

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**  
**In person at the Willey Building or via Zoom**

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, Skip Bothfeld, R. D. Eno, Jeanne Johnson, Betty Ritter, Frank Kampf, Marie Achionne-Goodrich, Trishia Cox, Gary Gulka, Sid Griggs, Dean Deasy; via zoom: Joe Hebert, Kris Schmitt, Jennifer Miner, Sandy Pond, Tyler Billingsly Stephen Hogan, Aaron Celley, Joe Herbert, Connie Hourihan, Davis Barnett, Brittany Butler, Ruth Goodrich, Matt Nally, Kim Coldicott

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 Skip. Move highway up to after Public Comment.
3. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2025 – a motion was made by Item Ambulance Narrative Town Plan, subsequent Cabot Creamery had a loss business of \$900,000. RD stated that Glenn to draft by January 31 regarding the CAES. Mike stated that at the next meeting they will meet to talk about the ambulance in Executive Session. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment – Marie Angela Achionne Goodrich live on McKinstry Road. After the last meeting she was upset. She said that SB, especially the chair to maintain order in the meeting and in her opinion it did not happen. She was concerned about the outburst and was quite scared.

RD is the representative of CV Fiber. Eustis Cable was laying fiber and had problems, and RD spoke to the people laying the land without any notice, and communication has been improved a bit. CV Fiber are laying lines in East Cabot. There is a switching station in Marshfield. There is no timeline to date. He is much encouraged with his conversations.

5. Highway Update - We did Upper Jug Brook Mack Mountain and Lovely, Menard Road. Sid stated that FEMA is already committed to Menard Road. Three remaining flood repairs are Lower Jug Brook Itself, Menard and Mack Mountain. Tyler explained that 24 contractors showed up on the preliminary bid process. Mack Mountain came in less and explained if the other two projects came in less than what was projected the money can then go towards Mack Mountain project. Because there was damage to Mack Mountain in the '24 flood we can also be able to help with Mack Mountain. We will have to wait until the bids come in. Sid and Tyler visited for a site inspection on Lovely Road along with FEMA. The cracks did look sizeable bigger than previously and we need to keep to eye on this road. It looks like Mack Mountain did as it seems to sift. FEMA took pictures and the first inspection was important. We will have to stay the course with FEMA – and may want to do hydraulic studies, engineering it would cost around 75/25 and possibly less for the Town. The 24 event is as expensive as the 23 flood.

Marie asked about Old Route 2 on any list. RD stated that we are working with the state.

It was also suggested that from the damage in May, 2011 to discuss with Rusty Churchill..

6. Milfoil Infestation at Joe's Pond – Joe Hebert, President Joe's Pond Association. The did find milfoil which can kill native plants, fish and wildlife, swimming and boating. We need to eradicate this. We are hand pulling, suction devises, and herbicide. Early response, put a barrier on the bottom of pond. We have a boat inspection, that is about normally We are hoping to get some more funding from the State, and we receive \$750 from Cabot. We have a milfoil coordinator and volunteers. We will not know until we do a much more extensive survey. It is in a small area that we know of and we will be spending around \$20,000. We are asking if you could give gifts more this year. Mike stated that we already have approved the amount for the upcoming budget. RD wanted to know when do you expect to begin the work. Joe stated It will probably be out in May and hope it is just off West Shore Road. We will be doing hand pulling. There are regulations when they are much more. RD stated that if we come to the end of our present fiscal year, we can see if we have any extra funds that could be given to this project. Sandy Ponds – we can support this with helping hands. Karen stated the more information the better as a strategic plan. He has a committee

that we are working on this and will know the number in May and he will reschedule for the first Tuesday SB in June.

7. Cabot Trails: Review and approval of permit applications for Talbert Farm Trail repairs (replace failed culvert with bridge). Gary Gulka – we have a flood recovery grant to fix erosion on Langone Road and above that culvert replacement. The big one now is on Mitchell Property and is a fairly big project. He contracted with Tyle Billingsly to design the bridge and engineer plans. 40' span bridge and 20' wide. He has prepared the permits for review and approval. It will go out in late winter, and it is 100% covered with an estimate of \$20,000-25,000. Don Mitchell signed the permit, and army corp permit. There will be a \$200 application fee. The grant will cover Tyler's fee. A motion was made by Karen to recommend that Mike Hogan sign on behalf of SB approval to apply for the construction of this bridge with a second by Fred. Motion carried. Skip wanted to know if it is just a foot bridge. Gary stated a tractor can go over the bridge.
8. Garage Relocation: Funding Decision – Gary and Peg discussed possibilities of funding for this relocation and wait to propose to wait until April when our pre-application is to be approved. We have identified some other sites in town. (Possibly behind WB and a couple of other sites.) Gary said they may know more after their meeting on Thursday. We will have more information for Gardner's Bridge for engineering study.
9. Approval for Tarrant and Richardson to Draft a Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Sawmill Dam Property for the purchase of this from Ed Larsen. Friends of the Winoosk Michelle Braun is working with us. We did testing, Brownfield process, eligible at this point. Ed Larson is willing to sign over a Quit-Claim Deed for no money involved. We will then need to decide the use of the property – basically green space, or reconfigure for a park. We might have to have a phase 2 study done. It will cost the town nothing. Everything will be cleaned up. Where does the funding come from the clean up. Friends of Winooski will help us get a grant for the clean-up. There is no concern about contamination. Town assumes no liability. Trish is concerned about taking over the dam area with the contamination. It has been tested and there is no contamination as the flood of 2023 washed it all away. We should have a deed by next meeting.
10. Water and Wastewater
  - a. Other Business – there was no other business at this time.
11. Town Clerks Office
  - a. Orders – were signed.
  - b. Approval of Renewal Loan – we need to renew a flood loan. A motion was made by Mike with a second by Fred to approve this loan. Motion carried.
  - c. Other business – there was no other business.
12. Other Business -
  - a. Jeanne announce there will a candidate forum and asked each candidate to prepared a 5 minute introduction and what they have to offer. After that we will have open question from the floor.
  - b. Dean – ISO for Town of Cabot – fire suppression rating – grading measure technique fire insurance rates, currently at 7.7 – final report on the rating of Town of Cabot for all residents and commercial businesses – payments – reviewed all that went into the report. Few negatives – aging tanker, which is small, the fire hydrant tracking. It has been lowered to 4.4 72% to 29%. 15-18% deduction for residential and 24% decrease for commercials effective May 1, 2025. They will come back in spring time to test flow of hydrants. May be able to get to the 3%. Biggest jump in his 18 years of business. Apply to vehicles – if insurance are clustered they will be added. Individuals need to deal with their policies. We could go down to 1%. We have 31 departments in our category. Some are at 9%. They look at pumpers, etc. and larger cities fall into different categories. NFA compliant with new building. If no fires service, need to look at the level of training and it is important to keep the fire department to the center of town as possible for the ISO rating.
13. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by RD with a second by Fred, motion carried and we adjourned at 7:14

Respectfully submitted  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk