

## SELECT BOARD BUDGET MINUTES

November 14, 2022, 4:45 p.m.

Those in attendance – Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, R.D. Eno, Ian Ackermann, Roz Daniels, Jeanne Johnson, Melvin Churchill, Lori Augustyniak, Grace Hoffman, Beth Wade, Kurt Steinert, Kathleen Hoyne, Elizabeth Vitale, Dale Brown,

1. Call meeting to order - the meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda A motion was made by Fred with a second by Ian, motion carried.
3. Cemetery – We spent \$3,000 for stump removal at the Durant Cemetery. They will need approximately \$4,000 per tree to take further trees down. We will put approximately \$25,000 for next year's budget.
4. 5:00 – Cabot Community Association/Cabot Chronicle – RD would like to recuse himself. Jeanne reviewed the new things added to the paper to making it more meaningful. Thanks to Frank's coverage of SB meetings and try to have an article about something happening in Cabot or a person in each paper. They are working on additional advertising. The Chronicle is to keep people engaged and entertaining for the people. Cabot Creamery gives news releases, and they will be changing the logo and will send a press release to Jeanne. Always open to suggestions. It is printed from a printer in NH and we have been very happy with them. We do receive notes from people and really appreciate the SB coverage and positive support. People are writing articles. They print up to 16 pages. Lori said that Jeanne is doing a remarkable job along with recruiting people. Netted \$6,000. Mike wanted to know about any contribution from the school. Fred mentioned to the principal – perhaps 5 or 10 years out what the kids are doing at the time.

CCA side - Chronicle \$24,000 – first year that it went off quite well. They are doing Fall Foliage on a Saturday and did not want Tuesday anymore. Childcare – creating a center in Town - \$27,000 grant to hire a coordinator – site visit at the church next week. Economic Development – Susie Socks – travel tourism and online, Bobby Searles – pull together a business listing.

5. 5:15 – Library – Reviewed the Library - Preliminary approach about using some ARPA money. Mike looked at the budget – he is a big support of the library – there is no question about the importance of the library, but the SB is responsible to put a budget in all areas of Town. Looked at the cost of living is 8.7% from the COLA. Last year when we put in the youth librarian to sustain it and then the library would be necessary to find the funds to sustain for the next year. Have used the ARPA money for town. There was a question about benefits for the part-time position. Kathleen thought this was a reasonable thing to do to give her some flexibility. Overall budget increase is around 39%. Looking at the numbers equitably in Town. This is a \$32,892 is the difference last year. It seems a large increase. Health Insurance can be anywhere from \$17,810 - \$22,800. Premiums went up 11.8%. Kathleen's husband has his health insurance policy – covers 60% at his work, the amount she receives covers 40% of the premium.

R.D. – speaking for alternative ways to finance that position. How much fund raising to do. Beth stated that it was a small amount, and Friends of the Library – gives most of it back to the library. Needs are there providing services for all manners, and other programs. RD said he agrees with the value of the program. Was the position funded or services. Three libraries – Plainfield, Marshfield, Cabot went together and then decided to do it on our own – 3 separate grants – funding through June 30. All neighboring libraries have the same type of programs we have. RD – discussed cost sharing with the school. School is all grant funded, and will have to search for additional funding and they cover K-6. We would like to work on this. Fred stated that we have to justify to the voters with the rest of the other areas of the budget. Beth – COLA may not be the best way – trying to increase the librarians salary to match other librarians. Kathleen what is the timeframe to take another look at the budget? Around the middle of December and if the Library does a petition to go on the warning that would be January 12.

Our next meeting will be November 28, December 5 and 12 for budget.

6. 5:30 – Highway – We are working on the budget for the highway and with the price of fuel along with other items we will need to increase this. More discussion will follow.
7. 6:00 – Executive Session – Sale of Real Estate – a motion was made by to go into Executive Session by Fred, RD 6:24 came our 6:38 pm and no decision was made.
8. Adjourn – a Motion was made by Fred with a second by RD. We adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer