

Town of Casco

Minutes of the March 12, 2019 Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Members Present:

Holly Hancock, Mary Fernandes, Grant Plummer, Calvin Nutting and Tom Peaslee

Staff Present:

Town Manager David Morton and Administrative Secretary Bob Tooker

Approval of Agenda:

Holly Hancock amended the agenda to add Emergency Medical Services (EMS) billing as agenda item four under New Business and renumber subsequent agenda items accordingly.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the agenda for the March 12, 2019 Selectboard meeting as amended: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Warrants:

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve bills and sign open warrants: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Minutes: (February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019)

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019 Selectboard meeting: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Selectboard meeting: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Town Manager's Update: (David Morton)

- The Thompson Lake Dam is in disrepair. Estimated reconstruction costs range from \$250,000 to \$270,000. The Town of Oxford will be looking for financial participation from towns abutting Thompson Lake.
- The referendum on proposed Crooked River School additions and renovations is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Casco Community Center. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office.

Committee and Staff Reports:

None.

Public Participation:

None.

New Business:

1. Discussion regarding consideration of waivers for plowing of private ways with public easements.

David Morton commented on his discussions with representatives of private roads with public easements regarding the October 31, 2019 deadline for meeting 1972 minimum road standards in order to continue receiving plowing services from the Town. David stated that legal counsel informed him that plowing services could be discontinued at any time if private roads do not meet the minimum standards. David suggested that the Selectboard establish criteria for granting waivers under general classifications that may include utilities that cannot be relocated and environmental concerns. The Selectboard discussed 1) criteria for waivers and extensions; 2) the need to remind residents who live on private roads about the October 31, 2019 deadline; 3) the need to inform residents about a deadline for applying for waivers or extensions; 4) the need to document compliance with minimum road standards and any reasons why roads are deemed not to be in compliance; and 5) the need to periodically review the condition of private roads that receive plowing services from the Town.

The Selectboard agreed that 1) residents who live on private roads should be informed in the spring that the deadline for applying for waivers or extensions will be August 15, 2019; 2) waivers will only be granted for utility or environmental concerns; 3) waivers for environmental concerns will need to be supported by appropriate State agencies; and 4) deadline extensions may be granted to spread high road improvement costs over multiple years provided that a road improvement plan has been approved by the Town.

2. Review of application for liquor license for Migis Lodge.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the liquor license for Migis Lodge: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

3. Review of application for liquor license for Webb's Mills Eats & Craft Brews.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the liquor license for Webb's Mills Eats & Craft Brews: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

4. Review of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) account write offs or accounts to be sent to collections.

It was moved, seconded and voted to send the list dated March 12, 2019 to collections: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Old Business:

5. Discussion regarding the separation of responsibilities for overseeing Town public works functions.

David Morton stated that he included funds in the proposed road maintenance budget for a two year part-time roads supervisor to handle everything he currently handles as Road Commissioner after he retires. David stated that he included approximately \$22,000 in wages for two days a week for 40 – 44 weeks per year plus additional funds for mileage and benefits. David offered to fill the proposed position based on previous concerns expressed by the Selectboard about the new Town Manager’s workload. David noted that the Finance Committee recommends moving the proposed funding for the part-time position from road maintenance to the contingency fund.

Calvin Nutting objected to forcing the Town to pay for a new position over and above the Town Manager position, adding his view that if the proposed roads supervisor position is approved, then the new Town Manager’s salary should be adjusted downward accordingly. Mary Fernandes commented on her observation that residents’ ambition for new positions is waning. Holly Hancock noted that a new position would need to be advertised. The Selectboard agreed that a decision on the proposed position should be put off until job interviews are completed and more is known about the new Town Manager’s qualifications and job experience.

6. Selectboard comments.

- In response to an inquiry from Grant Plummer, David Morton stated that he would provide an update on costs for this season’s unusually high quantities of winter sand and salt.
- Calvin Nutting commented on a snow bank covering parts of the intersection at the end of Quaker Ridge Road. The Selectboard discussed high snow banks resulting from plowing and the need for snow removal in certain areas.
- David Morton commented on the upcoming posting of heavy load road signs.
- David Morton commented on Casco Fire & Rescue’s plan to engage a marketer to sell a used fire truck who would be compensated by a percentage of the sale amount.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the engagement of a company that markets used fire trucks: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

- In response to an inquiry from Mary Fernandes, David Morton commented on a recent meeting of the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). David noted that important regional issues commonly identified by lake region towns included investment in highways, public transportation and education, and the need for more assistance from the State in those areas.

7. Review of request for abatement of taxes due to poverty or infirmity. *(Requires executive session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., subsection 405, paragraph 6, part F, and pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. subsection 841 (2).)*

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn to executive session to review a request for abatement of taxes due to poverty or infirmity pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., subsection 405, paragraph 6, part F, and pursuant to Title 36 M.R.S.A. subsection 841 (2): 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:19 p.m.

The Selectboard returned from executive session at 8:32 p.m.

It was moved, seconded and voted to return from executive session: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

8. Any action required by the Board subsequent to executive session.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the abatement for application 3-12-19-A in the amount of \$1,529.22: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

ATTEST:

Robert Tooker
Administrative Secretary