

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, Skip Bothfeld, R. D. Eno, Jenn Miner, Ruth Goodrich, Tyler Billingsly, Will Ameden, Kris Schmidt, Gary Gulka, Sandy Ponds, Sid Griggs, Ben Vitale, Dean Deasy, Amada Otto, Gideon Mangan, Marie Acchione, via zoom: Lori Augustyniak, Miranda Hunt, Rodger Sheldon, Stephen, Besch

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 PM.
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made Fred with a second by RD. Mike added other business, Amanda Otto re flood, 13 acre property behind rec field. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes from March 19 Selectboard Meeting Fred and Skip – RD two amendments – draft and issue a RFP, Item 14 providing a contractor. Karen Item 6b. A sketch of land use mowing would be helpful. A motion was made by Skip with a second by Fred with changes, motion carried.
4. Public Comment –
 - a. Lori – she is organizing events for the summer, and assuming that the Rec field will not be available, can we use the Common for 4th of July and work on parking, Arts and Music, Fall Foliage and Music festival. Any ideas on parking. We will put this on the agenda for the recommendations. Parking for May meeting. She will reach out to landowners re parking. Karen suggested that we develop a process for festivals in the village at this same meeting. A motion as made by RD with a second by Fred to allow activities on the Common. Motion carried.
 - b. Marie questioned why the fire station was demolished with no crack in floor, bank was still there. Dean stated the riverbank is at a slightly different angle and there was significant damage. They also did put a second floor in the station, as the one underneath needed to be replaced and this is the floor that you see.
 - c. Amanda Otto – she is writing a grant from Community Foundation related to flood and would like to commemorate this on July 13. The event would happen in the Willey Building and the parking lot. The idea is a gratitude event, food, music, workshops, acknowledging family events around climate exchange. She will give details as it is developed.
5. Tyler Billingsly -FEMA Projects – Tyler recapped – five sites for larger fixes, good progress since last meeting. Army corps went in today. Process has been approved. Jug Brook upper and lower, Blodgett, Menard, Mack Mountain. UVM archeology program will wait until Spring, and they have mid-April scheduled subject to weather. We are waiting for feedback. They are slight risk. They are all undersized and could go out down the road if nothing is done. FEMA is tricky to work with and seems to be a little slower, than engineers are moving forward. Million dollars is the cut-off, and these are all under million dollars and will take the estimates. It is goes over a million, they will then need exact amounts. These may go to 2025 due to submitting cost project, plans, hydraulic studies, if they agree with everything it will be there. Once FEMA obligation begins, we can then ask the state for their share for reimbursement, FEMA share is 75%. Any since of turnaround, possibly weeks to months. Once all 5 locations are done, we will get reimbursed by the State. Blodgett Road, or Menard (because of the loan of the State bridge), it does have the shortest time. It includes all the FEMA sites done. He will do bond agreements and specifications. All five are in one package but can be separated for bid. If bid all together, could eliminate the local contractors and you may not want to do this. Mike wanted to know what kind of loops you have to jump through – bonding, wage rates, FEMA conditions. *(The rest of this discussion can be heard on the audio at Cabotvt.us)*
6. USDA Grant Approval - \$656,000 at no cost to the Town. Cumbersome to work with. Elm Street Bridge – lot of erosion that must be ripped: the Creamery pump house, Jenn’s house, 215 bridge, pull out debris from the Sawmill job. They were shocked to see how much land had eroded. RD – how are these distinct from the projects with FEMA as they are all related to flood. FEMA showed no interest in these. This is the first step, is kind of like a band aid. RD thanked Mike for this step.
7. CFD Temporary Building Update – The State is going to do a certificate of occupancy tomorrow and should be able to bring in two apparatus by the end of the week. Started to move decon items into the new space. We are looking forward to moving into. Other half 2-3 weeks. The State is working well with us. Mike – What about the basketball court – any projection on this. Dean thought midsummer. Connor 30 believes they have days or so. Paving will be left until we have the contract for paving. We have another invoice due - \$325,550,90. RD moved that we pay this amount with a second by Skip, motion carried. Ruth wanted to know if we paid more because of the delays. The original amount was \$1,282,444. Floor Drain was backordered – concrete floor push back – garage doors. Dean does not believe so. What is the final cost 1.3 million. Connor Contracting working to get it done ASAP, working on weekends. Currently, we need to borrow another \$200,000. RD moved that we borrow another \$200,000 with a second by Fred. Fred wanted to know if we need to borrow more. Mike believed that at this time we do not. It is a struggle to work FEMA to get paid, but hopefully we are making progress. We have no choice and must borrow the money. Perhaps the legislature will do something next session for the interest we will not get reimbursed. RD stated that – whatever it costs in interest is substantially less than if we have to do this ourselves. Motion carried.

8. Clark Sawmill Update – ANR and Friends of Winooski – umbrella permit, potentially brownfield. Once done we will ask Mr. Larson to do a quit claim deed and finish up possibly in 2025. Karen wanted to make sure that everyone knew she is no relation.
9. Earmark Request Sen Sanders-Wastewater-Update – Senator Sanders and Welch offices – request for a little under half-million for the WW plant. There is much to be done in the plant and the pump stations. Karen asked if we have a guide of maintenance of 3-5 years plan. RS – there is a maintenance program, and trying to take care of items but find that we need to repair things as they break. There is a lot of work that needs to be done: pumps, ground water coming in, furnace is going. Fred wanted to let everyone know that Rodger does the best with what he has. We don't have any replacement motors, etc. and possibly replace all pump stations. RD – how many of these systems do you deal with. Rodger stated: 1. They are some in Canada. Some of the plants may have 3 operators. The man coming is going to give me some insight. Gary – 30 years ago – this was a better technology at that time. Maintenance fund – we need to start looking at this more closely. Jenn stated that right before Covid the PC was looking at all the needs of Town owned buildings, however covid happened and went by the wayside. Karen – she knows of someone that operates in St. John and they share budget costs with other small communities. Rodger stated this is what we have 2 men that do the Marshfield, Cabot and WW in Danville. Not only do we have WW, but we also have hydrants in town and flushing program for water system. A lot of work that needs to be done. There seems to be more and more regulations coming down from the State.
10. Treasurer Search Update – extend the ad job website to natural register. Shirley has been filling in at the Town Clerk's office.
11. Discussion of Draft RFP on Emergency Transport Services – send out an RFP – for transport services. Fred and RD with the ambulance leadership – cordial. Our conversation was very gratifying. RD distributed a draft to the RFP – reacted to a manageable length – we did not consult with Cabot Ambulance because we are hoping that Cabot Ambulance will apply. We would like to adopt the RFP and publish it ASAP. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Mike. Karen – informational level – responded with some thoughts and recommendations, contract related “parking lot structure” and some elements should be put back in the RFP. RD stated that most of this would be put in a contract. This draft removed ALS ambulance service. *(The rest of this discussion can be heard on the audio on Cabotvt.us.)* A vote was then taken, and it was approved by 4 members of the Board with Karen voting no.
12. Discussion on possible buyout of village property related to Hazard Mitigation – Gary – working with Gregg Moore regarding Cabot Garage for a buyout with the state flood resilience fund. This does not commit the owner of the garage and he can withdraw at any time. Not sure how it could be relocated in the Town. Gregg is doing us a favor and work out a way to compensate for relocating in the Village. Currently, we do not have any funding. There are small business loans, we are just setting the stage. Where would this be located: possibly the Nunn property. Fred stated that we need to consider relocating gas pumps with the garage. RD, we have talked with Gregg about this. Brittany – since we did the land swamp – why not flip it. RD any problem – can use the site again as it must be green space and not be able to pave it – not sure of this. Mike – another location – temporary building – possibly – shared by rec committee. Gregg stated he would not like to rent or lease but prefer to be the owner of the facility. He has been very cooperative. He would like to move on this. Need to look for a place. Next step how to help with the relocation. UDAG - originally to help with new business. A portion could play into this. A lot of coordination must be done with the demolition. This is the first step. RD moved that we authorize Mike to sign RSCF and RCFS Applications with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
13. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations – This was discussed earlier.
 - b. Other Business – there was no other business.
14. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders
 - b. Update of Eclipse (April 8) - It is looking like it is a good day on Monday. We have several roads closed and feel we are prepared for the influx of visitors.
 - c. Other business – Betty wanted to thank Shirley for stepping in and helping.
15. Other Business
 - a. NIA closed on Friday. Sign conveyance.
 - b. Alexander Aldrich – a local realtor stated that he has 13 acres behind NIA and Rec Field. This could be an asset to the Town. Further discussion will follow.
16. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made RD with a second by Karen, motion carried we adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer