

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Those attending in persons: Mike Hogan, Ian Ackermann, Skip Bothfeld, Fred Ducharme, Betty Ritter, Maria Achionne-Goodrich, Jim Goodrich, Robert Johnson, Audrey Anna Meledandri, Frank Kampf, Peter Dubray, David Eister, Henry Pearl, Irv Robbins, Stephen Hogan, Lisa Ginnett, Jeanne Johnson, Dean Deasy, Kevin Lehoe, Mary Lou Delacy; via zoom: Kris Schmitt, R. D. Eno, Gary Gulka, Kris Schmitt, Alisson Hogan, Kathleen Chatot, Aaron Page, Dan Dunham, Aaron Page, Brittany Butler

1. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
3. Approve Minutes from October 3 (Budget Meeting) and October 4, 2022. A motion was made by RD Eno to accept the minutes for both meetings to be approved as written, with a second by Fred, motion carried.
4. Public Comment – RD Eno – he would like to put on the agenda for next meeting the Town website.
5. Rep. Henry Pearl – Discussion with SB – He represents Danville, Peacham, and Cabot. He currently serves on the Agricultural and Forestry Committee, and he is trying to work with the federal government for aid to farmers. He is aware of the prices of homes and we are in the range for another reappraisal. Trying to keep farmland open and get younger people involved in agriculture. Mike asked if there was covid funds still available. Rep. Pearl will find out. Mike wanted to know about taxes and how property taxes are paid. There is a structure in place, but it is in discussion and thought of a progressive situation. RD – looking at a crisis in our grand list and we just went through an appraisal. We are concerned about property taxes. Rep. Pearl said he will keep us appraised. RD asked about school. Frank said that it is hard to pass a budget when the CLA is so low. Skip wanted to know about current use. He does have a meeting soon regarding current use. Fred discussed roads and Cabot has 15 miles of blacktop with the Cabot Creamery trucks using them several times daily. He thought we should be considered for more state aid for 215. Rep. Pearl will talk to VTRANS this. He felt the best scenario would be to dig it up and start over. Fred said that any kind of help would be helpful. RD – could we get communication on a more routine time. Jeanne suggested we have the Cabot Chronicle that could be used. Mike suggested he could come back sometime in January. (Please listen to the audio for more details.)
6. Class IV Road – A wide range of comments were spoken from people that live on class 4 roads. Here are a few excerpts: David Eister lives at the end of Dubray Road. What he would ask from the Town to watch roads and check it out and every 2-3 years to drop some material to fill the potholes. Audra who lives on Blodgett Road, would like to set it up for maintenance on a more regular basis and to have it passable to have essential services available. She wanted to thank for the work done. R. B. Johnson – they are the only year-round people year. It was brought up about emergency services not able to get there. Dean advised that if you have an emergency, we will get to you. They have communication with other fire departments and access to road crew if they to call them. Maria Achione-Goodrich lives on McKinstry Road. They are about 970 feet of this road and 6 families and 5 businesses. It is in good condition right now. There is some work to be done on culverts. Ian stated there are rumors afloat that this will be a trail. He wanted to let everyone know this is not the case. Maria was concerned about the policy on Class IV roads. She quoted from policy from VLCT. Mike said we have been discussing this and we are not sure what we will be doing. Irv Robbins – he thinks the issues is Class IV roads are “equitable” but still feels that it is the town responsibility to maintain the road. Most roads are maintained by residences that live there. Mike quoted from 19 VSA regarding Class 4 roads stating that Class 4 may be maintained. (Please listen to the audio for more details.)
7. Trails Discussion – Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Grant Application and Letter of Support – Gary discussed this. Connecting trails in various ways. There is year-round use of trails between St. Johnsbury and Hardwick towns along the way. Details about resting places and restroom and has a 2 million grant to do feasibility studies and 18 towns have access to this. Parking has become a problem along the trails. There are asking a match of \$2,667 from each town with the deadline of November 1. Mike wanted to know about a consensus – This is for towns between St. Johnsbury and Hardwick. We cannot match with federal funds except for ARPA funds. Gary stated that it will help to bring more visitors to Cabot. Michelle how many miles of trails are in Cabot. Gary said a little more than a mile. Total mileage is 33 miles (6 towns) with connections to VAST trails. Where is the main trail in Cabot – vicinity – parallels 215 – Harrington, Deeper Ruts Road and connects with Walden. Ian 20% of match is. Skip stated that if it is Bricketts Crossing, it would be hard for people to come into Cabot. Mike did state that when ARPA money came out, trails were one of the things mentioned. Gary – signage will be used for snowmobiles – extremely important. Fred said that with the advent of electric bikes, this will be a wise investment. We should consider it as an investment bringing people into Town and supporting businesses. It is a reasonable investment. RD: I agree with Gary and is small enough investment. He is in support of this. Ian wanted to know if this was part of VAST. Gary stated that it was. Ian is it policed like the VAST Trail in Cabot. A motion was made by RD that we support the Valley Rail Trail Community

Grant Program and contribute the fund of \$2,667. It was second by Skip. Motion carried with 4 members and Ian abstaining.

8. Recycle Center

- a. Building Improvements -Ian asked if we could go over the items needed for a decision till next meeting. Dan stated that he has not had a chance to do his preliminary work either. The door will be in around November 1. One thing that Dan did mention is that we do not have power for the power door. Mike suggested that we put that in the cost of upgrading the building along with better lighting. We will have Aaron come and review the lighting and plugs. Dan will be on sight next week and Ian and Mike will go down when he is there. Betty will contact Aaron.
- b. Appointment of new representative and alternate for NEKWM – RD said that he would be happy to be the alternate. A motion was made by Mike and a second by Fred to appoint RD as an alternate. We also needed a new representative, and a motion was made by Mike with a second by Ian to appoint Betty for the representative. Motion carried.

9. Cabot Creamery use of Town water - Memorandum of Understanding – We went over this and Mike read it with discussion We are getting sensors installed. Aaron stated it sounded good, but we also need to see how much water we are using. He stated that Cabot Creamery is not taking any more water than necessary. They are not looking to steal any other water. Mike wanted to know if the start date of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, works for the Creamery. He thought it would. RD stating that the MOU recognizes that extra usage for water use outside of the time periods is part of the MOU. Any emails and we will forward to us. RD moved that we accept the MOU with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

10. Water/Wastewater

- a. Other Business – No new business.
- b. Water Ordinance Update - deferred

11. Highway

- a. Class 4 roads Policy changes – we will defer this till next meeting.
- b. Class 3 driveways to class 4 roads — discussion and possible decision – At the time there are driveways that are listed as Class 3 roads. Ian mentioned that we are plowing quite a few driveways that should not be plowed such as Sue Carpenter’s, Miles and Rhonda Goodrich, Robert Rathbone, David Pike’s. We will always replace culverts and bridges. Most of these people plow their own driveways. We have no idea how these roads were ever plowed. RD asked if we classify these to Class 4 – do we have to make sure they are passable in the summer. Technically we do. We can’t and won’t change them to trails. We must go through a process of this change to all the landowners. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip to have these driveways go from a Class 3 to a Class 4 road. Motion carried. We will be sending a letter to all these people.
- c. Sale of Rusty’s truck and placement of funds of truck sales (both Dave’s old truck bid and Rusty’s – discussion and possible decision: We are selling Rusty’s Truck for \$32,500 and we will keep the sander. A motion was made that we sell this truck by Mike with a second by Fred. Motion carried. With this sale we will be able to buy a blower to clean up culverts, and other tools that are needed for the highway crew and we will put the remainder in sinking fund. Ian wanted to check with our auditors to see if we could put any money left at the end of the year in a savings account.
- d. New Pickup truck for next fiscal year – discussion and possible decision—we are trying to stretch it as it is rusting. We will undercoat it every year along with all the other trucks and equipment.
- e. Other business – we will be working on roads that are Class 3 to Class 4. They are Bottom of Blodgett Road, bottom or Last Road, and McCarty Road. Simon Villa does want his road thrown up. At the present time we have 17 miles of Class 2; 40.8 of Class 3, and 7.4 of Class 4 roads.

12. Town Clerk’s Office`

- a. Orders
- b. Protection of heat pumps – we need to have some protection from the snow and ice coming from the roof for the heat pumps. Dan said that he would check into Alpine snow guards that clips on standing seams.
- c. Betty wanted to thank Dan, Bobby Searles and Ben Dunham for putting up the flags throughout the Town and taking them down.
- d. Other business – there was no other business.

13. Other Business – There was no other business.

14. Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Mike to adjourn. Motion carried and we adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer