

SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018 at 5:30 PM

Those attending: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Bernie Shatney, Jack Daniels, Karen Deasy, Steve Cox, Don Mitchell, Jeff Haslett, Richard Aronson, Lolli Arena, Aldo Nunn, Terri Nunn, Morgan Churchill, Richard Hourihan, David Pike, Bill Wheeler, George and Lynn Gokey, Sandy Pond, Brittany Butler, Bobby Searles, Kenny Gokey, David Creighton, Sidney Griggs, Glenn Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich, Michelle Leclerc, and Betty Ritter

1. The meeting was called meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred and seconded by Bernie to approve the agenda, there was no discussion. Motion passed.
3. Approve of Minutes:
 - a. July 2, 2018 Selectboard Meeting – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Fred to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed.
 - b. July 17, 2018 Selectboard Meeting – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Fred to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed.
 - c. Dog Hearing (5:00 p.m. hearing) – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Bernie. Motion carried.
 - d. Dog Hearing (6:00 p.m. hearing) – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Bernie. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment:
 - a. Jeff Haslett had a meeting with Jack on communications and transparency. He commented on the minutes of the July 17. These minutes stated that Karen indicated that it was VTrans that said the Danville Hill project (bottom of hill) that it does not meet the standard intersection. Jeff has investigated with VTrans and with Patty Coburn. Jeff handed out copies of the newspaper article. He reviewed the article. Jeff is still wondering where this originated from. Fred commented that it was already voted down by the Town and would like to have this tabled completely. Jeff again asked where this idea came from it. It did not originate from the state. Fred stated that, we the Selectboard, are supposed to be working for the residents. Fred would like to know where this came originated? Ruth Goodrich also would like to know. Jeff would like to make sure that the residents of the community know what's going on before the process begins. The residents want to know what's going on and are involved. The Danville Hill and Main Street Design project needs to be either going forward or discontinue the project. Karen said when they were doing the highway risk project that it exceeded their standards with the engineer. The project of line striping, signage and were not going to be put in. However, the line striping and the signage were done. Fred and Jeff would like to know the truth. Ruth would like to know who suggested this. Mathew from VTrans. Jack would like to finish this in executive session if it is a personnel problem. It is inappropriate to discuss this. Mike believes that this came up from VTrans. Ruth asked that the meeting be returned to Robert Rules. Richard Aronson would like to put this on the next Selectboard agenda. Jeff thinks this need to be voted on the agenda to vote on whether to go further with it. Jack stated that we have used executive session very little and have followed Robert Rules. Jack says we have never gone into executive session without it being the reason for executive session.
 - b. Richard Hourihan checked earlier with Betty as to where the pump was asked where the pump from the intersection of Danville Hill road (she advised him it was in the Town Garage for safekeeping when he called). Richie stated that there are a few people that would like to

- have the triangle repaired and have the pump cemented in. Richard Hourihan, Bobby Searles, Jeff Haslett, and David Pike would like to volunteer to put the water pump back in. The triangle and the placement of the water pump will be on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting.
- c. Ken Gokey is wondering why the school light is flashing in the middle of the night. He called the office and the person he talked to said she would have it fixed. The lights work now from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday. David Creighton is wondering if a bag will be put over it until it is fixed. Karen commented that the signs need to flash 7 am to 4 pm. The ordinance says Monday thru Friday all year around. Karen will turn it off for the night and check the programing again.
 - d. Ken Gokey says the Masonic lights go off at 10 p.m. Ken suggested that the lights be off at 5 a.m. Fred will look into the lights as a member of the Willey Building Committee.
5. Errors and Omissions – Betty reviewed the Error and Omissions as Jeanne was not able to make it tonight. She stated the totals of errors are \$5,318.66 in taxes. Jack would make a motion to approve the Error and Omissions of August 7, 2018 with a second by Bernie. Motion carried.
 6. Discuss and Adopt the Commercial Public Assembly Ordinance – Mike reviewed the Commercial Public Assembly comments. Jeff is wondering how it applies to the commercial part of the town? Fred would like to vote no on this. He has discussed this with the residents of Cabot. Bernie has agreed with Fred. Jack commented on why this has come up. The reason this has come up is because of the meetings after the Manifestivus there were many people upset regarding the noise. The only permit Cabot has for the Manifestivus is a conditional permit. That doesn't protect the Cabot residents. We need to be prepared in case another type of Manifestivus comes up. This gives the Town the ability to deal with another mechanism in place for neighbors, safety, medical, etc. We are doing this to be proactive and do the right thing in case something comes down the road. Jeff made comments that this should be residential. This should be not for commercial. Mike told him it is only for events where you pay to get into the event. Richard Hourihan believes that most of the complaints were a noise complaint. He suggests that there be a noise ordinance. Ken Gokey said he thinks Cabot has an ordinance for noise. Jack read the definition of from the Commercial Ordinance for clarification. Sandy Pond is wondering if no one is paying to have a party why don't they have to have a permit. It shouldn't matter if you pay to attend or not. Ruth Goodrich commented on when she was on the ambulance how big parties do follow the rules for security and proper procedures. Glen Goodrich asked how would you know how many people would be at an event? Mike is wondering if the Selectboard wants to table this or vote on it tonight. Fred would like to have the registered voters vote on it at the next town meeting. Bernie and Jack agree. Mike said it will be voted on at the next town meeting in March 2019 and if anyone has any comments or suggestions before that to please send them to the Town Clerk.
 7. Ambulance Update – Mike and Jack have been meeting with others on the ambulance situation. Jack's updated folks on the meeting with the Cabot Ambulance and there were 15 people who attended. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what will happen to the Cabot Ambulance service. At the moment Marshfield is doing an experiment with Barre town doing the ambulance. Do we want to keep Cabot as is, or contract out to Barre Town. We now allot \$15,000 a year from Cabot and if we contract with Barre town it could be up to \$50,000. We could also see how it will work with Cabot on the night and weekends and contract out during the day. Richard Hourihan's wife is an RN who would help out. She could be one of the responders. Ruth advised anyone on call would still need to go through training. Jack asked Ruth about the ambulance. The ambulance volunteers are having issues being on call at all times. The continuing education is very serious.

You have to go wherever the class is located. It is expensive having to pay a salary and benefits for a full time ambulance paramedic. They suggested that nurses still need to have the continued education. Biggest dilemmas are they want to learn and then after being educated wants to be on a paid squad and often leave after they receive the education for either a paid position at one of the ambulance services or go to the hospital. The reason it took 55 minutes for the ambulance to respond to an emergency is that they received the wrong address and the wrong town.

8. CCIF – Plan changes – Frank Kampf was supposed to be here to talk about this. We will table it until Frank will be able to attend the meeting. Jack would like to have a meeting at 5:30 on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 to discuss the plan with the public. Steve Cox requested to have a meeting later for people working. Have a special meeting at 6 p.m. instead on another meeting hooked onto a Selectboard meeting. It has to be scheduled with CCIF and most likely will be in September as a standalone meeting.
9. Dog Complaint withdrawal – Betty commented that a dog complain has been withdrawn.
10. Contract Buyout – 63 Sawmill Road – Karen has been working with FEMA on purchasing the land on 63 Sawmill Road. The time frame from the CDBG is expiring. The CDBG is offered to help purchase the property which is part of the Quichee Regional planning and another group for working on demolition to bid. The purchase includes the building but not the dam. Paperwork needs to be signed and RFP for removal. The amount the residents of Cabot are responsible for would be \$11,000. David Pike would like to know the advantages for the Town of Cabot. Will it alter the flood plan on the structures in that area? Richard Hourihan is wondering how much property taxes the town will be losing. Richard Hourihan is wondering if the Town is going to buy the Lower Cabot Store. Mike stated that we are not at the moment as we are talking with FEMA. Bobby discussed the flood insurance with his property and other town property. Terri is wondering if the West Hill Pond Dam goes then will the Town will be responsible with any problems. Karen is not sure who owns the property. The property who controls the water is the Sawmill property owner. Lolli made some comments on the West Hill Pond Dam. Fred wants to know how the Sawmill Property relates to the West Hill Pond Dam. Karen said the Sawmill Property has the water rights to the West Hill Pond Dam. Fred wants to know who is responsible for any issues with the Dam. Karen says the owner of the West Hill Pond Dam is responsible. Steve is wondering if the Town of Cabot owns the property? Mike says they haven't signed the paperwork. Karen stated it is 25% of the value. Richard Hourihan would like to know how much taxes are being paid? Terri Nunn is wondering who will fix the damage if the water creates a problem and who will be liable. Mike said it's a legal question that will have to be discussed with our Town attorney. David would like to know who pays taxes on West Hill Pond and that was answered the land owners who surround the pond. Betty indicated the taxes for 2018-19 are \$532.82.

At this point, we needed to go into the Informational Hearing so we will suspend the Selectboard Meeting until the Informational Hearing is completed. Jack made a motion to suspend the Selectboard meeting at 7:02 p.m. Fred 2nd. Motion passed.

The Informational Hearing ended at 7:39 p.m. and motion was made by Jack that we resume the Selectboard meeting with a second by Fred, motion passed.

Sandy commented that more paperwork on the project should be provided. Glenn Goodrich asked if there is any way to do the work on the property without purchasing the property? Could the present landowner get the grants? Karen says the grant will pay 75% of the assessed value of the grand list.

The program is the town has to own the land to have the dam removed. David Pike is wondering who wants the dam out. Mike said the select board agreed that the something needs to be done about the dam as the buildings falling into the river. Bobby is wondering if it has been explored with the current owner about having the dam removed. Karen said the way the state would remove the property would be the town owning the property. Ruth is wondering if the state told the town to remove the dam? Karen commented that No the state did not. The landowner was approached about the removing the buildings and the dam. He decided that from his perspective to sell the property and get some value from the property and get rid of it. Richard Hourihan asked if the Friends of Winooski been notified on the building falling into the river? Yes they have been notified. He thinks the owner should be responsible.

The Town was given a grant to investigate getting rid of the dam. Morgan Churchill is wondering if this purchase could be moved to a town vote. Karen said if we don't do this now, we will lose the opportunity. The funds expire December 31, 2018. If it was voted in November, there will not be enough time to go thru. Bobby is wondering about why the FEMA application was taking too long. Karen explained that the CDBG funds will expire at the end of the year. There still is an option thru FEMA but take more time for the money with no guarantee. Mike asked the board what they wanted to do. Fred does not want to vote and table it. Bernie would like to vote. Jack would like to table it until they receive more information. Fred would like to know at the next meeting what will happen if the town does nothing? Brittany Butler asked questions regarding the property and why should the town take the liability of the property falling into the river. Glenn Goodrich is wondering if there is anything with the historical preservation.

11. Update To Do List – We will work on this at the next SB meeting.

12. Danville Hill – Concern about accidents by Well House – Jeff has concerns on the accidents that have happened at the Danville Hill Well House. He described the accidents that have happened there. He would like to have the accessed fixed so people who are driving by that ramp in the winter. Aldo commented on the road that people need to be more careful. The town will put reflectors and a sign post.

13. Approved Findings for Road Reclassification – this will be at the next SB Meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

14. Water Project – Karen received a certificate of the completion of the water project. Karen discussed the remaining projects that need to be done. Karen stated that the lower part of Danville Hill will be paved along with other places to be paved. Fred thought that we were waiting until spring to pave Danville Hill to wait until it has a chance to settle with Bernie agreeing. The punch list has not been completed. Jeff asked if she will be looking at the project. Fred asked if this will be the final decision on the paving. Karen asked if the Cabot Plains Road and the Common Road and Main Street spot in front of the Church and a part in front of the stone wall by Elm Street. Fred asked Karen to look into patching the sidewalk area that is hard to plow.

15. Water and Wastewater – Karen asked the Selectboard to give permission for a resident in town who purchased and changed it to a two residence and now has to connect to the wastewater system but has not done the permitting. Jack says the individual needs to comply with the wastewater ordinance. The property is on Route 215 South.

16. Road Commissioner

- a. Project Schedule – Paving two quotes from Johnson \$27,270 and Pike Industries \$26,316. Jack made the motion to go with Pike to do Cabot Plains, Common Road and Main Street from Elm Street. Fred 2nd. Motion passed. Mike asked when it will be done. Karen said probably September. Quote for the culvert \$119,780 on Porter Road with Contact Engineering Solutions. This project will all be done by the end of the year and this project will be done by September if signed tonight. Jack moved that approve for \$119,780 the purchase of the box culvert which will be paid for by a grant for the Porter Road project.
- b. Right of Way Permit – Washington Electric – on Walbridge Road to the Gile's property from David Pike's land. Everyone is in approval of this. Jack made the motion to approve the right of way permit for Gile's property. Fred 2nd. Motion passed.
- c. Other Business – Fred spoke to Aldo and Sid about fixing the holes in the Willey Building parking lot. Karen suggested they put stay mat down.
- d. Karen received a letter today from the state on the fill issue in Lower Cabot at Tim's place. In order to close out the project and call it complete the state has issued a Civil Complaint. If the Town appeals that it will cost the town \$475 and other fees or pay \$600 to accept the complaint. Fred wondered why we have received this. When the fill was going in the neighbor complained about the fill. This spring the highway was going to remove it. The reason for the \$600 was because of the time it took for the process to do the removal. Bernie moved that the town pay \$600 to close out. Jack 2nd. Motion passed.

17. Cemetery – Removal of trees (RFP) – Fred discussed the problems with the trees at the cemeteries. There are around 27 trees that need to be taken down. It will cost around \$60,000. Ruth was wondering about getting a grant to cut some on the trees. The grants will take too long to get when the trees need to come down now. Karen said that there are trees that are marked in the cemetery. Karen is looking into grant funds for removing more trees. Brittany Butler suggested setting money aside of tree removal in the future. Fred would like Betty to research insurance on the cemetery trees.

18. Town Clerk

- a. Orders - None
- b. Other Business – Betty reminded the Selectboard to sign up for the primary work. Betty is working on getting a conference phone system in the meeting room.

19. Other Business – Jack has noticed on the town garage gate is not closed. When they are not there working, the gate needs to be closed. Jack would like video cameras at the garage. David Pike would like to know when the road sides will be mowed. They will do it again in September.

20. Executive Session – Personnel issue 8:54 p.m. A motion as made by Fred and seconded by Jack, motion passed. Adjourn Executive Session at 9:20 pm.

21. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter,
Town Clerk/Treasurer