

Town of Danville
Special Selectboard Minutes
November 10, 2023
Danville Town Hall (10:30 am)

Board Members Present Using Teams: Eric Bach, Peter Griffin, and Alison Low

Board Members Present: Janice Ouellette and Glenn Herrin

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero

Others Using Teams: Michael Wright Chief Executive Officer and Chief of CALEX Ambulance Service and Tracy M. Turner Calex Board of Director and health care and non-profit affiliate

Meeting called to order by Chair Eric Bach at 10:30 am.

1. **Issues and Information (All)**

(a) **Notice of Appeal to Environmental Division –**

Peter Griffin noted the information was confusing. He thought it was between neighbors and was a procedural process.

Alison Low discussed Toby Balivet going in as an observer. She discussed documentation of contentious relationship.

Eric Bach noted Toby Balivet can enter appearance on behalf of Town as he is Town Council.

Alison Low agreed with having Toby Balivet attend on behalf of Town.

Motion by Alison Low, 2nd by Janice Ouellette to have Toby Balivet represent the Town in the matter of the Appeal by John Reiss to the environmental court for the DRB decision which upheld a zoning permit for landowner on Old Bayley Hazen Road (Permit 2023-41).

Peter Griffin had concern for cost as he did not know how long this Appeal would take.

Glenn Herrin noted Bayley Hazen Road not served by Class 4 and not Town Road Policy.

Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

(b) **Calex –**

Eric Bach noted Ambulance Services Agreement is on non-renewal and the current Lease with the Town expired.

Michael Wright discussed monitoring trends since COVID, changes in health care and EMS, operational changes, per capita going from \$26.50 to \$45.00, being at a critical point, changes being necessary and study done by Ambulance Association. Lyndon Rescue at \$45 per capita with a single truck and pier diem. Calex is 24/7 and a two-truck operation. Reason for increase is state and federal reimbursements haven't changed. Community is Medicare covered and Medicare not covering EMS transports. Medicaid is worse and just paying Medicare rates if you are Medicaid person. Rise in non-billable calls such as lift assist, motor vehicle accidents and 911 calls whether Calex provides treatment or person refuses treatment. Being looked into is a way to pay EMS for transports. The concern is what kind of calls will they be paid for and what the payment will be. Costs are rising for fuel, medical supplies, insurance and pay increase for

staff. Michael Wright noted they need to be more competitive as they are losing staff to other places. \$45 per capita has built in raise to get them in level with others. They are looking into other options that can help such as possible merger with St. J. Fire Department. Calnex doesn't have retirement and they are losing people because of not having a pension plan. The municipal model brings in usable pension model, shift patterns and third truck will give them staffing ability. Bed and staffing at other hospitals has become an issue making significant delays getting patients to location because of bed and staff shortage. Self-pay and med pay are losing money due to distance. This is across the state. Several have joined forces and others have closed their doors. The increase is a tax burden but it ensures EMS coverage. There have been 178 calls from 911, 58 non transport and 120 were only billable calls.

Tracy Turner is on the Board of Directors for Calnex and comes from a health care and non-profit background. She noted Calnex will not be able to sustain at the current rates. The increase is needed to continue with emergency services.

Eric Bach doesn't see the increase as all that unreasonable.

Glenn Herrin wondered since Calnex is in merger talks with St. J, does rate make them soluble for the future.

Michael Wright noted it was same per capita whether they merged or not. It is the same per capita for towns and his thought was it is reasonable overall.

Peter Griffin concerned with month-to-month notation in letter.

Michael Wright noted it puts them in a better position. Merger will change contract so a new contract will need to come out.

Peter Griffin wondered if they could take the \$45 per capita and budget on it.

Michael Wright noted yes, and all was in line with merger.

Eric Bach discussed expiration of building lease.

Michael Wright discussed plowing noting help in Danville is needed because they struggle.

Alison Low noted there was ambiguity between 2b and 3 in the Lease.

Eric Bach noted it pertained to maintaining pathways to pavement. He discussed confirming in February that we do plowing during Keith Gadapee's regular routes.

Alison Low inquired if snow removal and sanding done by Town would Town bill.

Michael Wright noted no, that section would be removed.

Janice Ouellette inquired if Danville's Lease agreement was similar to the St. J's.

Michael Wright noted no, they own the St. J building.

Janice Ouellette inquired if they paid for plowing and sanding.

Michael Wright noted yes.

Janice Ouellette felt if Danville took care of snow and sand there should be compensation.

Michael Wright noted it was a public building owned by the Town and the situation was similar to the Danville Fire Department. Calex just staffs building as is done with fire. Michael Wright noted they were just asking to push front of bays during winter time.

Glenn Herrin inquired if he has spoken to Keith Gadapee.

Eric Bach noted yes. The large truck will fit but the pick-up is what they will use to clean up. The regular plow is what they use to do corners. They will do same time as intersections on routes and it is in the village limits any way.

Michael Wright discussed cost factor, availability issue, reaching out to folks and no one having availability. Weaver plows St. J and location is out of route. Town is out during winter time frame and building is on plow route. Cleaning needed during bigger storms.

Eric Bach discussed drifts noting they are large and need cleaning.

Michael Wright agreed.

Glenn Herrin inquired if there has been a discussion to transfer building to Calex.

Eric Bach noted no, Town inherited building when Rescue closed and Town folks wanted it.

Glenn Herrin noted he was fine with plowing until we clear this thing up with St. J.

Eric Bach discussed lease one year due to forthcoming change.

Michael Wright discussed month to month on lease and knowing before March about merger. He suggested to keep it simple, when they get to merger point then they will update document.

Consensus is to accept based on discussion.

(c) Recycle Center –

Eric Bach discussed unauthorized illegal dumping in scrap metal bin collection, how to fix unauthorized dumping and wondered if the scrap metal bin was a benefit.

Alison Low noted having the bin there was a deterrent for hoarding on property and dumping on side of road.

Eric Bach noted the bin has been taking up additional time and causing issues. He discussed a location on Bruce Badger Memorial Highway where scrap metal can be disposed of and previous purchases of hand tools by the Highway Department through small tool purchase from prior collection of small metal items.

Alison Low inquired how much Keith Gadapee receives from the dumpster.

Eric Bach noted nothing. Eric Bach had concerns with boundaries, book exchange and other exchanges in building because the more the Town keeps catering to people's specific needs the space gets smaller. He wondered if they were going to just recycle or expand as there are permits required with other things. He also wondered if the job description was appropriate. He discussed hours are expanding from Saturday to during week and wondered what are their longer-term goals, do they go back to original offer, expand, or go in between. He noted they would need to rely on people even though they want a one stop location.

Alison Low noted this recent illegal dump followed on the heels of outdated canned food drop. She thought it was great to have a one stop shop but if it means having people's

illegal means she is not in favor of expanding.

Glenn Herrin agreed. He noted they don't have to offer as a Town as all haulers are required to do so. He thought it was a slippery slope and you have to draw the line especially if it takes a lot of time.

Alison Low thought if they were going to get rid of scrap metal there should be something in the newsletter.

Glenn Herrin noted when it becomes a problem and costs money to the Town, then they need to make a change.

Eric Bach has heard that scrap metal is taking up a lot of time and that was not what was planned. The bin was for small items.

Alison Low is not convinced it will prevent illegal dumping.

Janice Ouellette is okay with getting rid of the scrap metal bin and suggested to put up signage 'we don't take scrap metal here' but posting information of Bruce Badger and All Metals in Hardwick.

Glenn Herrin is in favor of sign to give people information.

Selectboard discussed suggestions of where information could be listed: newsletter, Front Porch Forum, newspaper, fence, and building noting removal of bin was due to ongoing misuse.

Peter Griffin did not want to expand with oil or tires and wanted to get rid of scrap metal and improve monitoring.

Peter Griffin exited at 11:43 am.

Janice Ouellette discussed camera and locking gate.

Eric Bach discussed game camera.

Glenn Herrin wondered what would enforcement of illegal dumping look like.

Eric Bach discussed as a Health Officer he reports information to state police. He suggested the consider for future at the Town complex to see people in and out for a long-term process to look at cameras for complex.

Consensus was to look into but do not do at the present time game camera, surveillance camera, Monnit System, check with VLCT, look into Ring, proposals from electricians and the cost implications to the Town.

Eric Bach to reach out to Clayton Cargill. Notice to remove November 25 pull metal dumpster out.

2. **Adjourn** – Motion by Alison Low, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to adjourn at 11:56 am. All in favor.