

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, RD Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Frank Kampf, Jeanne Johnson, Betty Ritter; via zoom: Kris Schmidt, Rodger Sheldon, Brittany Butler

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 RD, motion carried.
3. Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2024 Budget Meeting a motion made by Mike with a second by Fred, Motion carried. October 8 Selectboard Meeting – a motion was made by RD with a second by Skip. Item 7 - \$121,000 in grand list; #8 – In the second sentence they the flood mitigation strategies (not mediation), they asked the task to remove the debris, and the task force declined to make a recommendation. Subsequently SLR sent an email recommending that we remove the debris, (strike that we move the debris). Last year we set aside \$10,000 to remove the debris and SLR now recommends that in conjunction with widening the VAST bridge and SLR is very particular that those two measures come in proximity (this doesn't mean right away). This is coming from the engineers, Ben Matthews, the river engineer with ANR without any further permits. Gleb agreed to this but not to build a road. RD moved that the Town remove one or both debris piles (strike up to a second by Fred). Action on the VAST bridge would be deferred and VAST contacted. Work will be carried out by Steve Hogan, Gleb's property manager. Motion carried with the corrections, amendments, or additions.
4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
5. FEMA Updates – Amy and Mike have been meeting with a team by the FEMA. He also mentioned to FEMA that we have applied for a grant for the new fire station and he suggested that FEMA pick up the additional 25% for the fire station with USDA picking up 75%.
6. CCIF Update – From Mike's memory it was always about Economic Development. RD met with CCIF members last Thursday and presented the plan and it would more than likely be voted on at the Town Meeting. The plan he proposed is more compact than other plans. It combines the CCIF Investment and Scholarship fund to be used exclusively for Economic Development and in particular for capital investment. It defines what capital investments and capital projects are, and it defines what is meant by economic development. The role of SB is somewhat more enhanced in this plan. It is up to SB to find projects and to consider capital investment and to present it to the community at the Town Meeting. There is a whole checklist that the SB needs to present in proposing these projects. This would be the check and balance that it needs. Capital Investment can include grants, loans and the rules and procedures are to be developed by the SB and in consultation with the Planning Commission and the CCA and must be consonant with the Town Plan. It is for creation of new commercial enterprises, expansion of existing enterprises, job creation, development of property for commercial use, development of multi-family housing, enhancements of municipal infrastructure. It magnifies the floods. It is important to use these funds properly. Most towns do not have these times of funds. The most striking difference between this plan and others it that it is appointed by the SB and CCIF and the Treasurer would be part of it ex-officio and not the SB is not restricted to just Cabot residents in making these appointments. The CCIF Committee will be responsible for investing these funds in conjunction with the SB. What the SB will be looking, if the plan is adopted, for people who understand investing that what the fund will be around one million dollars in a changing and fluctuating market.

One of things I discussed with the CCIF committee was the Wastewater Investment account which was supposed to be a liability to the WW fund of \$475,000. That was the principle of the UDAG investment and to be repaid to the CCIF in 2029 or 2031. The first loan was \$400,000 and a second load of \$75,000 to be used for additional hook-ups. The original investment iron clad secure T bills through Andy Leinhoff. Principal comes back in 30 years. We have no records to show when those were done, and the T-bills were liquidated and put in the market. We do know that it went from one brokerage to another and finally ended up in Union Bank. Its value has fluctuated over the years. We have no record of this. The current is about \$413,000.

Mike asked if the role of the SB and the CCIF will continue with the current. RD stated that it would not. All previous plans would be resolved. Mike wanted to know how the SB would work with this committee. The CCIF committee is only responsible for managing the funds. Mike felt that there may be some push back for outside of Cabot. He felt that we don't want it to be too large. The ZA, Planning, and Listers may all fit, but may be cumbersome. We would review this on December 5, we would have a roundtable on budget and other items. We might want to bring it up at the next SB meeting.

RD mentioned that he will be having a meeting on October 24 as a private citizen that will be at the temporary fire station and has invited a development company by the name of Jonah Richard, Village Ventures, LLC.

7. Highway Update – Currently on work on Blodgett and Upper Jug Brook Road and getting ready for winter. Currently there is no update on Aldo.
8. Water and Wastewater
  - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations – put together a priority list and we can decide on them. One of the biggest concerns is the UV Station is obsolete. We will need to look at it soon. Mike wanted to know what we would replace it with. Rodger felt an updated UV Station is needed. Most plants are going to the UV system to eliminate chemicals on site, and safer on systems and attendants. Overall, the Wastewater plant is still running well. They did have a generator issue, but there are parts that may need to be replaced, and he will get back to us. Also, he submitted an amount for Jug Brook Pump Station. The Permeate system is being built as we speak.
  - b. Shawn Fontaine will be doing a cleaning of the WW heater on Monday, October 21.
  - c. Water – There is nothing currently. We are working on getting meters corrected and if need be, to replace. We do need to send another letter concerning the approval that the Town has enough space for the increase in the ERU they have requested.
  - d. Discussion and Approval on Hydrant Computer Program – there are no records listed. We can also list curb stops, manholes, and marks with a GPS system. Rodger and his team would do the inputting. It is a one-time fee. We have 150 manholes to be checked. He can check about the smoke test. He has seen manhole prints, but no catch basins. Brittany – are we saying there are more than what ANR has on their maps.
  - e. A motion was made to approve the pump, for Jug Brook Road pump in the amount of \$7,966.66 by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
  - f. The membranes are doing good.
  - g. Rodger needs to test the hydrants. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
  - h. Other Business -there was no other business.
9. Town Clerks Office
  - a. Orders – these will be done at the next SB meeting.
  - b. Other business – no other business.
10. Other Business
  - a. Debris Removal – There will be a task force meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> we will hopefully get confirmation with the engineers and that it would be a good idea to remove the debris. The Task Force has been very reluctant to take that step without further confirmation from the engineers. Mike stated that Steve would be ready to go by the end of the month. RD stated that he will have to say there has been some pushback in having Steve do this without going out to bid but if it comes in under \$10,000, we are not obliged to have it go out to bid. He also wanted to know that there is debris removal at the Martin Bridge in Plainfield and Skip said that it was being done in Hardwick.
  - b. Vast Bridge – had a conversation with Matt who is the trail master for the Twinfield Snowmobilers. They are not planning to do anything as they are going to make use of the Bailey Bridge further down the trail. If it was okay with Steve to widen the abutments and leave it.
  - c. Post Office – currently there is no word.
  - d. Department of Housing and Community Development – We would like to have this done and Jake from DHCD Neighbor Development Area kicked off and will give some benefits to developers and homeowners just outside the Village Center. RD stated that Jake would make some time to meet with us, and he will arrange a meeting and if the SB thinks it is a good idea, he could start the application. It may not require a town vote; it may just require some procedural steps.
  - e. Vermont Land Trust – did the headwater flood mitigation for Lamoille and would be very happy to work discuss with us.
  - f. Pat Knowlton walked the land and there is a possibility behind the land at the Willey Building for the garage if they ANR would approve this area. We do have funds available now so we can move ahead. There are two other places in the village that we can look at. We need to be proactive in finding a place for the garage.
11. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried and we adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk