

MINUTES
Casco Selectboard
June 7, 2011

Summary Minutes For June 7, 2011

Members Present:

Barbara York, Paul Edes, Mary Fernandes, Carroll Morton and Ray Grant

Staff Present:

David Morton and Lucille Griffin

Guests Present:

See List

The Selectboard approved bills and signed warrants.

Old Business:

- Casco Community Center Kitchen Project:

Town Manager David Morton said the Community Center Kitchen Project still is not underway. We have made application for reimbursement from Norway Savings Bank through our bank for checks that were improperly cashed by DCS Construction. There is no requirement under the law for the time that Norway Savings Bank can take in terms of processing that but that process is underway. The District Attorney's office has taken an indictment for DCS Construction, Douglas Corbridge, to the Grand Jury and they have returned an indictment. The District Attorney's office will be prosecuting DCS Construction, Douglas Corbridge, for fraud and other claims that they have brought against him.

Town Manager Morton said that, with the Board's permission, he would go ahead and put out requests for bids and see if we can complete the project with funds that we have available to us.

Barbara York asked if it was the labor that is left because we had already ordered the appliances.

Town Manager Morton said we have the oven and the hood and range. It is basically labor for installation of the Ansul extinguishing system and the hood as well as the installation of the propane service and plumbing.

Mary Fernandes asked what the balance was for the grant money.

Town Manager Morton said he does not have that balance in front of him but we have approximately \$23,000 available to complete the project.

Fernandes asked if that would cover everything that is needed.

Town Manager Morton said we would not be certain until we go out to bid.

Ray Grant asked Town Manager Morton if he (Morton) said the bank had not returned that money.

Town Manager Morton said that was correct.

Grant asked if that was a bank we do business with.

Town Manager Morton responded that the bank was Norway Savings Bank.

Grant suggested that we should change our accounts.

Town Manager Morton said he is not certain what accounts we have at Norway Savings Bank. Town Manager Morton said that we have done business with Norway Savings Bank in the past and he will check to see if we have any current accounts.

Grant said that if we have any current accounts at Norway Savings Bank we need to be pulling them. If they can't write us back a simple \$1,900 check for a mistake that they certainly made then the Town of Casco shouldn't be doing any business with them.

York noted that we have approximately \$23,000 and asked Town Manager Morton if we would be receiving more money.

Town Manager Morton said we are still due the \$1,900 from Norway Savings Bank. That would be in addition to whatever we have for a balance there now.

Grant said we have had some people speak to us about volunteering some time but those other things like installation of the equipment would have to be done professionally.

Town Manager Morton said certainly the installation of the exhaust hood, the Ansul extinguishing system, and the propane system need to be done professionally and the plumbing work needs to be done by a licensed plumber. The work that we could ask volunteers to look at would be the service counter between the gym and the kitchen, the finish around the door and there is some sheetrock repair that needs to be done. Morton said he thinks we can live with the floor. It doesn't look good but Morton thinks it is functional.

Fernandes asked if the service counter needed to be replaced.

Town Manager Morton said the counter needs to be totally replaced. Morton said he thinks that is something that we could look for volunteers to do. We don't need to engage professionals if there are people that will step up and help us with that part.

Grant asked, if one contractor bids this, it would be either all or nothing and if the contractor comes in too high we can't do it. Grant asked Town Manager Morton if the Board should split these bids up; one to do the plumbing; one to do the gas work; and one to install the appliances.

Town Manager Morton said we certainly could do that and then we would, in essence, become the prime contractor and sub out each of those items. In doing so, we would eliminate any mark up that the contractor may require if they are bringing in subs to do that work.

Grant said that the last time we put this bid out, other than the one they accepted, they were twice as much as the money that had been approved. If we put it out again and the same thing happens at least we can get some of the work done if the bids are separate. Grant thinks that would work a lot better for us.

Town Manager Morton said we may attract more local people where we are not looking for a general contractor to be responsible for the whole job.

York asked when this could happen.

Town Manager Morton expected we could get those requests out within two weeks.

The Selectboard moved (York), seconded (Fernandes) and unanimously voted to move ahead and put the Community Center Kitchen Project bids out so that we can do something to finish that kitchen.

- Items For The Next Workshop:

Town Manager Morton said that capital road improvements had already been identified by the Board and Mary Fernandes had asked for information which Morton provided to the Board so they would have an opportunity to look at that in advance of that workshop. Morton asked what other items the Board wished to have on their workshop. Morton suggested that workshop be held next week on June 14th. Morton noted that on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 the School District has scheduled their next budget vote.

Ray Grant said, in looking down these road projects, it lists the Edwards Road as a project planned for 2011 and the Point Sebago Road says unknown.

Town Manager Morton said that list had not been updated since their last discussions. Morton said the Board can change the project priorities.

Grant said we have never voted on the Edwards Road culvert being done in 2011.

There ensued discussion on the items for the workshop on June 14, 2011.

Workshop Items:

1. Capital road projects.
 - Edwards Road
2. Audit report deficiencies.
3. Committees
4. Webbs Mills Dam document.

5. Review the Selectboard's "to do" list to see what has been accomplished and what still needs to be finished.

New Business:

- Educational Funding (LD 1274):

Barbara York said that this was discussed last night at the School Board meeting. Town Manager Morton gave the Board copies of LD 1274 today. Town Manager Morton said the proposed legislation addresses how the state aid to education funding works and addresses what a lot of people perceive to be as inequities and shifts which have taken funds from rural areas and shifted them to more urban areas. It is a bill which would provide an estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000 of additional funding for SAD #61.

Attached to the material provided to the Board is a copy of a letter that was sent by the Town Manager of Bridgton and Superintendent Patrick Phillips to all the representatives and senators in the area with the exception of Senator Bill Diamond. They missed Senator Diamond who represents Casco but not any of the other communities. Town Manager Morton said that, with the Board's permission, he would like to send a similar letter to Senator Diamond asking him to consider supporting this as well.

The Selectboard moved (York), seconded (Fernandes) and unanimously voted to send a letter to Senator Diamond regarding LD 1274.

York said that the School Board members who represent Casco spoke very well last night. They came up with a lot of ideas. They kept going at the budget to see where cuts could be made and they did a very good job. York thanked our School Board members for their efforts.

- Discussion On The Town Meeting Budget:

Ray Grant brought up the handouts that had information on a 1%, 2% and 3% change. Grant asked what it was.

Barbara York said that was a request by her because she had several people tell her that there were no raises for town employees. York said she had asked Town Manager Morton to give her what those figures and differences would be. York said that if the employees don't get a raise this year it will be three full years with no raises and four years for Town Manager Morton. York said that the townspeople needed to have a chance to speak on this if they want.

Grant asked if, at the last meeting, the Board didn't say that was not going to be brought up on the Town Meeting Warrant.

York said she might not make the recommendation but somebody may from the floor of Town Meeting. York said she wanted to know the numbers so they would have an idea what they would be if they do get it.

Ray Grant said in this economy you are lucky to have a job; say nothing about a raise. Grant said he knows of people that have taken benefit cuts and have taken pay cuts just to keep their job. If this was an economy that was gaining Grant could see giving people a raise.

There ensued further discussion on this item.

Other Business:

- Webbs Mills Dam Document:

Ray Grant asked about the letter from Natalie Burns regarding the Webbs Mills Dam and asked Town Manager Morton to explain.

Town Manager Morton said that in the discussions with the folks that own the water rights for the pond they had indicated a willingness to provide those water rights to the Town of Casco but not necessarily in a permanent manner that would encumber their property into the future. Town Manager Morton said that what he asked the attorney to draw up was a revocable permission for us to maintain the water levels at that millpond. The current owners, the Tracy's, recognize that they probably won't be the owners forever and they are uncertain when they go to sell the property what the future purchasers of the property may find attractive or not about it. The Tracy's were reluctant to give the town a permanent right to maintain those water levels. That is in essence what that document does. Town Manager Morton said if the Board is happy with that he can forward that document to the Tracy's for their consideration.

Grant said he had not had a chance to read the document yet. Grant would like to have this item on the next workshop agenda.

- Hacker's Hill Project:

Eric Dibner and Grant Plummer were present to answer any questions the Board may have on the Hacker's Hill Project.

Ray Grant said that if we are going to donate \$75,000 he would like a restriction in there that all the current uses of the property are to be permanent. Grant said use of the snowmobile trails and all that needed to be written into the agreement along with the \$75,000. Grant said he did not want to give \$75,000 and five years down the road have Loon Echo Land Trust change their mind and not allow people to even drive to the top or use the snowmobile trails.

There ensued further discussion on this item.

- Mary Fernandes spoke on the pay raises. Fernandes said that in the last three years she has not heard of anyone receiving a raise. If anything, they are receiving more work.

- Veterans' Monument lights:

Carroll Morton said that one of the lights that are in the ground by the monument has been trampled.

Town Manager Morton noted that there is an order in to the electrician to have that light replaced.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, the Selectboard moved (York), seconded (Fernandes) and unanimously voted to adjourn.

Announcements:

Town Manager Morton said that he had received a flag from Afghanistan from Army Medivac pilot Jeffrey York, who grew up here in Casco. The flag is an American flag that was on his helicopter and flown in Afghanistan. It will be at Town Meeting tomorrow for people to view along with pictures of Jeffrey and the Medivac helicopter. He (York) has requested that this flag be flown on Flag Day.

Town Manager Morton noted that there are some new pictures in the Community Center hallway. Morton gave information on the pictures and said that this was kind of a special project. The pictures are from the Historical Society collection and were enhanced and framed by Craig Sharkey.

Barbara York noted that on Thursday the seniors will have their meal at the Historical Society building.

ATTEST:

Lucille D. Griffin, Deputy Town Clerk