

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

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Skip Bothfeld, Karen Larsen possibly Aaron Page, Betty Ritter, Jeanne Johnson, Gary Gulka, Marie Acchione; via Zoom: Kathleen Hoyne, Kris Schmidt, Steve Hogan, Davis Barnett, possibly Aaron Celley.

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00
2. Approve Agenda - a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, comment on 6b, Jeanne talk about Kirkpatrick about other.
3. Approve Minutes from Budget Meeting 12-2 item 4, 3 paragraph – covering the \$30,000 sinking fund with the fund balance from the reserve fund to set up the sinking fund, Item 4, - \$30,000 for equipment and trust, drivers increase of clerks were higher expenses, health care salaries, paragraph 5 – appropriation that the CCA sponsor the Cheese and Culture, PSB -if we take over to the PSB – if it is refurbished. Motin carried. request a motion was made by and SB Meeting on 12-3 on December 3 – Other Business – serious – asking about CV Fiber. Item 7 – RD if we are not going to respond to a lawsuit we should not put Brian through a hearing. He was the no vote. Motion carried. RD Fred
4. Public Comment – Discuss the website.
5. Errors and Omission – Current Use Changes – 4 are current use, no changes in taxable, but with the state. There will be less revenue this year and hold harmless next year. Reduce Grand List \$175,800, - Fred motioned that we accept the Current Use Changes, with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
6. Appropriations (in current year):
 - a. Stipends for Grant Writers of \$3,000 – Discussion and Approval – Applying for planning grant and we realize that Gary and Peg are spending 20 hours a week on serious grant week. This is half of a full time employee and we have never stressed our volunteers. The work would have to be done, and this is a small token of appreciation, gratitude and a huge savings. Motion was made by RD Gary Gulka, Peg Elmer Hough and Dean Deasy. Karen wanted to know what was different than what we talked about 2 weeks ago that we tabled. RD – when we are confronted expenses – we pay them. He does have print out of where we stand as of December. Not sure if this information that we. We have mad such commitments in the past and what line item it would come out of. We do not go over each. Mike We don't know the actual audit balance from previous, we do not know that carry forward. We don't know where it would come out of. He tries to stay away from stipend expense. All committees throughout the state is on volunteerism. Fred – 3 people out of the last decade – Gary does all this work and he hasn't got anything. I talked about people in the public. He did not get a positive response. There are so many people that give up their time on other communities, and understand that it would cost us money. RD – we are competing for funds against Barre and Montpelier – who have full time paid staff and we hae to compete with those communities. If Gary and Peg decided not to do this, we would have to find out. We need these people – should hire them. If we pay what they are doing. RD we would explain it to the public. Karen in most grants there is most grants to insert grant writers and administrators – pay for the service. Is it possible to put in the municipal planning grant to insert that scope of payment for administrators. Buy out – grant \$270,000 – we have the grant for charge against the grant – Budget cycle for next year grant writing for the next year. Net income for 701 to 12-13 – school and delinquent – 600,000 for town's expense – Money is there but have to agree that we have done extraordinary work – forefront in floodwork. Fred wanted to know how Gary felt it about it. – it would be nice to have a line item - to be in grant. Certain position in town – emergency and helaht officer, constables serve those functions are above and beyond stressful situation of a policy of some sort. Mike we have asked much more that we ever expected. Fred – talk with a person in Marshfield – we don have anything here. Look to some way to pay them. Mike it is a one-time thing. Fred – appreciate everything Gary has done for this community. Mike call the question. Karen –

wonder if there is a way one person in that group that is profoundly uncomfortable with this recognition. Could we have a conversation with the people. Fred second – table the motion until Thursday.

- b. Hiring Bernard & Gervais engineers to assess feasibility of municipal site for garage relocation, \$2,000 - Decision and Approval -McDavis – came out to assess the property behind the WB building. He would Gary reminded this cost of scoping and will be part of the planning grant that we were going to procure, It is only one of several locations. This will be part of the planning process and no done deals and we expect to explore. Mike wanted to know what the objections by the library. RD said that the playground is a big item for the library and they have not looked into the moving. Mike stated that the Flood Task Force is transparent. The Library will be part of the discussion in the future.
7. Highway Update – Sid is not here tonight. – Sid would prefer he prefers issues on the highway to go through Mike, come to Mike and from the board. Aldo did have surgery – starting rehab next week and back in late spring. Good shape on the highway. Great meeting with FEMA today – almost finished with submitting the information and still dealing with firehouse. Seem a little more confident. Karen for Sid – to come quarterly – come to Cabot Connects.
8. Water and Wastewater – thank you. Gary contact with Rodger – where water and wastewater where the utilities – he found the plans and sent to the engineers. If there any electrical line – contact Aaron.
9. Town Office
 - a. Orders -
 - b. Other Business close of office
18% over the previous year – health insurance increase dramatically and school budget bottom line is unacceptable – looks for ways to cut the budget – take \$30,000 with reserve funds,
10. Calendar Review – budget meeting Thursday night. Rough tax rate.
11. Other Business December possible soft opening of po box. CV Fiber – prospect of CV Fiber – federal grant money – enable to build out in Cabot has approved.

Kirkpatrick – asked PVR I there can be a pre-hearing. He continues to send us information. He keeps looking for change and he has already selected to have another way. We have nothing to office.
12. Motion to Adjourn – Fred, RD, 6:56