

**SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mike at 4PM
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip
3. Public Comment – Frank – a problem with parking and has become an issue for parking. He would suggest some parking signs: possibly by the Store – 20 minutes parking, around the corner for Danville, and then have a map on the Cabot website. Mike said that we will have to discuss this.
4. Budget Preparation

4:00 PM – Ambulance – continues to operate out of Goodrich Sugar House. Jenn stated that they have someone soon to come on 3 EMS, 3 EMT and they have EMT's that are vital to resident response. The price of dispatch is going to continue to go up, medication, supplies, and equipment. Cardiac monitor had to purchase it and it cost \$32,000.00. They are asking for \$47,000. They charge for transport, but if not needed they do not charge. David will be here now 7 days a week. What is the long term for parking? They are looking for a place to store it here in town. David Covell stated that he hopes that the Town will continue to support the Cabot Ambulance. They are looking at State funding for rural no transports. We are working with other towns to see if we could work as a cooperative. They are also working on all the state and federal approvals and the accountant is taking care of everything. They should have this accomplished very shortly. Ruth feels that the ambulance is in better shape than everyone believes. There is a plan – congressional grant. Suggest discussing this with Henry Pearl. FD is looking at a Fast Squad they are entertaining the FD – the more the better to be here. The Cabot Ambulance also stated they support a Fast Squad.

4:30 PM - Library - \$116,542 – Kathleen – doing it for 14 years, utility part – we have no control over. Second part is the book budget – we are below the state level, we are doing good right now due to grants. Jenny Prosser – library board of trustees. Boards of Trustees, sets the salary, hours and how it is to be increased. Modest increase in salary and has been below in the 14 years. They made an error in taxes from last year. Had to pay more this year. Responsible for stewards of the taxpayer money. Not asking for a large amount. Mike stated the board has always been supportive of the library. As a SB we are always looking at equity, i.e. highway, town office, lister. Grace is appreciative of what you state. Kathleen has a degree in Librarian, having someone come in next at the pay she is receiving. The salary increase for the librarian is 14%. RD we are for the Youth Librarian, but wanted to know that we are in support of the youth librarian. We are happy to see the Youth Librarian. They are asking \$116,542. In other years do you receive grants. The largest source is Friends of the Library for the summer sale, and they are generous in giving to help them. Some make a bequest on library behalf. They do not have fundraising. Volunteer basis. There were not a lot of grants prior to covid. Do you have anyone that is actively looking for grants. The Department of Library is very helpful. Karen asked if they keep information about library use. We are not yet up to the numbers of pre-covid. Youth programs are very strong. In general, the numbers are upward. We must question and look at every entity. Fred stated we have to justify the salary increase to the Town. Kirk we also need to justify a livable wage.

5:00 – Rec Field – Chris Tormey – speaking on terms of rec field. Sent an update plan. Time frame is in the spring. The grant has been approved. There is a second grant through ANR – restoring for structures that would take care of flooding. FEMA will cover 90%. Town spent \$20,000 for working on the field. Drainage is separate. It was \$10,000 for the Rec committee last year.

5:30 – Fire Department We have 30 members which is the largest membership in the history of the FD. Need for a fast squad – what the cost would be for this initial set up. We have 2 EMT and another one that is going to be re-certified, and 5 EM and others are interested. We have enough membership to maintain. FD is asking for \$83,000 + \$20,000 for a fast squad and a sinking fund. The tanker needs to be replaced.

Dean gave a review of what fast squad. They cannot transport, there is licensing and certification involves, assess the scene and first review. They would stabilize the person. Depending on what they can do. EMS service, possible CPR, stop the bleed. Ambulance 3-4 hour time and fast squad could be one hour. What is the availability of EMTs. They are committed to the fast squad, and they are members of the Town. There is no overlap between personnel on Fast Squad and ambulance. Peacham has a fast squad, along with Woodbury, and Walden. It is not a new thing. There are more fast squads being developed. Trying to put in fast squad without contracting with Cabot Ambulance. Fred – not ready to throw away what we are now doing. Temporary Building should be around \$11,000 instead of \$7,600. They will be able to get through the year. Goal – level funding. The board has the amount for the temporary building and fast squad could be a separate article. Mike asked about a Stipend for the membership. Is \$5,000. Dean explained that we have 31 people. They are not in it for the money. Could be used for gas for getting to a fire. It would be up to the FD – bylaws – to show how to distribute it. Operation is \$82,500. It is now \$73,000 – some of it is going to the temporary budget.

AIA Form for contracting – first invoice and a changed order. First payment is in the amount – \$133,380 and is holding retainage to end of job. He wants to see what they are billing and what it is for. Apron and Basketball court will be paved in the spring. Look for approval for payment. A motion was made by Fred to pay this with a second RD, motion carried.

6:00 PM – CCA/Chronicle - \$20,000 – 17th year of publication. Paid writers. \$31, 750 for entire budget. CCA will do fundraising for the remaining \$11,750.00. There is a PDF version. Mike suggested that for July 4 celebration that we incorporate the 1-year anniversary of the flood. CCA – increase to \$15,000. Childcare is open now. Holding \$9,000 in case the Town needs matching funds. Economic Development – what is the future of the Town such as gas in Town. Suggested that CCA possibly do the roundtables. Business Directory – it is on the radar screen and will be meeting with Seth tomorrow. Karen – some old idea – business association, Bobby willingness to chair this. Businesses involved to see what they need. Renewing the Landscaping network. Mike stated they are grateful for the responsiveness for flood.

5. Executive Session – Real Estate Transaction- Neighbors In Action. A motion was made that we go into ES by Fred with a second by RD. Motion carried. We went into ES at 6:25. We came out of ES at 6:36 PM.
6. RD proposed that we present a lease to NIA for rental of Masonic Hall, December 5, December 31 \$1,200/month, \$14,400/year, with a second by Mike. Motion carried.
7. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried, and we adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter