, holidays, etc.). The proposed benefit package would include 12 sick days per year, accrued to 125 days with a doctor's note after three consecutive days out sick, no pay out upon retirement of accrued sick days, two personal days off per year and

perhaps another holiday off. Alfred stated the personal days off benefit are the most important benefit to him. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Update – Bill Powell, Calais Rep on the CVSWMD Board, introduced the new general manager, Lessa Stewart. Bill reported the financials of the solid waste district are now in the “black” after having made a positive correction in the direction the district was going. The Board has some new members and overall the Board is quite pleased with the turnaround. Bill continued by saying some positions have been consolidated, depots were closed, a 40% reduction in staffing costs was realized and a 47% overall cost reduction. There are 6 ½ permanent staff members with 7-12 compost monitors that only work two hours per day, five days a week. Seventeen programs, including electronic and haz-mat collections, are planned for next year. Information about these special collection events in Calais can be found at MapleCorner.net and at the depot site. Per capita rates were reviewed as follows: FY’09 - \$3.10, FY’10 - \$2.10, FY’11 - \$2.10 and FY’12 – no plan to raise the per capita assessment Bill Powell reported. The Selectboard thanked Bill and Lessa for this update.

Calais Town Hall Restoration Update – David Schutz, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, informed the Selectboard the Historic Preservation Commission is still trying to hire an architect to draw up a master plan for the town hall. The energy audit is done and needs to be folded into the master plan. Use of the building is a major consideration. David is in hopes to create a plan that will hopefully work towards specific goals over the next ten years. The Historic Preservation Commission meets in October at which time they will decide whether or not to send out the Request for Proposals again, in hopes of getting more interest from architects that specialize in restoration of old buildings. Also noted, the Friends of Kent Museum will have the museum open at Fall Foliage weekend displaying the artwork of the late Charles Woodard.

Curtis Pond Dam Update – John Brabant reported in 2006 the State of Vermont ordered a mandatory draw down of Nichols Pond in Hardwick, to an elevation of one foot, due to dam safety, thereby creating a mud flat area. John obtained the dam engineering costs from Hardwick Electric to do a side-by-side evaluation of the engineering of Nichols Pond Dam and Curtis Pond Dam. According to John Brabant, it appears the quote to replace the Curtis Pond Dam is high considering what we already spent on engineering design plans. John has been in contact with Jeff Tucker, Dubois & King Engineer, to compare the costs. John went on to report there was an orchestrated effort by landowners on Nichols Pond to fundraise for the dam reconstruction and to get the pond useable again. The town established a fund and successfully raised \$230,000.00 in donations and Hardwick Electric only paid \$30,000.00. The dam was rebuilt by September 2008. This is an example of a successful fundraising effort nearby.

The Selectboard discussed unresolved issues relating to Curtis Pond Dam: funding issues, whether taxpayers or camp owners pay the bill and whether or not a bond issue would pass. There are about 50-55 property owners on Curtis Pond. John Brabant recommends setting up a fund for donations to replace the dam. John will follow up with Jeff Tucker at Dubois & King. John works in close proximity to Steve Bushman, State Dam Safety Engineer, and gets weekly visits from Steve about the Curtis Pond Dam.

Scheduling a Site Visit at TH 8 – The Selectboard discussed going on a site visit to view the entrance to TH 8; it would be a public meeting to see what the entrance looks like. Paul Weisbart would show the access point near his property. Presently there is a locked gate at the entrance to this Class 4 road. The Selectboard did not authorize the gate be locked. Denise Wheeler will call Paul Weisbart for available dates for the site visit and post public notice.

Various Brief Updates

- TH 44 – Attorney Klesh notified John Brabant he has reviewed all the documents surrounding this issue except for two documents that he requested from Eva Morse, Town Clerk.
- Predisaster Mitigation Plan – Denise Wheeler reported Toby Talbot would begin working on updating this.
- Small Claims Court matter – nothing to report.
- East Montpelier Fire Department new facility – the concrete apron will be poured soon. The apparatus bay floor will be sanded, repainted and resealed per agreement with Connor Contracting. Grand Opening

celebration will be Saturday, October 9th at 1:00pm. Dot Naylor reported the Women's Relief Corp is donating an American flag in honor of the occasion.

- Ancient Roads – John Brabant attended the last committee meeting. John reported he and Marge Garfield urged the committee to look at the files she made in the town office to prioritize ancient roads to review. Some roads have more documentation and should be considered first. These documents include 1) original survey, 2) laying out of the road and duly recorded by the Selectboard, and field inspected, and 3) certificate of opening the road. Marge Garfield reported at that meeting that the first five volumes of the Town Selectboard records prior to 1900 are missing. John Brabant stated he hopes the Selectboard will get a memo from the Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads if they want the Charge of the Committee changed. Marge Garfield agreed to review the road files she put together for the committee listing which documents are available on each road.
- Cemetery Commission is postponing hedge trimming in Fairview Cemetery until next year.

Tentative Agenda for October 11th Meeting

- Town employees benefits
- Committee on Unmapped and Unmaintained Roads report
- TH 8 site visit and public meeting
- TH 44 report from Attorney Klesh

Cy Lamberton made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. The motion was seconded, voted on and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pelchuck
Selectboard Secretary