

**SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**

Those in person: Mike Hogan, Karen Larsen, Fred Ducharme, RD Eno, Amy Monahan, Betty Ritter, Jeanne Johnson, Frank Kampf, Paul Wade, Sandy Pond, Glenn Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich, Jean Goodrich, Lori Augustianiak, Dana Robinson, Melvin Churchill, Kris Schmidt, Dean Deasy, William Ameden; via zoom Stephanie Searles, Bobby Searles, Brittany Butler, (later after Ruth Goodrich, Jean Goodrich

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mike Hogan
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Fred with a second by RD. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. Meetings with the following committees:

Ambulance:

Glenn wanted to know what the budget plan, we need a place to park, and a new ambulance. Mike stated that we received a five-million dollar grant from USDA and would be able to house the ambulance in the new fire station (not the Public Service Building). Glenn stated that they are not opposed to becoming part of the municipality. Ruth stated that the ambulance is in good shape. Glenn stated that it would be better to have a longer contract than just one year.

Karen most businesses have a sinking plan as part of cost of doing for upcoming needs. Does the ambulance have this. At this time Ruth stated the ambulance is in good shape. RD wondered if we could start planning for the ambulance to be part of the municipality. Ruth listed who they have on the ambulance, with a possibility of 2 more joining. She handed out a packet to give an update on the latest credentials. Both Ruth and David will be certified before their license is up in the summer of 2025. Ruth also mentioned they have continuing education or take a 24-hour refresher course.

RD wanted to know what this outlet of expenses would be. Ruth stated that this is hard to figure. She will go through the expenses of last year to give some idea of expenses. It is hard to figure out an exact budget as there are many calls they go out on and if the person is transported has insurance they may get reimbursed, but if the person has no insurance they do not get paid. They do get donations, but they are usually small.

Mike wanted to know what an ambulance would cost. Glenn thought it would be around \$250,000. Fred wanted to know how long it would take to get a new ambulance. Glenn stated that they could purchase one ASAP. Ruth stated that they have a grant writer on the ambulance and they are actively looking at grants.

CCA

Cabot Arts is not part of the CCA at this time and we will hear from him separately.

The CCA is asking for \$15,000. The website for Cabot business directory is up and running. Johanna Thibault and Bobby Searles has come on board and looking forward to their input as business owners. They have received grants for the Cabot Children Center. At present there are 14 children, and it is full. They are looking for another place so they can expand.

Mike wanted to know if there are grants for downtown municipalities. Lori said they keep looking to see if there are. They are holding \$9,000 in aid for people that may have matching grants. Flood Relief was around \$46,000.

Chronicle

Jeanne is working on getting the advertising. It was broken down as to the account. Chronicle is not just the paper, but Veterans, Forums and how to promote civic participation. Mike wanted to know what other towns are doing such as the Chronicle. Jeanne does not know of anything. It was suggested that Jeanne go to the Marshfield SB. Dana wanted to know what would be the purpose of expanding to Marshfield.

Cabot Arts

Dana an increase in appropriation to establish the Cheese and Culture Event is the largest. It is a local festival and attracts all of the northeast. Different opportunities to create of bring organizations together and a great day for local businesses including Cabot Arts. Wiswell foundation supports the Cabot Cheese and Culture and they are hoping that Cabot could support the culture.

Karen asked about the Apple Pie Festival pairing with the Historical Society. Possible a spring festival (Maple) We could use a Memorial Day Festival. Lori is going to have a meeting Thursday evening.

Just for the record in on the Board of Cabot Arts.

Cemetery

He is asking for the same appropriation of \$25,000.

Is there anyway to harvest some of the trees could be offered for planning.

They do some stumping grinding. Would like to continue this.

Neighbors In Action

Asking the same. \$2,000 for Neighbors In Action, and for the Senior

Planning

\$3,150 for the appropriation. Brittany is taking some education courses. They did ask a matching grant of

Karen – Wanted to know about what they are doing

Public meeting on 12-2.

We are working on the Town Plan.

Working on Zoning. Regional Planning will be able to help to rewrite this. A grant is available for a Planning Grant with 10% match and would move forward when they get the grant which would be carried over.

How is the budget for food. This would be for public meetings.

Zoning

Same amount for the coming year.

Fire Department (Temporary Building)

The now have 30 members, and junior fire members are strong – a total of 2 and six of those moved on.

Worked on complete evacuation for the school

Security is doing well since they have put security.

Might get a better ISO rate due to more information to the insurance company

The Skid Steer will be kept at the temporary building.

Dean explained why the Temporary building does not have a sprinkler system and does not have decontamination area proper area to properly decontaminate the equipment and personnel. The air flow is all one and needs to be departmentalized so the contaminated gear and personnel is contained. Mike wanted to know if we are we required to do anything to keep the building for 2025. Dean stated we would need to apply to the state for an extension.

Another reason it cannot be the permanent fire station is that it does not meet all the requirements for State for a fire department.

What about a portable trailer. Dean said we run the risk of water freezing. There is always an obstacle to freezing in the winter.

What about Fast Squad – several communications with Cabot Ambulance. All 3 MoU were kick backed. RD asked if there is an opportunity to look at another ambulance? Karen stated that we have a contractual contract with Cabot ambulance. She was wondering if there would be a possibility to bring together CA, FD and the State. Ruth was on zoom at that time and stated they are more than willing to work with them, and all avenues are open.

For their budget amount they are asking for \$119,132 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Member gear is going up and the tanker is causing some problems.

Three items they need are: Breathing Apparatus, \$81-90,000, Radios as what they have is no longer serviceable. A new tanker would be \$520,000. The tanker is small and looking for a 3,000 gallon one. We would go after a

used one and only have 3-4 years for ISO. They tried for this through the Firefighter's Assistance and was denied.

Fred suggested that we should have \$30,000 for the sinking fund and the sinking fund should not be part of the Fund Balance.

Mike wanted to know how long the Rescue Truck is good for. Dean stated that it could last a few years.

Could we budget out for the Tanker and do a bond for \$50,000/year.

Mini Pumper would cost between \$390-\$450,000. If we had two pumpers the ISO could go down further.

Fred thought we should add \$50,000

Mike thought we could put \$30,000 for the sinking fund.

Dean thought it would be good to have a professional grant writer on board.

Any new vehicles should be undercoated.

Fast Squad – is asking for \$10,000, last year was \$23,000.

Once the MoU is signed, how long before we could be licensed. Anywhere up to 60 days.

Someone wanted to know how many structure fires for this year. Dean did not have that information.

Getting the new building funded and dealing with capital need.

5. Calendar Discussion – discussed all the dates through Town Meeting, and copies will be passed out for review.
6. Other Business – We have 3 volunteers: Dean, Gary and Peg that it would be good to have some kind of a one time stipend for the countless hours they have spent. We will continue to discuss this.
7. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made Fred with a second by Karen, motion carried, we adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Johnson