

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:02 p.m.
2. Approve agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Mike asked if there were any additions – Mike stated he would like to add discussion regarding the ambulance. This was a remiss on his part. Motion carried, with Fred abstaining as he was not in attendance.
3. Approve minutes of September 5 and special SB meeting on September 12 – RD wanted to add that Ambulance was the private entity that could not be part of the temporary building. Motion carried.

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

4. Public Comment –
  - a. Laura Knowlton wanted to know what is to be done about the situation she has for her property. We do have on the agenda tonight the discussion of an ordinance concerning regulating livestock. We do not have anything for large animals. Marshfield does have a civil ordinance for livestock. If it only happens once that is one thing, but for poor fencing, damaging properties the lack of maintenance on fence line, and owner not caring for animals under their care. Because we have the state statute we can have this hearing. There were some problems on Route 2 property also, however, Ruth stated that as Animal Control Officer she does not have any concerns about animal abuse.
  - b. Report back on festivities at the Pransky property this past weekend. Karen stated that the event on Friday went to about 12:45 and around 10:30 on Saturday. The decibels for both evenings in several locations were in the normal range of around 26 decibels. Lassie indicated that it did get louder at midnight when they moved to a smaller stage and went on 2 in the morning. Karen stated this not her experience. David Pransky stated they would look at the restructuring the stage. She did hear from folks on Dubray Road and Houston Road. Johanna Thibault stated that she took a decibel reading on the Cabot Creamery trucks coming through every night and it is 55-60 decibels. The festival was under attended. Less than a 100 people on Friday, Saturday little better. It was not Woodstock.
  - c. If we do a Noise Ordinance, it would not just be for Judy Pransky events. These events are based on Conditional Use Permit for a 3-day music festival and it can be amended. Someone wanted to know who enforces the ordinance. Enforcement is important and usually there is a warning, then fine issued. It is important to note we do not craft an ordinance to an individual property. Does it apply to Creamery for driving trucks through the town or a wedding or family reunion? The event was scheduled to shut down at midnight and they did their due diligence to maintain this. An Ordinance should have provisions regarding Ambulance, sheriff and regulations on parking on other people's properties. Can we and should we regulate private property such as weddings, reunions, etc. We need to proceed with care. The owner always needs to assume liability, safety, sanitation, public right of ways. Very difficult to regulate on private property. If anyone has any ideas, send us your ideas.
5. Highway Update - they are working on the roads and basically, they are in good shape and they are trying to prepare for winter months.
6. Flood Relief Updates –
  - a. Mike stated that he has talked with USDA and other organizations. FEMA is working with us on the damage and will be meeting with them weekly. We discussed the Clark Dam and found that the dam has water rights to the West Hill Pond Dam but since Clark Dam is gone, they have no more water rights. As to who owns it, that is a mystery. The dam is not in danger of failing. It has been inspected recently. Mike Tarrant, the Town Attorney, is going to give us some suggestions and we can discuss at Town Meeting. We are also working with Mike Tarrant about the Clark dam and hopefully Friends of the Winooski will be able to help with the clean up there once there are any decisions made.
  - b. Richard Scheiber was wondering if we deepened that channel on the Winooski. After the meeting last Thursday in Plainfield it was agreed upon that we work as a region and not each Town trying to do something. What affects one area, will affect other towns. As far as the Winooski goes, that is up to ANR not individual towns.

7. Rec Field Restoration - There is still some cleanup and we are waiting for permits from DEC to move ahead.
8. Discussion on potential Ordinances – Mike stated that Ordinances are for the protection of all residents and should never be written for one event. Karen also suggested that if anyone has anything to offer in ordinances, please pass it on. Further discussion was under public comment.
9. Water and Wastewater – There was nothing to report at this time.
10. Town Clerk's Office
  - a. Orders – have been signed.
  - b. Liquor Applications – we received four applications for the Cheese Festival. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to approve these applications. Motion carried.
  - c. Easement for GMP guy wire from Harry's Hardware to the pole in front of the WB. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to approve the installation of the guy wire. Motion carried.
  - d. Willey Building Celebration – Betty gave a run through of the day and hopefully people will come to the festivities. RD suggested that we sell popcorn as that is what the Judy Lyford club did to raise money.
  - e. Bulk Removal Day – This will take place on Saturday, September 30.
  - f. Read a letter from Harold Houston regarding the Fire Department building.

11. Other Business (*Please listen to the audio for the complete conversation*)

Ambulance – working with FEMA to build a temporary building – moving along good. Future of the ambulance was discussed between Dean, Will, Karen, Jenn and Mike.

Jenn did have 2 special meetings with the ambulance. Would Cabot Ambulance want to be a private entity or municipal organization? Vote was a 50/50 vote – decided to keep it independent. Existing concerns – potential loss of membership and concern for the residents. There were 18 members 13 that could vote. The vote could be different if the structure could be addressed. What would it cost for another entity – Barre - \$76 per person, and with our population of around 1,600 it would be \$122,000 per year. All other EMS agencies struggle with EMS. Coming from Barre could be life or death situation. In Caledonia Record – merging with St. J. Mike – want to do best for Cabot, no personal agenda. RD –Very pleased to note that there are 5 points that could make it a consensus. Kris stated that she knows nothing about the letter – Jenn stated it was a complete oversight on her part and apologized for this.

12. Executive Session – Real Estate Matter – Rd motioned that we go into ES with a second by Karen. We went into ES at 8:20 p.m. We came out of ES at 8:45 p.m. There were a few items that needed to be cleared up about the Masonic Hall.
13. Adjourn – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred, motion carried. We adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer