

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

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

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, RD would like to comment on 6b, and Jeanne will talk about Kirkpatrick under other business. Motion carried with changes.
3. Approve Minutes from Budget Meeting 12-2 item Karen made a motion that we accept the minutes with a second by RD with the following corrections: 4, 3 paragraph – covering the \$30,000 sinking fund with the fund balance from the reserve fund to set up the sinking fund which will not affect taxpayers, Item 4, - \$30,000 for equipment and trust, drivers increase of clerks were higher expenses, health care salaries was the increase, paragraph 5 – appropriation that the CCA sponsor the Cheese and Culture, On the PSB if we take over the PSB and if it is refurbished we may not have to put in a sprinkler system. Motion carried with the changes. On the regular SB Meeting dated 12-3, motion was made by RD with second by Fred with the following changes 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 with the changes. RD Fred
4. Public Comment – Betty wanted to inform the SB that the Cabot Website is having some difficulties and should be back on line with all the new data within a few hours.
5. Errors and Omission – Current Use Changes – 4 are current use, changes in current use benefit at the state level. It will reduce the Grand List by \$175,800, which will be reflected in next year’s hold harmless payment from the state. 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 – RD felt there are 3 people that have been working on an average of 20 hours per week on flood mitigation and grants. RD felt that we would realize their work in the form of a stipend. A motion was made by RD to pay these three people: Gary Gulka, Peg Elmer Hough and Dean Deasy. Karen wanted to know what was different than what we talked about at our last meeting that we tabled. RD – when we are confronted expenses – we pay them. Mike stated that 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 have to compete with those communities. If Gary and Peg decided not to do this, we would have to find out other ways to do the work they are doing. Karen stated that in most grants they have an administrative side to pay for their time. Is it possible to put in the municipal planning grant to insert that scope of payment for administrator’s service? Certain position in town – emergency management director, health officer, constables serve those functions are above and beyond stressful situation of a policy of some sort. Mike - we have asked much more than we ever expected. Fred – talked with a person in Marshfield and they stated we do not have anything like what you have in Cabot. Mike stated this it is a one-time stipend. Fred – stated that we appreciate everything Gary has done for this community. Mike at this point called the question. Karen – wonder if there is a way one person in that group that is profoundly uncomfortable with this recognition. Is it possible we could have a conversation with these three people? Fred seconded the motion to table the motion until Thursday at the budget meeting. Motion carried.
  - b. Hiring Bernard & Gervais engineers to assess the feasibility of the municipal site for the Gary’s garage relocation for \$2,000. They will come out to assess the property behind the WB building. Gary reminded this cost of scoping 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 there are no done deals and we expect to explore more. 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 that issues on the highway to go through Mike. 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 asked if Sid could come quarterly and to keep posting on Cabot Connects and Front Porch Forum.
8. Water and Wastewater – Gary has been in contact with Rodger – where water and wastewater lines are in the area and where the utilities are. He found the plans and sent to the engineers. If there any electrical lines, he should contact Aaron Celley.
9. Town Office
  - a. Orders – they have been signed.
  - b. Other Business – during the holidays the office will be closed on various days, but Betty will be sure to post the closing days. She also stated that she can be reached at any time on her cell phone.
10. Calendar Review – budget meeting Thursday night. We may have a rough tax rate at that time.
11. Other Business -
  - a. Betty was informed that there may be a “soft opening” for the post office, but this is only speculation.
  - b. RD noted that CV Fiber may have federal grant money and would enable them to build out in Cabot has been approved. There was no other information available.
  - c. Kirkpatrick – He continues to send us information. He keeps looking for change, but he has already selected to have another way with the state. We have nothing to offer and await notice from the State for a hearing.
12. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, motion carried and we adjourned at 6:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk