

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Those present – Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, R. D. Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Karen Larsen, Jenn Miner, Dean Deasy, Will Ameden, Frank Kampf, Laura McCaffrey, Elizabeth Vitale, Frank Kampf, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter; On Line: Kelley Currier, Harry Barber, Jeanne Johnson, Kris Schmitt, and Rodger Sheldon

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - a motion was made by Fred with a second by R.D. Mike would like to add under other business – payment of Connor Contracting, and RD would like to add Investment Policy to the February 20 meeting. After discussion, motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes from January 2 Budget Meeting and January 2 SB Meeting January 16 Budget Meeting and January 16 Selectboard Meeting review – a motion was made by RD with second by Fred except for January 16 meeting, motion carried.
4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
5. Highway Updates – There were no updates.
6. Ambulance/Emergency Management Planning re upcoming Eclipse in April – Jenn spoke about this. What are the plans for the Town and other volunteers. One of the items is to make sure signage is possible for roads. Would like to have signage for private property as to where to park and no parking. Mike wanted to know about areas of viewing. Jenn suggested Nichols Ledge, Cabot Plains, Bothfeld Hill, higher points are going to be the best, but they are also back roads during mud season. RD – Eclipse is going to happen at 3:29 PM. How many people would be coming to this area? Jenn thought it would be best to have a plan in place. Karen stated that every Air B&B is totally booked up, and the State of Vermont is actively promoting the eclipse. We should have conversations with local landowners and suggest places where would be a good spot to rope off. Perhaps some signage to state Nichols Ledge is closed. Dean wants to make sure a path of travel be cleared for fire and ambulance. We should have the two constables available. Will had a meeting regarding the readiness of airports and they are stating that we need to expect that we could double our population during the four days leading to the eclipse. Karen asked if Jenn would be willing to take care of getting word out and to get a better understanding of the day. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.
7. Grant Writing Needs for Town Flood Projects- Discussion – need to have the someone to write the reports. We are interested in the WW Plant and need to apply ASAP. Jenn suggested that we contact Wolfgang Krutack and he may be able to provide some assistance as he has had experience with grant writing. Mike is going to look into getting grant writers. RD – was wondering about Municipal Technical Assistance to have them look at the grant and offer suggestions but they will not write the grant. Mike stated that there is discussion that the state government is going to have 90% paid for with 5% extra, and we would be on for the local match for 5%. There is more discussion that Towns will not even have to do a match in the future.
8. Vermont Afterschool, Inc. – Possible Grant Money for Rec Field – Laura McCaffery – gave a grant to the youth of Cabot. This money would be given to the youth of Cabot. It was originally surveying and mapping, getting in touch and to bring a youth council together. Once the proposals hold a vote of the youth they wish to fund. One of them has to do with the rec field. Discussed with Dean and Cameron North. There are a few bigger things such as a storage shed, interested in workout bars, possible benches, more picnic tables at the Pavilion. She wanted to see if we need approval by the SB. Mike did state that possibly we could use storage in the temporary shed. The total amount of grant is \$40,000. There are other proposals for library for materials, updated equipment at CSPAC, biking proposal, goal setting a trail design. Mike wanted to know about the proximity of the permanent and storage shed. Dean stated there shouldn't be any issues after discussions with the engineers. Karen – a question about long term - what about maintenance and upkeep. Laura believed it would come under the responsibility of the Rec Committee and the grant is not looking for big maintenance.
9. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- HMGP-FEMA- Harry Barber- Currier Property – 3415 Main Street – Kylie wants to rebuild with a long-term hope of elevating the house. They are going to apply for the grant to do this. State people are coming out to work with the residents. Mike – these elevations require the Town to be responsible for 25% and would be hard for the Town to come up with that type of money. Harry stated that Brian Walters said there might be other buckets in the system that we could draw from. Mike stated that it is a requirement that it can't just be the

landowner but must come under the Town and the limitation is \$228,000. Would like to have them come and talk about this. Mike was wondering if we could have this after Town Meeting. Harry would like to contact him. Karen stated that this needs to be transparent and needs to be added to a future meeting. Harry wanted to know if we have a designated person to flood products. Mike stated that you are the only one that has asked about this elevation for the Town. He also suggested that we discuss this around March 19. Harry will talk about getting someone out to review the home. Mike stated that this is a very long process. Harry wanted to know what has been done for retaining stone for the bank, Mike stated that we are not allowed to go into the water, and you need to discuss this with the state, and erosion is still happening.

10. Water and Wastewater

- a. Water and Wastewater for 2466 Main Street – it is in the hands of the engineers.
- b. Water/Wastewater Discussion- Dufresne Group Evaluation Report – engineering report. When it is going to get the report finished. In looking at some of the fixes it would come up to \$40,000. They are having a problem with the vacuum leak, and they are working on isolating areas to see where the problems are. Rodger stated this is a 20-year evaluation and 60% of the report has been sent to the State of Vermont – engineering can't go forward until we hear from the state. He talked with Stan about how to get someone to work on but at this time we are waiting to hear from the state.
- c. RD wanted to have it explained what caused the contamination of the water. There was a flow test on the hydrant. Pressure reducing valve to fail – drop below the 20 psi that requires a boil water notice. The valve is bad – Phil did recommend replacing the valve. Cost wise – can get a rebuilt kit – more than once it has been rebuilt – pulling right out and put a new one in. He can bypass so it does not affect the water flow to residents. Change manhole out and is like a catch basin, there is also silt from the flood (FEMA). Could have power in manhole but it is better to. \$25K. rebuilt \$6K, new replacement valve – Phil recommending a clay valve – a much better valve and better service 7-10 days. Present valve 20+years. Lead times 7-10 days \$17,000 to do the work. Fred states that it makes sense to upgrade to a better valve. Rodger did state this Clay valve would not increase pressure. Dean wanted to address about bolt down manhole cover – Rodger will get the pricing and order valve. (After Rodger got off the phone, he emailed Betty and stated the valve was ordered.)
- d. Other Business – No other business.

11. Town Clerks Office

- a. Orders
- b. Line of Credit – Flood Account – We will need an additional \$500,000 for the Flood and need the Board's approval. A motion was made by RD with a second to receive another extension of \$500,000 for the purpose of flood relief with a second by Fred, Motion carried. Betty will start the process of this loan.
- c. Other business – Betty reviewed the resiliency audit that took place last week. We are waiting for the results, which may take some time.

12. Other Business – Connor Contracting has another payment of \$227, 720.45 which is now due. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to approve payment. Motion carried. Will advised that they have finished the siding except for the front side – half of the floor to is done and they will pour the other half possibly this week. Work on drains, strapping on ceiling, doors next week. Future window openings marked, two future roll up garage windows. Elizabeth Vitale asked what is going to happen with the building after the permanent fire station is built. Mike said that will be a discussion with the town people. Karen went over the option to buy it at a cost including depreciation, or if the town is not interested it can be torn down. Lots of options for the future of the building.

13. Executive Session – Real Estate Matter – NIA – a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried, we went into ES at 7:19 p.m. and came out of ES at 7:30. No decisions were made when we came out of ES.

14. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Karen to adjourn, motion carried, and we adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer