

**MINUTES**  
**Casco Board Of Selectmen**  
**November 10, 2009**

Members Present:

Barbara York, Paul Edes and Carroll Morton

Members Absent:

Calvin Nutting and Susan Witonis

Guests Present:

Lisa Williams Ackley, Patricia Troy, Gilbert Avery, John Small and Jason Moen

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (C. Morton) and voted to appoint Barbara York as the temporary Chair for this meeting in Calvin Nutting's absence. The vote was 2-0-1; York abstained.**

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (C. Morton) and unanimously voted to accept the minutes of October 27, 2009 as written.**

**Old Business:**

- Community Center Update:

Town Manager David Morton updated the Board of Selectmen on the Community Center project. The trusses have arrived and the roof will be completely shingled by the end of the day. They are working on the handicapped entrance by the Post Office. Within another week to ten days the building will be weather tight and they will begin working on the interior. At this point, it will look like the work on the building is moving slower. Even though they are working at the same tempo, the work is less visible than the progress that we have seen in the last three weeks. There were some changes in the roof trusses. Originally, we were going to allow the contractor to use the old trusses; however the contractor's engineer would not sign off on them. The contractor ordered new trusses at his own expense.

The poured walkway into the gym was beautiful job however the slope of the walkway was not ADA compliant. The compound angle of the walkway was not ADA compliant. The contractor has been very cooperative in addressing these issues.

We have had one environmental issue with the sewer line that goes from the Community Center septic tank to the leach field. The Post Office is the only one using that system at this time and the pump was being turned on once a week. They forgot to turn it on last week and effluent was showing on the top of the tank. This has been cleaned up and taken care of.

Safety issues are monitored constantly and the contractor enforces all safety requirements. People have been honoring the fence and not going through it when the crew is working. If the Board members wish, a tour can be arranged through Town Manager Morton. Morton will call the contractor to arrange a time for a tour of the project. Town Manager Morton noted that we are a little bit behind our original schedule but hopes it will be completed by mid January.

Paul Edes asked Town Manager Morton if he was aware of the safety issue that Edes saw this afternoon. Morton said he was aware of that issue and it was being taken care of.

The windows in the front of the building are a little different. The building is lower and they went with a different window. In the gym the windows are up high and, hopefully, they will let in a maximum of natural light for the gym.

Patricia Troy asked if there would be an automatic door opener for the gym door. Town Manager Morton responded that it was not in the budget for this year.

Carroll Morton asked why Code Enforcement Officer Elwin Thorpe couldn't do the inspection on the building. That would save a lot of money. Town Manager David Morton said that Elwin is involved in the project above what the on site inspector is doing. C. Morton said if that expense could be cut out perhaps we could by an automatic door opener.

**New Business:**

- Fire Department Radio Purchases:

Jason Moen and John Small were present to discuss the purchase of Fire Department radios. Moen said the quote that he presented to Town Manager Morton was for four portable radios and 10 pagers in the amount of \$9,239.32. (See copy of the quote.) Moen gave information on the narrow band requirements that are coming and that the Fire Department is starting now to replace the radios. Moen gave information on the radios and the warranty on them. They want to stay with Motorola and already have some of the software for programming the radios. This will meet the narrow band mandate for 2013. The quote shows the list price and then the price that the Fire Department will actually pay; approximately 25% off the list price. This is the beginning of a four year program.

Barbara York asked if this was part of the current budget and Moen responded that this is part of the four year plan.

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (C. Morton) and unanimously voted to approve the purchase of four portable radios and ten pagers by the Fire Department.**

John Small noted that the Fire Department has had a very busy summer and a very successful Casco Days and Public Safety Day. Small updated the Board on the Fire Department activities. They have recently completed twelve hours of propane training and this is the time of year that they do respirator physicals and fit testing.

Moen updated the Board on the upcoming training burn at the Harrison property in Webbs Mills. Moen reviewed what training would be done and that when the training is finished the house will be burned flat. Moen said he has been through the building and it is structurally sound for training purposes. Moen gave an overview of how traffic control would be done for the final burn this spring.

Paul Edes asked Moen if the Fire Department could do a monthly report like the Rescue Department does. Moen asked Edes if the quarterly stipend report would suffice. Edes said that would be sufficient for now. Right now he isn't seeing anything from the Fire Department.

- Lake Region Greenprint Project:

Town Manager Morton gave an update on the Greenprint project that was presented to the Board a short time ago by Loon Echo and the presenter for the Greenprint project. Morton said he is bringing this back to the Board to see in what direction they wish to go. Morton asked if this a subject that the Board would like to bring to the January Town Meeting or would they like to wait till the June Town Meeting. Morton said if we bring this to the January Town Meeting we will need to look really hard at how we would fund this item.

Carroll Morton said it should come to the June Town Meeting; \$4,000 is not a lot of money but it should come to the June Town Meeting. Remember what happened at the last January Town Meeting.

Town Manager Morton said that he was not making any recommendations and asked if the Board wanted to have any more information provided to them prior to making a decision.

Barbara York asked if we already had things scheduled for the January Town Meeting and Morton said there were none that he could think of at this time. York said that the June Town Meeting was fine with her.

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (York) and unanimously voted that this item would be on the June Town Meeting Warrant.**

Town Manager Morton asked the Board if they would like to have a representative come in to talk with them in April or May regarding the Greenprint project. The Board said they would and requested Town Manager Morton to set a meeting for sometime in April or May.

- Energy Grant Project Proposal:

David went over information on the progress to date on the grant project. He is looking for one more endorsement from the Board to affirm that this is what the town is doing and moving ahead with the grant project. This endorsement would be in the form of a letter of support for the project. The proposal is to make energy efficient improvements to the SAD #61 High School that the \$14 million just approved by the voters did not encompass.

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (York) and unanimously voted to move ahead on the grant proposal for the Town of Casco's participation in the Energy Grant.**

Carroll Morton asked if Town Manager Morton had said that Naples and Raymond had not done this. Town Manager Morton said that was on the Greenprint issue. All four town managers in the SAD #61 towns are going back with a similar letter of support. Carroll Morton asked if all the towns had to do this to receive the grant. Town Manager Morton said it has more impact if all four towns are behind it.

Patricia Troy asked for clarification. Town Manager Morton responded that all four towns in SAD #61 will be contributing a portion of the grant through the school district. The towns will not be raising extra money for the match for the grant. Town Manager Morton indicated that this will come out of the current school budget. SAD #61 has said they would not increase the school budget to do the match. Town Manager Morton said it is his understanding that we are talking about the current budget.

- Review Of Overdue Tax Policies:

Town Manager David Morton said we are getting requests for tax payment arrangements for commercial properties, seasonal properties, etc. It has only been with the approval of the Board that Town Manager Morton has been able to make payment plans. Morton asked if the approval of the Board extended to commercial properties and seasonal properties.

Paul Edes said he can see it for residential properties as people are having a hard time. He does not think it should be for commercial or seasonal properties. Edes thought it should be for the original intent of preventing people from losing their homes.

Barbara York said that we should work with people to prevent foreclosure.

Carroll Morton asked what if, for instance, P & K Sand & Gravel had problems. If we foreclose on those properties, we would put people out of work. There ensued further discussion on this item. Town Manager Morton said he was not expressing an opinion, only stating his understanding of what the current policy was. York said that seasonal properties are a second home and people should be able to borrow on those properties to pay the taxes. Carroll Morton noted that the banks that the President bailed out are still in

trouble. C. Morton said we should work with the property owners. York asked about seasonal homes and not doing this for seasonal properties. Town Manager Morton said if we are providing that for other property categories, we should do it for all properties. York asked if we can force a payment arrangement if anyone is two years behind on their taxes. Town Manager Morton said that we can not force a payment arrangement. York asked how costly it would be to send notices of overdue taxes to everyone. Town Manager Morton said notices are sent to everyone every year. We send out return receipt notices prior to the liens being applied. York said we should allow all to have arrangements if they request.

Patricia Troy said we should look at what other towns are doing in these cases. Troy gave examples of what other towns are doing and cited what happened in Oxford. She would hate to see Casco in a situation like Oxford is in.

Gilbert Avery asked if we had many people that have requested payment arrangements. Town Manager Morton said we always have a few folks that request this, but this is the first time we have had a business request a payment arrangement. Morton said he needs to be sure the Board endorses this before he sets an arrangement for a business. Morton noted that most people are really good about keeping their payment arrangements; some people are not as good but they are making an effort. We have about a 95% collection rate which is very good. It is a small amount in comparison to the overall taxes. Avery said he was just wondering if this news got out that we are doing it for one how many more would want to do this. Morton said his sense is that this is not something we are going to have a lot of people running in to do. There was more discussion on this item.

Barbara York strongly feels that we need to work with the commercial ventures that request a payment plan. It will work the same as with residential payment plans. Town Manager Morton went over more information on payment plans that the town has approved. Morton noted that we have never evicted anyone from their home in the thirty-two years that he has been Town Manager. Carroll Morton said we might as well do all three categories the same.

**The Board of Selectmen moved (Edes), seconded (C. Morton) and unanimously voted to allow tax payment plans for all classifications of property.**

**Public Participation:**

- Holly Hancock had a question on the rabies clinic this weekend. She wants to know who set up the clinic. Hancock was advised that the Town Office set up the rabies clinic as has been done every year and that it has never been a problem. Hancock said that Animal Control Officer Bobby Silcott asked her what he needed to do regarding using the Company 2 station for the rabies clinic. Hancock said she would ask the on-duty Rescue crew to take care of moving the Rescue Unit out of the bay where the rabies clinic would be held.

- Holly Hancock also brought up that, at last night's Fire Department meeting, a question was raised about where the town's election equipment was going to be stored. The election equipment was in the upstairs main room and a small hallway to the closet areas. Town Manager Morton said that we have no other place to store it. Hancock said she was under the impression that it was going to be put in the old Rescue storage closet. Hancock asked who was leading the charge on the closet where the election booths and ballot boxes are going to be stored. There ensued further discussion on this issue. Lucille Griffin said that Rick Strout had offered to help clean the closet out and move the election equipment last week; however this is still a work in progress.

- Wayne Baird brought up a problem with a culvert on his road, Edes Falls Road, and asked what was being done about it. Town Manager Morton said that he did not have any money in the budget to do any more work on the culvert.

Also, Baird said that the ATV's on his road are a problem.

Carroll mentioned that a couple of hunters had come out on the Graffam Road and said that a rider on a black ATV, with no muffler, had harassed the hunters and they were quite upset. Town Manager Morton said the town will get the "No ATV" sign put back up on Edes Falls Road. Town Manager Morton asked Baird if the sign helped and Baird said he felt it helped. He doesn't mind if they go through slow but they go really fast and tear the road up.

- Holly Hancock advised that the codes at the fire stations are being changed. She said she will get the new code to the Town Manager Morton later this week.

**Other Business:**

- Liquor License Application For A Catered Function:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a liquor license application by Lake Region Caterers for a wedding to be held on November 28, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to midnight at the Grange Hall. **Following a brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen moved (York), seconded (Edes) and unanimously voted to approve the application for a liquor license for a catered function at the Grange Hall on November 28, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to midnight.**

**There being no further business to come before this meeting, the Board of Selectmen moved, seconded and voted to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

It was noted that next week's meeting will be a workshop meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Lucille D. Griffin, Deputy Town Clerk