

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, June 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, R. D. Eno, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Ian Ackermann, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter, Dean Deasy, Nathan Smith, Brittany Butler, Kris Schmitt, Ellen Cairns, Jenn Miner Will Ameden, Larry Gochey, Sandy Ponds, Karen Larsen, Neils Larsen, Ruth Goodrich, Neil Larsen, Richard and Connie Hourihan, Steve Cox, John Cookson; those via zoom: Gary Gulka, Kathleen Hoyne, Jason Monaco, Jeanne Johnson, Roland Payne, Dan Dunham, Bill Delgaido, Eric Scribner, Stephen Hogan

1. The meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Before we start Mike would like to take a moment or prayer for Bill Livendell. It was a great example of working together in the middle of day to save home and possibly the man living there. Mike wanted to thank the fire departments that worked together. There were many departments that answered the call and all were there to save the life of a man and the home. We then had a moment of silence.
3. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred, with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
4. Approve Minutes from Minutes from June 7, 2022 – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment – Betty advised that because of the rapid draw down there is a boil water in place. We are working on getting samples. It may take a couple of days, but we will know soon and let everyone know ASAP. I talked with someone at the State explaining about the water level going down with a large draw from the hydrants so quickly. They advised this is normal for small municipalities. Betty also wanted to assure that we are on top of this with H2O Innovations. We are hoping this will be taken care of very quickly.

Jenn advised that our Emergency Management Plan is signed and in place.

Kris wanted to know who painted the South Walden Road lines and would like to have Ian look at this. He agreed that he would look at this.

6. Fire Department – New firehouse proposal/discussion. Chief Deasy, Will Ameden, and Nathan Smith were in attendance for this presentation. He passed out information to the SB and this will be available on our Town website shortly, along with the audio presentation for a fuller presentation. He gave an overview of the need for a new fire station. Dean gave a history of the fire department and how fighting fires have changed over the years. Discussed about the new location at 2466 Main Street. Kris Schmitt has joined the Fire Department Building Committee. He then introduced Assistant Chief Will Ameden and he discussed the Junior Fire Fighter’s Program. Nathan Smith then talked about the new building and its importance. Nathan emphasized how much the FD thinks of the importance of the ambulance. Dean wanted to thank the SB and would ask that the SB allow 3 items: (1) to contract with a construction management for consultation at no cost. (2) Checking into practical alternative funding such as grants to offset the funds from the Town. (3) To have the Town Clerk open an account for a building fund for donations. He then opened it up for comments and questions.

Questions: Kris Schmitt – does the Town have a policy for bids? If possible, there should have at least three.

Karen Larsen – fuller understanding of the emergency building – has an impression of safety. If the current building is not in compliance with current regulations, do we need to have a new building, or will the FD need to close? Dean stated the state has guidelines to go by. Ventilations of the trucks is critical and decontamination, equipment, showers for personnel is essential. She is enormously proud of her son who has been on two fully engulfed fires and a car dealing with a fatality.

Bill Delgaudio – his sons were the first on the scene – there were a lot of smoke. Had to call in other fire departments helped to take the pressure off the rest of the fire fighters. He was very grateful with sincere appreciation. There were 11 different towns represented.

Neils Larsen – appreciate what his grandson has learned. Need to take the next step of the concept of the cost, grants, some of the consequences if we don’t do something about the building.

Ruth Goodrich – served on ambulance on a good many years and highly respect their professionalism. Understand the toxicity – it was toxic in the village of Marshfield during the fire. We don’t realize what we have in our homes. It is critical that we have the young people for fire departments and the ambulance. In emergency situations you can carry at least 70 lbs of weight. She understands the need for a new facility – good solid foundation, cost analysis, with designs of 3

architects. We also need to keep up with the upgrades of the current building. Thank you for painting the conference room.

Sandy wanted to know about the Class 4 roads. How would it have been protected. How do we plan to take care of the Class 4 roads. Dean has been going down Class 4 roads to check them out. He has been down Last Road and Cabot Plains. Down the road perhaps we could have a smaller truck that would have a pump on it. We can look at this. We would have room for this in the new structure. Dean encouraged these residents to take a look at their driveway on these Class 4 roads. Would be happy to look at it. Sandy wanted to know the mystery architect. He asked that his name would not be mentioned.

Larry – what about Marshfield and Walden. Dean stated the Marshfield is looking to add on a bay at a cost of \$1 million and Walden is quite concerned about carcinogenics as we are. East Montpelier is just added on another bay at a cost of \$1 million. Woodbury is constructing a new building. They initially were looking at one larger building, however they are going to keep the old building for a total sq ft 17,000. Larry wanted to know what we are going to do with the old fire station. Dean said that is up to the SB and the voters.

RD wanted to review the 3 items that was a request.

- A. SB to allow the Building Committee to contact a construction management company for a free proposal;
- B. The Building Committee can investigate for alternative fundings such as HR 3728 and grants; and
- C. To request the Town Clerk to open an account for building donations for the people who wish to donate.

Grant picture are always changing – RD wants to know if the FD can apply for grants. Dean stated that we can apply for grants with the approval of the Planning Commission. Jenn – when Kris and her met with FD – they are aware of the process.

Eric Scribner – next door neighbor to building lot – proposed is residential – moving to that new property. You are going to uproot neighbors. Would like to have you look at alternative location.

RD – wanted to review the process went through. Dean we looked at several locations and this one had town water and sewer, 3 phase power which helps with lower electric bill. Lot that was level and good site lines and this checked all the boxes. We looked at 6 other locations, they looked at 6 locations. Understand that there are residential homes on both sides. We would build back toward the property not upfront, lowered noise.

John – what about the recycling facility for a building. It has 3-phase power. Was it every looked at? Dean stated that it was looked at. Couple of issues one was the bridge, the width and we would have to rebuild it. Right hand turn would be very hazardous.

Ellen Cairns – thanks the FD – it was interesting and informative and the way it is transparent. Continue to have zoom meetings.

Richard Hourihan – Karen asked if the fire dept. would be closed if we don't get a new fire station. Will the state make us close? We don't have an answer to this.

Ian – safety is very important.

Dean – currently – we are not going to close. State has come through with written violations and placed us on file. They know we are working toward a solution.

Neil Alexander – would the station close. It has always been a safety issue. Poses a question the building is not safe.

RD – to Richard's point – it reminds of when the state forced us to build a wastewater plant. The state would have to take action if we didn't do something.

Mike – Dean inferred about businesses in Town – and how important it is to have a fire station in town for the Creamery, and they are planning to build out behind their present location. If we are going to grow economically both in homes and businesses, it is essential to have a fire station.

Ruth – is the Creamery willing to put some money in. Dean - Yes, they are. State had concerns with the pond on 2466 Main Street. Does it go down to ww plant – could damage membranes. When the ambulance comes back – hospital lets them do some preliminary cleaning, but not completely. She fully supports to clean out ambulance when returning to the fire station. Understand the need to have space.

Larry – Back when we had to do the WW plant, we were thinking about thinking about buying some land from Connie. Over where the cemetery is – why that wouldn't be a good place. We don't have to worry about neighbors.

Karen – when she moved to Cabot from another place, she was neighbor to a fire house. They can make excellent neighbors. Landscaping screening, and mitigating can make it look good.

Mike we are going to have other meetings and we will put information on the website for complete transparency.

RD – move that we authorize the FD to seek cost estimates from a construction company at no cost and authorize FD building committee to investigate grant opportunities and set up a Town account – for emergency management fund with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

7. ARPA – Funding request from Conservation Committee – Discussion-continuation of natural community study – to be discussed further.
8. RD would like to have the SB Approve a Resolution authorizing the Planning Commission to move forward with its application for a new Village Center Designation. RD read the following resolution: That the Planning Commission of the Town of Cabot is authorized and encouraged by the Selectboard of the Town of Cabot to apply on behalf of the Town of Cabot for Village Center Designation, and to establish the boundaries of the village for this purpose, and.

That the Planning Commission is further authorized and encouraged to enlist the assistance and participation of other municipal bodies, including the Zoning Administration, the Development Review Board and the Selectboard in compiling a successful application. This was seconded by Mike. Larry was concerned are we opening another village. Jenn explained this is not the case but only to show that we have an area for village center designation for tax breaks, grants and benefits. We are asking that the center be from the rec field to Cabot Creamery. After this discussion the Resolution was approved.
9. Trails Grant Approval and Signs on Class 3 and 4 Roads-Gary Gulka, he is secretary to Trails. We still do not have the approval for the grant and will bring it to the SB when we receive it. They also discussed putting signs on Class 3 and 4 roads. It will be a 6x8 metal sign. Gary will check with the Department of Transportation to see if there is any problem with this and will be on the agenda for July 5.
10. Animal Control Officer Discussion – opening. Betty has a possible candidate and will advise if this person is interested as soon as she hears back.
11. Replacement of Trees on the Common – Roland – cherry trees or disease-free chestnut trees. Fred wanted to know what takes the most water usage. It was decided on Chestnut trees. Roland said these will be planted in the fall.
12. Water/Wastewater
 - a. Other Business - no other business
 - b. Water RD was concerned about the drawdown. This was an emergency situation, and it did not affect the quantity of water that we have. It was asked why we are not using the ponds. Skip said that the ponds were too far away for this. The reason the water went down so quickly was due to so many FD's drawing in succession.
13. Highway
 - a. Back roads have had chloride put down.
 - b. Pick up – the pickup is getting old and tired, and it just cost \$2,200 in repairs. It is a 2015.
 - c. Roadside mowing – need to get new blades. Ruth said that Glen could show them how to sharpen the blades.
 - d. They will begin ditching on West Shore Road.
 - e. They found sand \$2.00 less a ton from Ken Davis in Hardwick.
 - f. Ellen wanted to know about the budgeting process. We do try to plan to try to replace our trucks. Mike stated that we have budgeting meetings that are open to the public and will be posting these meetings and everyone is welcome to come.
14. Town Clerk's Office
 - a. Orders – passed around and signed; next, I will need to have someone come in on next Thursday to sign orders for end of year items. Also, Ian is scheduled for the month of July.
 - b. Rate Increase for Driveway and Zoning Permit and DRB Application Suggested price: Driveway and Zoning \$60.00; DRB - \$125 (this is to cover cost of advertising, postage, etc.) It is required to publish in our two papers DRB meetings and with the increase we will break even. We are one of the lowest rates in this area. It was suggested that we do the advertisement electronically. Betty will check into this, but Skip agreed we do need to have at least to have it listed in at least one paper. A motion by Mike with a second by Fred to increase these fees as of July 1. Motion carried.

- c. Non-Arbitrage Line of Credit Approval – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to approve. Motion carried.
 - d. Opening of Bids for Recycle – There was one bid – RD would like to have it signed however with the same fees that we had previously. It was stated that we must go by what he put in his bid. A motion was made by RD to award the contract to Cookson Trucking on the terms of his bid for two years with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
 - e. Adding additional holiday-Juneteenth – to be in line with state and federal holidays as we have been doing in the past. Ellen stated that it was not a state holiday. Betty was told that it was. A motion was made by RD to have Juneteenth as a municipal holiday with a second by Ian. Motion carried.
 - f. Betty advised that we do not have any grievances. The listers had quite a view calls and discussion that none of the conversations resulted in grievances. We should be able to set the tax rate at our July 5 meeting.
 - g. Other business – there was no other business.
15. Other Business - RD wanted everyone to know about the webinar on CV Fiber for Thursday. Also, he asked about bridge work. He was advised that VT Transportation will advise us when that takes place.

Again, Betty wanted to emphasize that the Fire Department presentation will be posted on the website in the near future and that the audio will have the entire SB meeting on the website.

16. Adjourn – A motion was made by RD with a second by Ian to adjourn. Motion carried. We adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer