

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Ruth Goodrich, John Cookson, Larry Gochey, Larry Gochey, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter. Via zoom: Fred Ducharme, Matt Nally, Karlyn Schmidt, Trish and Stephen Cox, Aldo Nunn, Frank Kampf, Jeanne Johnson, Jim Wolyntez, Gary Gulka, Johanna Thibault, Heather Burak, Dun Dunham, Beth Wade, Jenn Miner

1. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Fred Ducharme
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Ruth with a second by Matt to accept the agenda. Ruth asked if we could go into Executive Session after another business/ A motion was then made by Ruth with a second by Mike to amend the agenda to go into Executive Session, motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from Minutes from December 15 Budget Meeting and December 15 SB Meeting – A motion was made by Ruth with a second by Mike to approve both sets of minutes. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
5. Marshfield Select Board/NEKWM – Recycle Center - No one from Marshfield came in on zoom. What would happen if Marshfield doesn't pay anything? John felt that it was up to the rest of the board and he should recuse. Mike – suggested for people outside of Cabot to pay for some of these costs. Fred wondered would John would have to cover the recycling center if it is mandated through ANR. Paul felt that Marshfield should pay something and not let Marshfield take their recycle to Cabot. We could possibly charge for bundling of trash and recycle. Jim: Marshfield should pay something for half of this. Fred is trying to figure out how this work. John thought it there is another idea of trying to market some of the items we have such as cardboard. He needs to talk to NEKWM. Trish Cox – understand that there are a considerable amount of people from Marshfield, she was wondering about Walden. John stated that in summer there are people from many areas. Trish agrees that Marshfield should pay their portion. It was suggested that we send Marshfield an invoice. Ruth suggested that Marshfield by July 1 send them a quarterly invoice. Fred wanted to know if they don't send us any money what happens. John stated that he would have someone down there to help check them out. Jim - we have to be careful for the trash and the recycle. He is trying to take care of this. Send them Marshfield a certified letter advising that they should be willing to pay. It is a convenience for other towns and Cabot is paying for the entire bill. Matt – he thinks we are putting John in a difficult position. If Marshfield doesn't want to go we need to have someone there to police who is using. Trish – we really need to have Marshfield pay or they are no longer allowed to use the Marshfield. Mike will draft a letter to send this out. If they don't comply, July 1 then would not allow Marshfield to use Recycle Center. Jim – if they decide not to use it, what about John's income. John is not concerned about this. Trish stated that she is concerned about and should put a sign Cabot Residents only.
6. Conservation Committee – Appointment of new member – They currently have 5 members and would like to appoint James Wolyntez to the Committee, bringing the number to six. A motion was made by Mike to have James Wolynetz to the Conversation Committee with a second by Ruth. Motion carried.
7. Emergency Management Update – Jenn stated they are 165 cases, 1 positive member in Cabot. Hospital needs are increasing. The state is actively working on immunization, they are concerned about other strains are much more contagious than what we have. Are the restrooms used in public buildings and are they properly cleaned. Betty stated that only employees are using them. Concerned about the Wastewater. Fred is concerned about John using the wastewater facility. John – if we shut it down for six months he has no problem in not using it. Ruth talked about the WW plant – we are in a closed plant. There is a big concern about the plant. As we go forward with the once a week is not adequate. We need to ramp up a little bit to have it cleaned after each use. Provide a signage about cleaning after each use. We need to supply cleaning materials for each bathroom. Need to contact Masonic Hall and Fire Department. We should not fall in false security. Jenn – stated that she has put anything about the information. No one has. We have a total of 14 as of today. Jenn is concerned about complacency.
8. Errors and Omission – 2 cases that need to change. Mike and Ruth approved; motion by certificate – Mike,, second Fred
9. Recreation Committee – netting on soccer field – no one was here. John question about Jessica North. Betty explained about the netting. John felt they have enough money is they should pay out of their budget. Betty will let them know.

10. Town Meeting

- a. Articles for Town Meeting Warning – Signature or no signature required. – no signatures required. Jim W has put an article in “Shall the town of Cabot consider an EV charging station in the Willey Building. Betty would like to have a study of how much what it will cost. Fred asked if it says someone is paying. Ruth says it might be paid by others. Jim put the work ultimately 96% of the cost for installation from Efficiency of VT. Jim sent an application to the CCA for \$1000 grant and he received a \$500 with a match for that. To this date he has received \$250 from local people. If he doesn’t raise it he will pay kick in. Fred says that we would get \$1500 back from Efficiency of VT. Ruth wants to know who is collecting money for this and who will be in charge of this. Jim talked with Town of Plainfield and they haven’t had any abuse. Ruth asked how they collect their money and they have a donation station. Matt does the warning ask for a study for location. Betty said it doesn’t but should we study it to consider it. Also, that the donations from the people driving them are responsible and do the right thing. Jim said the station is free. To install the system would be \$50. Jim said Town of Marshfield and Peacham are going to install an EV station. Mike wants to know what the maintenance fee is. Jim says there is none. Matt thinks there will be used by snowmobile. What is the replacement cost is someone drives away with the plug in. Jim says the car will not move if it is still plugged in. Larry checked on this last summer and went over to Martys in Danville. Martys station uses a credit card to charge. Jim looked into that system and it will cost around \$8000. Jim thinks that being at the Willey Building is an ideal location for cars and snowmobiles. Ruth is wondering which pole he is talking about. Third pole would be ideal. Dan said that there is already a plan for this which the Willey Building committee has set up. Ruth said that is the same corner where the Creamery would have the guide wire. No it is not. John says its three poles up. Fred said there is line already set up. John is wondering if we should put this on the ballot for the voters. Mike will make one recommendation. Should the Town of Cabot “approve” not consider. Ruth is not against or for but just a couple of things to consider about putting money in the box for donation. Maybe having a switch in the building. Is there going to be an issue with other traffic in the building. Jim said the Town of Plainfield hasn’t had that issue. Gary said that is sound no cost and no issue. He would like to have the support take a vote to see if they support it or not. Matt would like to go ahead with it. Ruth it might be wise to allow the people the Town of Cabot to see if they would like this on the town property. Fred said to put it on as a separate article. Ruth moved to put it before the voters with a second by Mike. Motion passed. Betty said use Jim’s working except “approve” instead of consider.
- b. Virtual Town Meeting/Delay of Town Meeting – legislature is not allowing virtual – would like to keep the same date. Betty is not in favor of delaying the town meeting. We will work on the spacing. Only allow so many people. Fred doesn’t go along with that. Mike has an idea. The town meeting should all be Australian ballot. Mike motioned that all positions normally voted on Town Meeting and utilizing a voice vote from the floor shall be cancelled for the 2021 Cabot Town Meeting due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Those positions and their terms shall be extended one year until Town Meeting 2022. Positions extended are as follows: Lister, Delinquent Tax Collector, Grand Juror, Cemetery Commissioners, Library Trustee, Recreation Committee, CCIF, and Willey Building with a second by Ruth. Motion carried. People will come in as November at the Willey building and that worked very well. Informational meeting will be virtual and will be 10 days before town meeting. Larry asked about absentee ballots. Betty said it will be like any other election. Jen is asking a question about the other positions that are voted on after town meeting. Some zoom platforms don’t operate if there is all lot of people on. Mike wants to vote on the motion. Motion passed.
- c. Timelines for Town Meeting Articles – January 14 – Betty send a note sent to all committees and has received a couple back but will send another one tomorrow.
- d. Dedication of Town Report (must decide tonight) – what about the town in general – take a few pictures of the different businesses and Willey Building for front cover and dedication inside of how we all pulled together during the Covid crises. A suggestion was dedicating to the Town of Cabot because we have all pulled together and take a picture of a collage. Have a picture on the front and an article in the town of pulling together. Trish Cox thought of Pete Ackermann and all he gave to the Town of Cabot. If he was still her he would be a worker. Do Peter Ackermann and the Town of Cabot. With special recognition to the essential workers. This was put into a motion by Ruth and seconded by John, motion passed.

11. Water/Wastewater

- a. Other Business – Betty just finished with the grant with the State of Vermont for the membranes. We should be getting the money eventually.
- b. Approve Water Budget – need to approve tonight. We will have to raise the base fee from \$110 to \$130 quarterly fee. A motion was made by Fred that we increase the base fee from \$110 to \$130 with a second by Mike. Motion carried. What happens to lose another station (wastewater)?

12. Highway

- a. Porter Road – is done with the exception of the trees to be planted in the Spring.
- b. Sale of Grader Shed Information – any other discussion – or can I put out to sell by bid – Michelle talked with quite a few people from grants to transportation grants. All said grants are closed and we can sell it. Appraised value is \$52,500 for the entire property. Trish wanted to know the values – it is tax exempt because the Town

owns it. It will go back as taxable. We will advertise. Steve wanted to know why the 1/8th of an acre why it is so high. We have to proceed like we did with other properties. Trish thinks that it would be to the advantage to have someone to appraise it. Everything is up to code. Fred we want to advertise. A motion was made to advertise in Times Argus, Caledonia, and Front Porch Forum - \$52,500 plus administrative cost by Ruth, second by Mike. Motion carried.

1. Dan Dunham would like to discuss the grader shed – Would we consider giving his business right of first refusal. Ruth explained the right of first refusal. Dan would like to have the Town sell the property for the value of the property and administrative costs. John – if we put it up for advertisement and you can pay for it and no one else bids on it then he would have it. They will be sealed bids. Wanted to know if we could tell him how many bid on it. Tish – has the Town considered auction? We did, but we did not because of Covid. Heather – the asking price if they are lower, they will not accept. Trish – what does the Town do not get the minimum bid. We don't sell it.
- c. Coverage for road crew in case of emergency – Not sure if Chris from Marshfield is going to discuss this or not – Fred will check with him.
- d. Sidewalk, dry hydrants and snow clearance – John and Ruth would like to discuss in Executive Session. Fred is discussing executive session. Ruth feels that we are down a person due to an injury. We should consider hiring for someone to do this job. As much as their intention is good, but we need to get this done. Fred – let the road crew do what they do and hire someone for the other items. Ruth moved that we hire someone to specifically to plow Recycle Center, Willey Building, Masonic Hall, and sidewalks and hydrants. Mike second. Mike stated that we have there is a complete list of what is to be done with a second by John. Motion carried. Send the list to the Board. John said that in a big snow storm it would be at least 8 hours. Trish wanted to know when and who will contact them. Trish wanted to know who will contact them. The Select Board is the supervisor and will contact the person.
- e. Other Business – Betty wanted to let everyone know about Sid's injury while at work.
- f. Ruth wanted to know about better communication with the highway crew. Such as Porter Road. Just want a communication. Aldo said he can do this.

13. Town Clerk's Office

- a. Orders
- b. Appropriation Consideration for Washington County Mental Health – consider this since it was late and new turnover of people not knowing about this \$1,600 – Because it came in considerably later, we will not be able to honor it.
- c. Other Business

14. Other Business - there was no other business.

15. A motion was made by Mike to go into Executive Session with a second by Ruth. Motion carried. We went into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. and came out at 9:14 p.m.

16. Adjourn - Mike moved that we adjourn and Fred seconded. Motion carried. We adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer