

MINUTES
Casco Board Of Selectmen
December 01, 2009

Members Present:

Calvin Nutting, Barbara York, Susan Witonis, Carroll Morton and Paul Edes

Staff Present:

David Morton and Lucille Griffin

Guests Present:

Senator Bill Diamond, Gilbert Avery, Patricia Troy, Beverly White and Kenneth Stickley

The Board of Selectmen approved bills and signed warrants.

The Board of Selectmen moved (York), seconded (Edes) and voted to approve the minutes of November 10, 2009, as written. The vote was 4-0-1; Witonis abstained.

Guest Speaker:

Town Manager David Morton introduced Senator Bill Diamond. Senator Diamond is here to talk to the Board regarding budget issues at the state level. Diamond gave informational handouts to the Board and then began his presentation on the changing state budget general fund shortfall. Revenues are down from the projections for the current budget. (See handout.) Diamond noted that the \$438 million budget just passed was a bipartition vote not a party line vote. This is a revision of the original budget. After Senator Diamond's presentation there was a brief question and answer period.

Town Manager Morton thanked Senator Diamond for coming to the meeting. Diamond said he wanted to see what Casco says is important here and if you have ideas, thoughts and priorities let him know and they will be heard.

Town Manager Morton commented on how reductions in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) services would impact the Town of Casco.

Calvin Nutting commented on the training classes that he has attended that are put on by the State of Maine, primarily with Motor Vehicles and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Nutting said that, in one instance, a representative from Motor Vehicles said she made \$36,000 per year and all she did was keep track of Firefighter plates and she was one and a half years behind in processing. In another instance the representative from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife said they are also one and a half years behind in processing items.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Bill for attending their meeting.

Old Business:

- Community Center Project:

Town Manager Morton updated the Board on the Community Center project. The roofing is nearly complete. The facility looks nice, the siding is on and the windows are in on the front of the building. The contractor is getting the furnaces up and running. The handicapped ramps are in. The gym side handicapped entrance has been replaced to be ADA compliant and the gym will be insulated in the next two days. Most of the electrical work is done and they are beginning to hang pipe for the sprinkler system. The project is looking very good. The contractor also added another lower roof to protect the entrances from the weather. It will be awhile before the hardwood floor is put down in the gym. All the floors except the gym will be tile. Beth's office will be the only carpeted area in the building. Morton estimates it will be ready for occupancy approximately by the first of February. Calvin Nutting asked when we will start the kitchen. Town Manager Morton said it will be started as soon as the rest of the current project is done. The kitchen project will have to go out to bid.

- Update On Zoning Ordinance Project:

Town Manager Morton said we are beginning the interviews with people regarding the defeated Zoning Ordinance and going over the good and the bad that they saw in that ordinance. We have set a calendar to have changes made, have public hearings, opportunities for more changes if needed and be ready for the June Town Meeting. Morton said that is the goal, but not a promise. Barbara York asked if we were within our deadline and Town Manager Morton responded that we are past our deadline.

- Road Commissioner Update:

Town Manager Morton commented on the private roads and noted that he has worked with a number of private road property owners; all of whom have done a great job with bringing their roads up to standards. The process worked very well this fall and he does not know of any roads that the town will have to stop plowing.

Rain storms are bringing out all sorts of washouts at our culverts. This fall there has been a problem with beavers. It has cost approximately \$7,500 to remove beavers this year. Town Manager Morton went over the process to remove the beaver dams and the removal of the beavers. He is talking with a wildlife biologist in Gray to see if they will relax some of the restrictions on trapping beaver.

Calvin Nutting asked what was being done about the road shoulder by Rossi's on Quaker Ridge Road. Town Manager Morton said that going to be taken care of tomorrow. Carroll Morton said that one of the culverts there should be extended about six feet.

Town Manager Morton advised the Board that we now have the winter sand/salt shed full of sand. The shed is full right out to the door. Morton went over more information on the amount of sand that we have on hand. He is still waiting for a couple more prices for winter sand in the event we need to purchase more during the winter.

New Business:

- Meeting Calendar:

December meetings:

The Board of Selectmen moved (Witonis) seconded (York) and unanimously voted not to have a meeting on December 22, 2009.

Town Office storm cancellations will be done the same as in the past. Town Manager Morton will make the decisions regarding closing by 3:00 p.m.

January meetings:

There will be three NIMS training nights in January and there will not be a Board of Selectmen's meeting on those evenings. Possibly, the training can be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on those nights.

The Board discussed closure times for the Town Office during the holidays. **Following this discussion, the Board of Selectmen moved (Witonis), seconded (York) and unanimously voted to close the Town Office at noon on December 24, 2009 and December 31, 2009.**

- Calvin Nutting asked what is going on with the regionalization thing and asked if that is a dead issue. Town Manager Morton responded that the RFQ is in progress and there have been several companies, United States wide and from overseas, that have expressed an interest. Nutting asked what the price tag is and Town Manger Morton said that we have only so much to spend so that is what we will tell them it will be. There was further discussion on the RFQ and the price tag. Carroll Morton asked why we had to go through that process and spend all that money. Why not have the towns just get together and do it. Susan Witonis said we decided to have someone who was objective when we discussed this in the beginning. C. Morton commented on the budget cuts that the state and ultimately the town of Casco would have to make. There was discussion on the cost of regionalization. Barbara York said that maybe regionalization would save us money. C. Morton responded that we did know that it would cost more money.

Public Participation And Comment:

- Gil Avery commented on the accidents on Tenney Hill Road. We have had a couple of accidents there lately; one at the mouth of the road on Route 11 and the second one up by Galassetti's. Avery thinks there should be more signage there. There is a lot

of hot rodding on Tenney Hill Road and it is a pretty serious thing on that road. Town Manger Morton said the Maine Department Of Transportation did some engineering there and told us where the signs needed to be placed. We just finished putting new signage on both Tenney Hill Road and Leach Hill Road. Morton said that this was a big project. Carroll Morton said that the chevron signs show up well. There ensued more discussion on speed, having more CCSO patrols, etc. on Tenney Hill Road.

- Gil Avery asked what will happen with the old ladder truck that we share with Naples if Naples gets a new one. Do we get half of the money back? Town Manager Morton said that we will get back our share of the money when the truck is liquidated. There was more discussion on this item.

- Patricia Troy asked if she was correct in assuming that there would not be a January Town Meeting. Town Manager Morton said there is nothing at this time for a January Town Meeting.

Other Business:

- Calvin Nutting asked what was going on with the joy riding in the Rescue Unit. Town Manager Morton said he would have to look into this and would address it on a case to case basis. Nutting also said he sees that the current trend is to use EMS people to drive instead of having the drivers do it.

- Pole Permit Application:

Town Manager Morton said has checked out the proposed pole locations and there is no problem with them. The application is for six poles in the Point Sebago area.

The Board of Selectmen moved (York), seconded (Witonis) and unanimously voted to approve the application for a pole permit.

Executive Session – Weapons Permit:

The Board of Selectmen moved (York), seconded (Edes) and unanimously voted to go into executive session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss an application for a concealed weapons permit.

The Board of Selectmen moved (York), seconded (Witonis) and unanimously voted to adjourn from executive session at 8:25 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen then moved (York), seconded (Nutting) and unanimously voted to approve the application for a concealed weapons permit by Mr. Kenneth Stickley Jr.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, the Board of Selectmen moved (Witonis), seconded (Nutting) and unanimously voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:

Lucille D. Griffin, Deputy Town Clerk