

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Skip Bothfeld, Peggy Miller, Fred Ducharme, Will Ameden, Karen Larsen, Frank Kampf, Doug Cooke, Amy Monahan, Jeanne Johnson, Betty Ritter, Mike Walbridge, Greg Burt, Kerrie and Ben Mull
Those attending via zoom: Brittany Butler, Gary Gulka, Peter Dannenburg, Theresa Lay Sleeper, Kathleen Hoye, Jenn

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 5:30 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – a motion was made by Fred with Skip seconded.
3. Public Comment – Doug Cooke had a concern of safety regarding a liquor license being issued to the Den due to the traffic jams it causes at night. We need to address this before our tourist season in full swing.
4. Approve Minutes of February 3, 2026 Meeting – a motion was made Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried.
5. Highway Update
 - a. Town Road and Bridge Standards – Betty stated these need to be updated yearly. The only change is the size of culvert on crossroads. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
 - b. Sid reported that the new truck will be picked up tomorrow. Town will be coming to look at the older truck and if interested they will purchase the truck for \$65,000.
 - c. We are doing okay in the salt department. Temperatures have been good, so we have not needed to pick up any more salt. We are not short on sand. Ben Moll said he works at the NY Harbor and salt is coming in every day and trucks are there filling up from all along the east coast 24 hours a day. Sid is hoping to get a bigger salt shed. Greg stated that he believed the mixture that the crew is doing of salt and sand is working well.
 - d. Other Business Kerrie Moll wanted to thank the highway crew for their help with the 3 accidents on Gardener Bridge and for keeping the roads open. Amy stated that she is waiting for information from the cars that were damaged.
 - e. The car at the bottom of Ducharme Road was towed at the owner's expense.
6. Gary Gulka -Review and approve required certification forms for Community Development Block Grant bridge replacement project – Gary has the documents to be signed for the North Tributary Bridge which need to be signed and attach to the Gears system. Two documents: 1: Displaced plan (this is not an issue for us; #2 they needed to check to see if we have policies in place. For the most part we do. Mike Walbridge wanted to know how we avoid displacing people and flooding in the same area. This project is to prevent flooding in the future. Doug Cooke wanted to know if all easements have been agreed to. Gary stated there is no easements until we have engineering report and then when we have final plans. Are people that are currently being affected been notified. Gary stated that all the landowners have been provided with copies. There are no objections to the plan by any landowners. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Motion carried. Gary will read through the policies.
7. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update – We need to have a signature for the ANR Online Services Portal Subscriber Agreement. A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried.
 - b. Mike – stated that we are working on an ANR grant for up upgrading the plant. It was submitted and we are trying for \$400,000.
 - c. Other business – Betty is still working with Dan Copp about the membrane problem.
8. Treasurer's Office
 - a. Approve Loans – FEMA loan matured – this is loan is for \$500,000 to extend FEMA loans floods of 2023. We need to renew yearly. A motion was made by Skip with a second by Fred, motion carried. They are one year, 4.97% – don't pay anything until they mature.
 - b. Update on FEMA Loans – We are working with them to see what we are going to reimburse for flood damages.

9. Town Clerk's Office
 - a. Orders – They have been signed.
 - b. Liquor Licenses – Jets American Scratch Kitchen for on premise license – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried.
 - c. The Den - Outdoor and first class – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Peggy, motion carried.
 - d. Other Business - Amy stated the funding for Cabot Garage has been Di-obligated. There is no promise that we can't relocate the garage. It would behoove us to look at alternatives.
10. Other Business – There was no other business.
11. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip, motion carried and we adjourned at 6:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Cabot Select Board meeting focused on several key topics including the North Tributary Bridge CDBG grant documentation, which the board approved after reviewing municipal policies and anti-displacement requirements. The board also discussed water and wastewater updates, including a new subscriber agreement for ANR Online Service Portal and ongoing work to replace cracked water meters. Highway updates covered the acquisition of a new truck, salt supply chain challenges, and concerns about potential flooding during spring melt-off. The board approved two liquor licenses - one for Jets American and two for Carrie's Hardware at the Den - and reviewed the distribution of new town reports. A significant discussion centered around flood mitigation strategies, particularly regarding debris fields and bridge repairs, though funding constraints for the cab garage project were noted as a limiting factor for potential solutions.

Next steps

- [Mike: Send scanned copies of signed CDBG grant documents to board members.](#)
- [Gary: Ensure landowners are contacted and informed as final engineering plans for the North Tributary Bridge project are developed, and coordinate easement agreements once final plans are complete.](#)
- [Fred: Check with Dan tomorrow regarding the status and timeline for delivery of new water treatment membranes.](#)
- [Betty: Follow up with the resident who has a cracked water meter to ensure the old meter is returned and the new one is picked up.](#)
- [Amy: Talk to the insurance company tomorrow about the third accident at Gardner's Corner bridge and provide any new information.](#)
- [Sid: Call 2-3 salt distributors next year to make contracts with all of them to ensure salt supply for the following winter.](#)
- [Gary: Pull back up the engineering studies/debris management reports for the North Bridge area for review at the next meeting or the one after.](#)
- [Betty: Deliver town reports to Marshfield and Danville as well as other specified locations.](#)
- [Betty: Send town reports to residents who request them by note.](#)
- [Board/Select Board: Review and, if necessary, update or create new personnel policies \(e.g., texting while driving\) to ensure compliance with CDBG grant requirements, as flagged by Gary.](#)
- [Board Chair: Sign the ANR Online Service Portal subscriber agreement for wastewater as per motion.](#)

- [Sid and team: Continue to diagnose and resolve the electrical issue with the six-wheeler truck, coordinating with the dealership as needed.](#)
- [Sid: Obtain a second estimate for repair of guardrails at Gardner's Corner bridge after recent accident.](#)
- [Betty: Submit approved liquor licenses to the liquor license control first thing tomorrow morning.](#)

Summary

Safety Concerns at Main Street Restaurant

The Select Board meeting began with a discussion about safety concerns regarding parking and pedestrian traffic near a restaurant on Main Street, expressing worry about potential accidents due to limited road space and darkness. The board reviewed and approved minutes from the previous meeting, and noted the absence of Jenn who was out of state. The meeting encountered technical difficulties with the video feed, making it difficult for participants to see each other, though audio was functioning properly.

CDBG Grant Documentation Approval

The board discussed the CDBG grant for the North Tributary Bridge project, focusing on required documentation and policies. Betty explained two key documents: a residential anti-displacement plan and a comprehensive policy document covering topics like fair housing, ethics, and workplace safety. Gary clarified that while preliminary engineering designs are in place, final plans and easements will be determined in the coming year after engaging an engineer. The board approved moving forward with signing the necessary documentation, and Gary confirmed that landowners had been notified of the preliminary plans with no objections so far.

Municipal Updates and Infrastructure Projects

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Gary reviewed municipal policies and suggested Mike review them thoroughly to ensure all necessary elements are covered, such as texting while driving. Betty mentioned scanning and distributing copies of signed documents. Benny presented a subscriber agreement for the ANR Online Service Portable Portal, which requires the Select Board chair's signature. A cracked water meter issue was discussed, with plans to replace it and install new hybrid water heaters at the plant. Amy and another participant secured a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources to update the wastewater plan, which is over 25 years old. The treasurer's office reported that a FEMA loan matured, with \$100,000 of the principal paid down, and the loan amount reduced to \$500,000.

FEMA Loan Terms and Infrastructure

The meeting covered several topics, including loan terms, salt supplies, and vehicle maintenance. Betty explained that FEMA reimburses interest on loans, and the board reviewed town road and bridge standards, which need to be updated to include larger diameter cross-culverts. The group discussed preparing for potential flooding due to melting snow and ice, with a focus on clearing snowbanks to help water drainage. They also addressed issues with a six-wheeler truck experiencing sporadic electrical problems and planned to work with the dealership to resolve the issue.

Road Maintenance and Supply Challenges

Amy discussed the status of guard wheel repairs and the need for a second estimate following recent accidents. She mentioned that insurance claims are ongoing due to the lack of official police reports. We also addressed concerns about speeding and accidents on sharp corners, particularly near West Hill Pond. Sid explained that the town has sufficient sand but is experiencing a salt shortage due to supply chain issues. To manage the situation, Sid ordered extra salt from a new supplier in Rutland and is adjusting the application of salt and sand to extend their supply.

Salt Supply and Infrastructure Challenges

Sid reported challenges in securing salt supplies due to limited storage capacity and existing contracts, and discussed plans to secure multiple distributors for the upcoming winter. The board approved two liquor licenses for a new restaurant and Harry's Hardware. Town reports were distributed, and concerns were raised about flood management and debris removal, with a suggestion to revisit engineering studies. The board noted that funding for the cab garage relocation project has been depleted, making alternative solutions necessary.