

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD. RD would like to add an item under wastewater. Motion carried with addition.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 19 meeting – a motion was made by RD with a second by Skip. Karen wished to add that the event on the Pransky property decibels went up to 55-58 during the concert. She also wanted to mention the reference to Cedric Houston’s letter regarding the Fire Station that he requested to be read be added to the minutes. Motion carried with the correction and addition.
4. Public Comment – Re the Cheese and Culture Festival it was a great event and a wonderful turnout. However, we do need to address the traffic issue and parking. We will discuss it more in depth at the next meeting. We will invite Lori and Dana Robinson regarding this to attend the next meeting to discuss ideas.
5. Highway Updates – roads are in good shape. Trying to get closed out with FEMA. Sid and Michelle will be working on GPS coordinates. We understand that the state has gone to 90% reimbursement for all the damage done, with another 5% possibly picked up by the state.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SB RECORDING FOR THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AT CABOTVT.US.

6. Discussion on possible draft Ordinance for regulating livestock running at large – Concerns were voiced about having a local ordinance to cover this by Rural Vermont as this is covered by the State. No decision was made at this time.
7. Discussion and approval for temporary Public Safety Building alternative site – lot of damage to the fire station and the state fire marshal has red-tagged the fire station. All equipment is out. Talking with FEMA - to help them replace the facility and apparatuses as soon as possible. We also need to have the building taken down and decide what to do with the land. No decision at this time.
8. Cabot Ambulance Discussion continued from previous meeting – last meeting had a long discussion on the future of the ambulance. A motion was entertained by RD. The motion follows that was seconded by Mike Hogan. After much discussion Mike called the question – made and seconded, and asked for a verbal vote from the SB: RD– yes; Karen-no; Skip-no; Fred-no. This motion was defeated, however, after further discussion RD asked that we table the motion and take it up at the November meeting.

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CABOT AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS Ambulance service within the Town of Cabot is universally acknowledged to be vital to the public welfare;

WHEREAS The Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service (CEAS), a private corporation, has provided fast and reliable service to the Town of Cabot for fifty years;

WHEREAS for many years the CEAS has shared headquarters and equipment housing at the Cabot Municipal Fire Station with the Cabot Volunteer Fire Department (CFD), a department of the Cabot municipal government;

WHEREAS as a consequence of the Flood of July, 2023, the Fire Station has been condemned and is no longer suitable for occupancy;

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will subsidize a temporary Public Safety structure and, subsequently, a permanent Public Safety Building at 75%-90% of cost, a significant savings for taxpayers and a great benefit to the municipality;

WHEREAS FEMA regulations restrict occupancy of either aforementioned structure to municipal entities and prohibit occupancy by a private service entity, thereby barring the CEAS from sharing these FEMA-funded facilities with the CFD;

WHEREAS it has been deemed to be in the public interest of the people of Cabot that, in order that an ambulance and emergency medical service be housed in these centrally located FEMA-funded facilities, the CEAS should cease to be a private corporation and become a department of the municipality;

WHEREAS, at a meeting on September 28, 2023, the membership of the CEAS voted unanimously to dissolve the CEAS as a private corporation and to become a department of the Cabot municipal government;

THEREFOR THE CABOT SELECTBOARD HEREBY RESOLVES TO CREATE THE CABOT AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT (CAD) AS A DEPARTMENT OF THE CABOT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CABOT SELECTBOARD:

1. subject to the same fiscal control as other branches of municipal government;
2. funded as part of the annual municipal budget;

3. its organizational structure, rules of procedure and bylaws to be devised in co-operation with the Selectboard and the CFD and subject to the approval of the Selectboard;
4. with all relevant licenses required to operate an ambulance and/or emergency medical service to be obtained in the name of and retained by the Town of Cabot;
5. its leadership to be recognized by the Selectboard as independent of the leadership of the CFD;
6. its liabilities to be assumed by the Town of Cabot.

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. that all the books and accounts of the CEAS, for all years that they exist, shall be made immediately available to the Selectboard for inspection and shall become the property of the CAD upon the dissolution of the CEAS;
2. that all current assets of the CEAS be preserved, with no expenditures made except to cover ordinary operating expenses, and all assets, cash and material, transferred to the CAD upon the dissolution of the CEAS, excepting such sums as the Selectboard may allow the CEAS to donate to one or more local non-profit charitable organizations, which may include a non-profit established to benefit the CAD;
3. that the leadership of the CEAS acknowledge immediately that the membership has authorized the dissolution of the CEAS;
4. that the dissolution of the CEAS shall take place simultaneously with the securing of such licensure as will allow the CAD to begin providing, within six (6) months of the inaugural date of the licensure, such ambulance and/or emergency medical services to the Town of Cabot as has hitherto been provided by CEAS;
5. that the leadership of the CEAS shall henceforth report regularly to the Selectboard about the progress of obtaining such licensure;
6. that no further action shall be taken by the leadership or membership of the CEAS respecting its commitment to dissolve itself and become the CAD other than such further action as legal counsel or the State of Vermont may direct to effect its dissolution.

9. Permanent Public Safety Building Discussion and next steps – Further discussion on November 7 meeting.
10. Discussion on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - A motion was made by RD with a second by Mike for Peg Hough do a RFP for this. Motion carried.
11. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Other business –
 1. RD – The Church is asking for an extra .6 ERU for wastewater for the day care. RD is asking to increase the from 1 to 1.6 ERU. A motion was made by Skip with a second by Mike to approve this increase. Motion carried. Betty will send an approval letter.
 2. Elm Street – Betty will contact Rodger about finalizing the work on Elm Street.
 3. Betty received a MOU to clean the wastewater lines that were damaged during the flood. We would like to have this done from the bridge down to the pump station. Betty will contact Rodger regarding this along with Michelle Kolb, time to be determined.
12. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders – signed.
 - b. Other Business – two items: (MOU was discussed under 11.a.3). I have received several calls regarding dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, and ATV's both on Main Street and on Cabot Plains. I have asked the sheriff to patrol on three different nights in October (including Halloween) to see if we can catch them in the act. I will keep everyone posted on this.
13. Other Business - We need to start scheduling for the 2024-2025 budget. We will be having the preliminary meeting on November 7 at 5:00 p.m. After that meeting, we will be doing the budget meetings on another evening. We will work on the scheduling of all the different committees and departments at the November 7 meeting.
14. Executive Session: Real Estate Transaction – Neighbors in Action – A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Fred with a second by RD. Motion carried. We went into ES at 8:31. We came out of ES at 8:44.
15. Motion to Adjourn - A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to adjourn. Motion carried, and we adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer