

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by RD with a second by Karen.
3. Approval of Minutes from August 15 regular SB meeting, and August 31 Special Meeting – a motion was made by RD with a second by Karen. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

On the following topics, please refer to the audio that is on Cabotvt.us for the complete conversations.

5. Flood Relief Update –
 - a. Mike states the roads seem to be in pretty good shape. FEMA will be coming next week to go over with expenses for the roads and other expenses. RD mentioned that FEMA were here through the holiday weekend, and we are very grateful for being here. Blodgett Road – talked with Friends of Winooski and they are going to help us with putting in a new culvert. We are grateful for this. Sawmill Road – all the sediment and debris – Friends of Winooski are going to help us to clean up the site. We are trying to negotiate with the owner of the Sawmill.
 - b. Karen wanted to know about West Hill Pond Dam – how do we manage. Mike stated the State will be coming back to look at it. It is owned by an association, and we need to find out who to discuss this with. We could have the Gauthiers come in and give us the background. Brittany also stated that she has a large file on this.
 - c. Gary wanted to know about the Old Center Road, and it is a Class 4 road. Mike stated that we are not doing anything with this at this time.
6. Burt Orchard Contract Amendment – A motion was made by RD that we extend the amendment to January 31, 2024, with a second by Karen. Motion carried.
7. Discussion with Cabot Ambulance – Jenn reviewed that when the FD was compromised, we moved the ambulance to Goodrich's property. We had conversations with Dean and Will, Marcy, Chris and herself. Tomorrow night we are having another meeting with the members of the ambulance. We are talking through this and with the ambulance members. As we look at the temporary building, and a new one FEMA stated that they cannot allow another entity in the same place. Jenn said if they remain separate, they will need to look at another location. Karen – what about cross training, budget, etc. and wanted to know about the timeline to make a decision. Jenn thought it may be within a decision will be made by the end of September.
8. Task Force Discussion – Gary said he has a list of task force members: Michelle from Friends of Winooski, Jenn Miner, Luke Robbins, Seth Pitkin, Chris Tormey, Thomas Dunbar, Karen Deasy. Break into subgroups such as village, policies of the state. Possibly a group of advisors: Sue Robinson, Ned, Jay Jaquith, and others, possibly road commissioner. We start with this and see how this goes. Possible multiple projects. Define the sub watersheds to be an early focus. Also need to check into various grants. We would need to look at a budget. Karen – Montpelier is doing information regarding resiliency on Friday.
9. Historical Society - permission for maintenance work on the Old Center Road – Would like to clean it up and keep it up. Cedric and Ruth – could clean it up. RD motioned that we authorize Historical Society to clean up Old Center Road with a second by Mike. Motion carried.
10. Pransky Event Discussion – it is on September 15 and 16 – Cannabis event and is a fund-raising event for farmers. There is entrance fees. Lassie has been impacted by the events because of the noise from the Manifestivus, people turning around in her yard. Dealt with most of the issues. Would like to enjoy the peace and joy of her garden and can't do this. Concerned about next summer, don't know how often. She is asking for a noise ordinance and have an event ordinance. She has heard there are around 1,500 people attending the event. Worried about crime. Who is responsible for clean-up and security. The town has no noise ordinance, the state has one for 2,000 and over. We do not have an event ordinance.
11. Rec Field – Discussion on Field Restoration - it was destroyed along with some equipment. We are working with FEMA and how are we going forward to better than. Chris – lived here for 30 years. Not a member of the rec committee but wants to help. We can get it back, but there is a drainage issue. Tim McKay, environmental engineer. Dug a hole and found 4-6" of mud, silk, and sand. There is no topsoil, foot and half and poorly drained river bottom. We could possibly look at the soccer field and do some drainage. The price is \$20,000.00 that we would need to match. Found a grant of \$300,000 total. Apply for a match. Get the application in. It is unclear if FEMA will cover drainage. The

grant is due on 9-10. Would it be possible to work with half of the commitment. We have already spent \$35,000 already. \$200,00 is just the beginning. If you do nothing it will eventually grow some grass, but if you want to do something to make it a usable field rake in soil and sand. Shannon – we partnered with Plainfield – their insurance turned them down. Walden has allowed us to use their field. We are struggling to make it a center. Need a commitment for the grant that we would match \$10,000. Karen – drainage is perpetual – would like to bring people to Cabot. It is a community asset. If we are going to make a commitment. RD moved that we commit \$10,000 which is a matching fund from the state. Karen second. Motion carried. We will do a letter of commitment.

12. Waters of the Winooski – High School Thomas Dunbar Cabot Teacher – 3rd or 4th time Waters of Winooski – he has been teaching – moved the class to now instead of spring. Shifted work to the Task Force. Provide legwork and provide on a public outreach campaign especially to those around this watershed. Possibly a green space for the dam if we come to own it. Make sure that the class meets the needs of the Town. Content of the course – water shed – where it comes from and water cycles, climate change shifting the water. Lot of work is what he teaches at the school level. Documents will be made available. Plan to use GIS software which they let schools use for free. Task force to guide the planning. Shannon said her older daughter took the class and now she is at Norwich taking the same class. Montpelier is doing a class like this. Angela Gibbons ED is about to engage in a contract with Plainfield with the same topic.
13. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders – thank you for signing them.
 - b. Other Business
 1. Delegate to VLTC – Betty has been doing this and this does need the approval of the SB. A motion as made by RD with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
 2. Errors and Omission – A Veteran’s Exemption was not included until we found that we needed to include one. A motion was made by RD with a second by Mike. Motion carried.
 3. We discussed the large animal problem that we have and suggested that we look at the Marshfield Ordinance. This will be circulated.
14. Highway – he will pass on details. Blodgett – there is plenty stone and will get it taken care of. The speed is causing some problems – once we work to get the culvert in that the Friends of Winooski said they will do, this should take care of the problems we have had.
15. Executive Session – Pending Real Estate Transaction and Personnel Issue A motion was made by Skip with a second by RD. Motion carried. We went into ES at 8:19 p.m. and came out of ES at 8:51 pm
16. When we came out of ES, there was a motion to offer the position of another highway crew to Tyler Stecker by RD with a second by Karen. Motion carried.
17. Motion to Adjourn – A motion by Mike with a second by RD to adjourn. Motion carried, we adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer