

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

In person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Karen Larsen, RD Eno, Betty Ritter, Jeanne Johnson, Sid Griggs, Irv Robbins, Ben Vitale and Spencer Vitale, Marcie Martin, Gary Gulka, Sam Lash, Ruth Goodrich, Jean Goodrich, Lydia Gaine, Ken Denton, Dale Brown, Will Ameden, Jean Goodrich, Jules Chatot, Judy Dunham, Simon Villa; via zoom: Shawn Brooks, Jacqueline Lumbrá, Stephen Hogan, Jenn Miller, Jef Reck, Brittany Butler, Kris Schmitt, Daniel Dunham, Sandy Pond, Cathleen Besch, scarp (Carpentier??), Heather Barrand, Phil Carpentier.

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 Karen, with a second by RD, Mike would like to add one more item under Other Business for a part-time road worker, motion carried with addition.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2024 Selectboard Meeting – Karen #5 to extending water and wastewater at the town expense, that it would be up to the developer, not the Town. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Jean Goodrich – leadership of the Town is not easy, and I want you to know that I come from a place of respect and love for all involved. At the tail end of the last meeting, it did contain misinformation that was read regarding the ambulance. It was addressed to Jenn but was addressed to the ambulance. It was referring to a report that was filed and should be investigated a little further. Reports are vague purposely to protect their identity. When some twists my words I need to correct them. The call was done promptly, when they got to the Creamery, he was surprised that we got there so quickly. The person was in contact with Chief Deasy, and he was stating that we were not reliable and was surprised that we got there so quickly. I am for the FD and the ambulance and spent more time on the FD than the ambulance. There is a public threat (the grapevine) that is spreading many rumors and would like to get this taken care of and for all of us to work together for the good of the community.

Gary – tomorrow evening the Flood Resilience Taskforce will hold a public meeting to introduce this taskforce to the community – what we are doing.

5. Contract for Langone Trail Erosion Repair – Flood Recovery Grant – Gary stated that he received 3 bids. Morgan Churchill came in at \$3,900. A motion was made by RD and a second by Fred, motion carried.
6. Neighbors in Action ballot question for March 2025 – discussion only regarding their property tax. He would – so they be relieved of tax burden such as the Masons did not pay taxes when they were owners of the building. We would like to have an article on the ballot at the Town Meeting. RD offered to write the article.
7. EAP for the West Hill Pond Dam - update on development – Karen has been working with the Association on the plan and this is several pieces of legislation that was passed into law in 2020. The flooding that has happened in the last 14 months or so has damaged the West Hill Pond Dam. The state engineers came out 3 times in the last 2 years and have called it to be a high hazard. This means that remediation of some sort must happen in a timely fashion. It is not something that will cause catastrophic damage in the near future. The Emergency Action Plan is a requirement by the State of Vermont headed by the Dam Safety Program. Part of the safety program, we are responsible for putting together an EAP in case something does happen such as a commander, phone chain list, contacting fire and ambulance. How we understand communication as part of an EAP community. If there was a problem, it would also affect Marshfield and Plainfield as well. This is something we hope will never happen, but it is a requirement to have a Plan in place.

Our first meeting was last night, and we pulled together a group of people from the ambulance, fire department, leaders of the West Hill Pond Association and me to pull together a draft to share back with the people responsible to make sure we had a working model. We have made good progress and will come back in two weeks or so. The question of ownership is still under discussion. From the Town's perspective it is a privately owned structure and the Association, and the surrounding owners need to discuss, but we are here as a selectboard to facilitate the conversation. We are here to help to ensure the safety of the people and the infrastructure downstream if a problem occurs. Martha stated that her property taxes would plummet if something was to happen with the dam. She is very willing to be behind the Town to support but is the state saying those around the dam own it or have they found an owner. Karen advised that she should get in contact with Jim and Laurie Gauthier, Jim is the president, and Laurie is the Secretary/Treasurer, and they would welcome your help. As to the question of ownership. The statutes that came out in 2020 that have been explained to me by the dam safety personnel it is defined by property lines and ownership who is closest to dam. Under this there is a property that encompasses the structure which is now responsible for the maintenance and repairs. The Association will be having a meeting soon, but they or the Town have no say in the dam. The Association has invited members of the dam safety committee to come to that meeting as well as those surrounding the

structure of this process. Sid advised Manosh is looking to drill a well and need to know where the Town stood as to where to run the waterpipe. I told them to get ahold of ANR. RD is the EAP is proactive and reactive as to who is responsible for monitoring as well the dam. RD stated to be clear it does not take care of reconstructing of the structure.

8. Class IV Road discussion – Frank -want to know what is happening. This is a discussion. We are going to talk about. Want to see what we can do Sid - his plan to go on every class 4 with the excavator. Most of them are narrow. They just needed reshaping, then the flood happened. There is a lot to be done, but it doesn't look like it will happen this year. McKinstry Road was the last road he worked on. There are 4 miles of class 4 road, and we take care of 68 roads. We even discussed upgrading some of the Class 4 to Class 3, which will be discussed further. The roads in question are McKinstry, Bailey Hazen, and a portion of Last Road. It was also suggested that since electricity has been added to Dubray Road and the trees have already been cut, that is also a possibility. We do have to review the cost of the upkeep. There were also comments that some people prefer to live on Class 4 roads. *(Due to the length of this discussion, please listen to the minutes on Cabotvt.us website.)*
9. USDA Grant Discussion – town has an opportunity to fund the Public Safety Building at 2466 Main. It looks as if this would pay up to 75% and we can ask FEMA to pay the final 25%.
10. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update – At this time, there is no business.
11. Town Clerks Office
 - a. Orders - have been signed.
 - b. Health officer – We do need to provide a health office. RD said that he could take this position. A motion was made by Karen with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
 - c. Liquor License Approvals – Betty had 8 to be approved for the Cabot Cheese and Culture Festival. Betty listed all the vendors to be approved. It was decided to approve them all together. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred, motion carried.
 - d. Other business – Sam Lash from Central Vermont Regional was here to go over the Municipal Grant. We had 4 buildings that would need some energy updates. It is a short deadline. In reviewing the items in the buildings, it would be over one million dollars. This grant would cover \$500,000. Sam suggested that since we have had to take loans out to complete the repairs she will apply for a hardship (which will then cost the Town nothing). It does look favorable for this. The grant would get executed October 21, spend it by November 29, 2026, and have all the work done by 2028. Karen asked if some of the funds could be used for a building that is not built yet. It is possible, but there are probably other grants that could be used for this. Sam and Betty will work on this and then will pass it around to the SB for review. A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred to proceed with the application for the Municipal Energy Grant, motion carried.
12. Other Business –
 - a. Part time Road Worker – right now we have 2 road people, and Sid would like to offer the part time position to Harry Dailey, Tom's father. He is fully trained and will be hired for \$25.00/hour. There is a chance that Aldo could be coming back to light duty. Sid stated there is much he can do.
 - b. GM Paving will be here to do some paving at Neighbors in Action, Danville Hill by Tim Gochey, and redo Mack Mountain apron, and a few spots on 215N
 - c. We have one more section from Westshore Road to fix
 - d. We should get a price to grind up pavement on Old Route 2.
 - e. He will be doing Coit's Pond Monday and will close the road.
 - f. Thursday he will work on Danville hill

Susanne Winston signed the agreement and has been submitted today for the purchase of her property by the Rec Field (this is at no cost to the Town).

RD wanted the Board to know that he has asked Amy for a Budget spreadsheet to track on regular basis.

Mike stated we will begin working on the budget and Betty will set up the meetings which will be on Monday and have the different groups come in to discuss the budget.

13. Motion to Adjourn a motion was made by RD with a second by Skip, motion carried and we adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter Clerk