

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Ian Ackermann, Irv Robbins, Lisa Olsen, Gary Gulka, Jenn Miner, Kris Schmidt, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Frank Kampf, via zoom: Ruth Goodrich

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Would like to add a note under Other Business regarding Cabot Creamery. Motion carried with amendment.
3. Approve Minutes from Budget Meeting, October 19 SB Meeting, October 25 Budget Meeting (defer 10-25 as Ian was not present and we did not have a quorum to approve these minutes), November 8, and SB Minutes from November 9. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Irv Robbins appreciates how time is for working on the budget. Irv believes that the Class IV roads are considered a nuisance by many. He checked with East Calais does grade the roads two times a year and add gravel, and Danville does the same. The lower part of Last Road seems to be worse than when he moved here. Mike stated that he wants to have the highway crew come and speak about the Class IV roads to see what can be done. Irv suggested that if you would take the taxes of the Class IV residents and use these taxes to fix these roads it would work out. Ian stated that in order to fix the Class III roads it cost about \$20,000 per 1,000 feet. We are going to add \$120,000 to the budget for this to bring them up to the standards the State is now requiring. If we have some money left, we will put this aside to work on the Class IV in the spring. Ian also said that he will review each Class IV road and asked Irv to come with him. Irv asked if he could just grade the road.

Ian discussed about geo-thermal study with Cabot Creamery. Is there any discussion going on? Ian will keep in touch with Jan and the possible housing for Cabot Creamery employees. Ian will check and follow through with this.

He also said that he talked with Jan about putting a mirror on the building for a view of US 215 so people from Whittier Hill can see if anyone is coming. He had no objection to this and will get a mirror for this.

5. Emergency Management Update – three confirmed new cases in Cabot. Things are going on status quo. They are looking to have legislature come back to decide if the Towns would enact the mask in meetings. If this happens, we will have to be masked for any meeting.
6. ARPA Funding –
 - a. Water, Office Equipment/Recycle/Willey Building Repair Requirements – Jim was waiting to hear about the water system if we want it done this winter and defer WW still next spring. It would be approximately \$30,000.00. A motion was made by Fred to approve ARPA funding for approximately for no more than \$30,000 to upgrade the Cabot Water System with a second by Ian, motion carried.
 - b. Heat pumps – Betty said that Bournes will be coming in on Thursday to work on an estimate on the heat pumps. She may have more information in the near future.
 - c. We need to get the railings on the front entrance of the building repaired and we are required by PACIF to have railings on the loft on the third floor. There is enough in the budget at the present time that we can fix them without going through ARPA.
 - d. A new copier for the Town Clerk's office is on hold until Mike hears back from VLCT.
 - e. Recycling – the garage door needs to be replaced. Animals are getting into the compost. There is also lighting that needs to be replaced in the recycle center as it is rather dark in the building. Mike will be checking into this.
7. Gary Gulka – Trails Committee and Recreational Grant Application – Gary to looking for an approval of a grant application for parks and recreation in the amount of \$62,500. This grant is from Forest and Parks. They invited Cabot to submit an application. The Planning Commission endorsed the application. This is to develop trails throughout Cabot along with parking areas. This is also to pay for a steward to make sure the trails are kept up and they also need landowner's permission including the municipality. Mike stated that it is an absolute necessity to have the permission of the landowners. The administrator will be in the amount of \$10,000 to make sure all things regarding the trails is taken care of. They would have to hire someone to oversee this as they are all volunteers. Ian asked if they would have any idea how much that would cost to maintain the trails after the grant runs out. Many of the trails are already being taken care of. This is where the steward trails will come in. The board seems to not having any problems with

this grant. A motion to approve to the Forest Parks and Recreation grant of \$62,500 over two year by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried.

ARPA funding for Trails – waiting on this one. Mike is working with someone with VLCT. They are not wanting to spend money on regular budget items.

8. Water/Wastewater

- a. Other Business – Dufrense Engineering won the bid for the contract for mandatory evaluation of plant in the amount \$48,750. This will be reduced by on-half after the certification is completed. ANR has a program to pay it off in 5 years with zero interest. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian, motion carried.

9. Highway

- a. Ian – Update from Highway – Talked with Jan about a mirror on the building. It is okay to put up a mirror. \$12,000 for grader tires – 4-5,000 hours. Tires should be in this year. They will be ordered tomorrow. We have put changed them 3 times in 4,000 hours. The newer ones will last longer. Cabot Plains and Houston Hill - \$70,000. NICOM will seal the cracks, \$4,250 per day (will schedule two days). In 2023 we will begin work on Mack Mountain and 2023 Whitter Hill, 2024.
- b. Other business – Recycle Center would like to get boulders across the lawn as people tend to drive on the lawn to drop off recycle items at other times besides Saturday. He would also like to get the gate repaired. Ian will check into both of these items.

10. Town Clerk's Office

- a. Orders – they have been signed.
- b. Approve Line of Credit – Passumpsic Bank – Every year we have a line of credit from Passumpsic Bank in the amount of \$500,000. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Ian. Motion carried.
- c. Other business – there was no other business for Town office.

11. Other Business

- a. Mike will be sending letter (via email) to Agrimark for a pretreatment fund regarding the wastewater plant. We are no under obligation, this is just a letter supporting their efforts. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian. Motion carried.
- b. Kris wanted to know if the Town would be able to plow the parking areas for the trails. That is a good question and would check into this.
- c. Ruth – believed that we could not increase the flow amount for the wastewater system. We will check this out.

12. Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred and second by Ian. Motion carried and we adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer