

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, RD Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Betty Ritter, Amy Monahue, Jeanne Johnson, Frank Kampf, Irv Robbins, Cheryl McQueeney, Kris Schmidt, Will Ameden, Dean Deasy, Linda Savoca; via zoom: Ruth Goodrich, HP, iPhone

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 Karen. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2024 Selectboard Meeting – Karen on point 7 – referencing the dam safety program, remediation in a timely fashion – we hope that dam will hold and do not know when it will break. This is a state assessment. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip – motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Cheryl McQueeney – lot of teenagers on Cabot Plains and they are tearing up by the Cemetery. What can we do to curve this? She does know the boys. What about sending a letter to the boys saying that they would be responsible for the damage on the road. Karen wanted to know about eyewitnesses. Cheryl has no problem getting their license plates. She stated that you hear them about 1-2 p.m. Mike suggested that we get pictures. Cheryl said she would do this. The road is getting torn up right after it was repaired. If they are tearing up the roads that taxpayers are paying for it the people are tearing up should be responsible. Khris is a witness that the black car that does donuts on Walden Road. Mike suggested Public Service is a larger issue.

Linda Savoca – she will be looking at some water mitigation for the foundation damage. Can't fix it until the water problem is fixed. How do you get a variance going across Common Road. She would need to talk to the SB about a variance for the crossing of the road and the Commons. Perhaps a catch-basin on the Common may help. Further discussion will follow.

5. FEMA Updates – we are slowly getting reimbursed. There is not much to report. We are submitting them consistently and constantly.
6. BCA Appeal of Tax Department – Kirkpatrick – We denied his appeal and sent a detail response to him, and he has gone to Department of Taxes. The appeal is pending. They will set a court. Jeanne said we could hire an appraiser, or a wet-land appraiser. RD said that would be on the defendant's side to pay for this.
7. Errors and Omissions – there are two
 - a. Herkimer – reconfigured on request. There is an increase in their taxes but no tax on common land.
 - b. Brook and Denton – correction to their tax. – there is a no legal requirement if we don't hear from them until tax bills went out. They did not contest it in the legal time requirement. They should come from the Board of Abatement.
 - c. This would be a reduction of \$121,000. We will then send revised tax bills. RD moved that we accept this with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
8. Flood Hazard Mitigation on the Main Street Tributary – discussion and possible action – RD make a recommendation after we held a SLR public meeting. They agreed to come up with flood mediation. He asked the task force if they would recommend the woody debris be removed. SLR sent a mail recommending that we remove the debris. Last year we set aside \$10,000 to remove debris, and they have a strong recommendation that we remove the debris. This is coming from the engineers. Ben Matthews thought it would be okay to remove the debris without any further permits. Gleb agreed to this but not to build a road. Mike was wondering about the Vast bridge. RD is not recommending doing anything with Vast with a second by Fred. Motion carried with Mike abstaining.

We also discussed the rec field under the bridge. Have not received any recommendations. Mike submitted a grant request for North Bridge, Elm Bridge, and Lower Cabot. Hopefully we can get some money for the engineering of the bridge.

9. Highway Update – Sid has a laundry list of jobs to do. He has a lot lined up. He will come to the next meeting. Karen does want to look at Class 3 and upgrading for Class 4 roads. We have had several discussions over the past years. We can't appreciate the work that goes into 60+ miles of road. We will need to look at the resources we have with a 3-road crew. Sid is thinking about it. RD talked about being 4 miles of Class 4 roads and believe there are 7 miles of Class 4 roads. Only 4 or a bit higher are being used for Class 4 roads. In 1986 if a person lived around the year, it was a class 3 road, summer would be class 4.
10. Ambulance Quarterly Report – (July – September) – The report was sent to the SB. It is a quarterly report. Mike read the report. Jenn Miner resigned from the Ambulance and Glen is the President. Karen – when we have a new requirement. What is missing from the report the year to date which is missing and some clarifications. RD stated that the contract began at fiscal year, based on contract which began on July 1.

Mike wanted to know where we are in the process of the Fast Squad. Chris stated that we need to have a letter between Cabot Ambulance and the Fast Squad and that is in the process. She has started ordering gear, background checks, and the approval is possibly by the end of November. There are 12 members that showed an interest in the Fast Squad. There are some outside of the CFD. They have 30 members in the CFD. We are working on the USDA grant and are looking forward to a positive outcome and it will be 75% paid for.

11. Water and Wastewater

- a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations – Betty spoke that Rodger has a new program to work with the hydrants that will give detail info on all the hydrants. Dean stated that ISO chart is missing some – and would help with the insurance. Fred felt we needed to not wait for this. Also need attention to stormwater drains, catch basins, manhole covers. Fred would like to go around with Rodger sometime to see if and where the water is going in our system. The membranes were analyzed, and they never came up with anything conclusive. We would like to have Rodger at the next meeting for a little time to discuss the WW plant.
- b. Other Business – 20-year report – executive summary – made some recommendations. We need some capital money to do some of the repairs that have been neglected over the years. An estimate of this would be around \$345,000 over a few years. Rodger did put together a priority list, especially pump stations. The new membranes did make a difference. In looking at the cost of fees for residents, Fred mentioned that if they pay the amount to drill a well it would be about \$18,000, septic would be around \$35,000. If we had not built a wastewater treatment plant, it was possible that the church and school would have been condemned. Betty will check to see how many properties are on the system.

12. Town Clerks Office

- a. Orders – they have been signed.
- b. Bids for Lawnmowing – one bidder – DR Property. The amount will be \$,475/month. If the rec field is included it would be an additional \$175/month, and spring cleanup is \$1,100. Both Dean and Betty felt they are doing a good job. A motion was made by RD with a second by Karen. Motion carried.
- c. Other business - Betty will be contacting the Vermont Alert system about getting individuals hooked up with the VT Alert system. This is something we have discussed over the years. This way people will be alerted by either phone, email, cell phone (or all three) of any problems in the Cabot area. We are hoping to put something in the Chronicle for November.

13. Other Business –

- a. Grant application to buy out Cabot Garage has been approved. Now we need ideas as to where it would go.
- b. Grant for the Winston Rexford property is out of money until December and then find out if they can help.
- c. Any work for flood mitigation that will affect should also be with other towns and the state. We should not have to share this alone as anything done with the Headwaters of Winooski and the tributaries will be affected. RD suggested that we convene a joint meeting with SB members from the other towns along the way. Jeanne stated that on October 28 there will be forum for the Candidates, and this would

be good to discuss with them.

- d. Post Office – latest news is that it open October 3. They took out the furnace and had to replace it. Postal Realty – within 2-3 weeks (but that is a big if- and then we do not know if we have a person to run the post office.
- e. Karen stated that several meetings ago we would be planting a tree line to mitigate lights and noise for those on Elm Street. Dean stated that Roland has ordered 50 trees for the area and will check on the timeline.
 - f. WHPD – emergency action plan – requirement of the state of 2018 and 2020. State Dam safety programs deal only with owners. The dam is privately owned, and we have set aside \$20,000 but have not settled on what it would be for. In the meantime, progress marches on. We are looking at implications of downstream, an incident commander and will be drafting out a flow chart and different tier responses. Curtis Pond in Calais Community is something that we might want to consider as a model. The town now owns that pond and discovered there are problems if we don't do anything. We could approach the owners of dam with a – quit claim deed that will deed the dam to the town. We could then get some help from the state. The Town of Calais moved forward, raised money and bonded \$400,000. Calais Pond Community surrounds 54 high-end properties, and the value would plummet if they something would happen to the pond and dam. We have 11 properties and would need to have a conversation around the grand list. Town of Calais now owns the property. State engineers agree that we need to lower the water level to take the stress off of the dam. Likely sometime in the spring to take the pressure.
- g. Mirror for Thistle Hill. Fred will talk to Josh about a larger mirror and Jan about trimming back the trees but need to find out how much to trim off. Another solution is a flashing yellow light or a stop sign coming from Creamery direction.
- h. Betty also wanted to thank Diane at the Marshfield PO for helping us out in the last few months.

14. Motion to Adjourn - A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred, motion carried, and we adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk