

**SELECTBOARD MEETING minutes**  
**Tuesday June 16, 2026, 6:00P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order- Jen called meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. Approve Agenda-motion to approve agenda Fred made motion mike 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor
3. Minutes from June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 motion to approve by mike 2<sup>nd</sup> by skip. All are in favor.
4. Public Comment- Lori has a 4<sup>th</sup> of July update, July 3<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) there will be a magician and DJ as well as a community softball game and a 3 on 3 basketball tournament. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July there will be a military flyover at 11ish. There are also prizes, substantial prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fred suggests putting the word out on WDEV and WCAX. Lori says there is also some flyers around. Creamery is allowing the use of their lots on main street, but Lori needs a signature from the Selectboard Chair for the use of the land. The creamery is going to make sure that lots that are not supposed to be used are cordoned off. They are also in need of people to help park and there is a \$10 voucher for lunch if you help parking. Peggy wants to know if the Consolidated building could be for handicap parking. Mike asks if parking will be sufficient, Lori hopes so. Richard Bushy is going to help with the Elm Street lot by the cemetery. Gary asks how many more volunteers are needed for parking help, she says at least 20-30 total. There will be 2 shuttles running before the parade and one after. Mike wants to know how we are going to deal with Danville Hill. Keeping people from parking at the triangle and have Greg move the wrecker so that cars cannot enter into the parade route when they are not supposed to. We also will have 2 sheriffs this year. Jen wants to know how we are diverting traffic near the end of the parade from elm, Thistle and Danville Hill. Lori hopes that communication will be better this year as opposed to last so that everyone knows when to open the roads back up. Jen asked if everyone has a way to move floats, Lori says that nobody so far needs help in bringing floats down the parade route. Do a VT alert Post to say that the road will be closed for 2 hours during the parade.

Fred mentions that the storm drains are full and we need to have them cleaned out. This will be on the agenda for the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

5. Ethics policy updated draft- discussion & action  
Motion to approve the Code of Ethics Policy by mike 2<sup>nd</sup> by skip. Jen mentions that we need to decide who will receive the reports. All approved.
6. Dog Ordinance discussion/action: The reason for the changes in the ordinance is because of an issue we had recently where we had to house dogs for a long amount of time, which accrued a lot of fees. The changes made were monetary. –reference changes made in Mikes E-mail. The changes were minor to deal with any future situations that may arise. The town has the authority to amend ordinances and this is in line with such. Skip asks who enforces this. The answer is the selectboard. Fred motions to approve the amendment Skip 2<sup>nd</sup>, no discussion, all are in favor.
7. Grant Policy updated draft- discussion & action  
The reason for this amendment was to take out the Planning Commission. The other area was to create a pass through for grants with no match and 15,000 or less. Mike believes the wording is too cumbersome and we should approve as changed without the section on pass throughs. The selectboard oversees all monies that come through. If there is a grant with a short turn around we can call a special meeting. Dean asks what happens if there is a short window? Answer- It still has to come through the selectboard and a special meeting will be called. Mike also wants to say that we need to do it this way due to audits. Brittany will put on the website  
All in favor for approving the Grant Policy.

8. Vermont Council on Rural Development - possible decision to participate in VCRD's Climate Economy Resilient Communities program: Lori- Cabot received the grant for the Resilience Hub. Nothing big will happen with this until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Grant of 45,000 To research and study what went right during the last flood(s) and how and what we can do better. Jen asks to please include all relevant players. Mikes asks what the timeframe is for hiring a community coordinator. August 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline. The time frame has changed from July 1-July 15 of next year. Lori says there may be changes to the budget as presented but they will be minor and not an issue to amend.

Gary: Peg has been communicating with the Resilient program. In 2012 we had a hub that was multi-faceted, many of which were implemented. This is more about preparedness, not just floods. The task force felt that this would be a good project to pursue. No decision needed tonight. Laura Bailly from VCRD is online.

Laura: VCRD Helps Vermonters grow thriving communities at the local level. They work where they are invited. The program has become and transformed to what is needed in the communities. Community meals to share and collaborate with the community to bring all ideas for the future to the table. Plainfield had meetings recently –listen and elaborate. Hardwick has some consultants working with the LEMP and the groups worked together doing different roles but working together, in that an addendum was adopted on what was needed and policies and procedures across several groups in town. Depending on the request will determine when VCRD can be available to us. What is the role of the selectboard, supportive of the engagement and also creating a welcoming space for the convening. Also be supportive of the policies and procedures that come out of the brainstorming. Mike asks what towns, Weston, Johnson, Plainfield, Hardwick, Peacham and work with CVRPC. Laura says they always work with CVRPC to make sure all aligns with the town and regional plan. Mike asks how Plainfield's work is going. Laura says it is moving along there has been a lot of progress with Goddard Creative Campus. They have also worked with Barre City immediately after the flood, as well as Sharon a few years ago. Gary asks if these reports are accessible on-line. They are, she will email and attach the link in the chat. Peg says this would be a terrific opportunity to get VCRD's help for community facilitation. Peg Elmer Hough says that the task force has done a great job with the flood work but it is the other disasters that we may not be as prepared for as we would like. Jen would like copies of documents/link of the other projects so we can familiarize ourselves with it.

9. Flood Mitigation Updates- Brief update by Gary- Cabot Garage Relocation meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> was not the complete report. It is now complete and we now have the opinion of cost for both potential sites. Gary will put those online. He was shocked by the cost. Either site is the 2,000,000 to relocate the building as well as 2,000,000 for the mitigation project, bridge on the south tributary. They are going to look into debris catchers upstream on town property. RD is taking the lead on that and all players will be invited when that meeting occurs.

We can look for grant opportunities and there could be possible funding available through the state in the future. We now have that information to move forward or not on relocation and mitigation for the south tributary. Mike comments his appreciation to the task force on all their work they have done after the flood. We are not alone in our worries in the future for natural disasters.

## 10. Fire Department

### a. Truck cab/Chassis/radios

Dean: Th CVFD submitted their 20 year ftimeline for the large expenses that are coming down the road soon. He wants to advise the selectboard of an option to save the town 30,000 the tanker is slated to be replaced it is overdue. The emissions are going to tighten up and it is going to be a huge increase in price due to the emission requirements. If the town could take the option to but our name on a new cab and chassis now to save costs down the road, that will allow the select

board to save approximately 30,000 in the future. He wants to mention that he is trying to make sure that we are not purchasing 2 new trucks at the same time. In 2029 the next vehicle will be 20 years old and need replacing, which would be the rescue. The FD is going to be relying on an apparatus that is almost 30 years old. Jen wants to know what monies are required to put our name on this. Cost is 150,000 and we have the 40,000-sinking fund. We also have 8,000 from this physical year of balance left over. Dean says that is due to the change in insurance.

Amy says that we are 2 weeks away from the end of the physical year what are they spending 30,000 on in the next 2 weeks. Portable pump needs to be upgraded, it is 39 years old and they want to get a gas meter because they only have one and the other is not fixable, also a positive pressure exhaust fan. Jen asks for costs on those items, Dean says 19,000. Point of clarification the email that she sent stated 36,000. Mike wants to go back to the beginning of the discussion of the tanker replacement. IF the town wants to put our name on it is any money due. Dean says money is not due to put our name on it. Is the insurance going to cover a tanker that old? Amy says they have never said they won't. Mike believes there is no question that we need a tanker in good working order. We can split the remaining portion of the money due over the next several town meetings. Jen wants to know definitely that we will not have to put any money down. Clarification it is a pumper tanker. Skip wants to know if they checked any other models other than Mack? Dean says they did and know from the research that they do not want anything to do with alliance. Dean says they have until the end of the year, but other towns are doing the same thing in order to beat emissions. Motion to confirm if there is no money down to put our name on it then it is approve, Skip made motion and mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are in favor.

2031 the engine will be 20 years old. IN the past we have applied for grants, mike encourages the FD to pursue any and all grants that could cover the cost of the tanker, engine, etc.

Radios: Amy- we need a path forward on the radios. The information from CCIF is they will do a loan that will need to have repaid starting January at 5%. We still have to option to move forward with the bond bank in December, but the money would not be available until February. CCIF has a meeting tomorrow night. It has not moved in CCIF because there was no repayment plan. Starting in July there will be 14,000 per year toward the radio. If we were to only pay that to CCIF every year it will take us a bit of time to pay that back. We need to figure out what direction we need to go in. There has also been a number of radios that have failed since we started this process. If radios are a priority they we take the 14, 000 and the remaining surplus and get radios that are needed. Peg put in a letter if intent for a grant through Motorola, they should be getting back to her. As long as we have not accepted money to pay for those we can still move forward as long as we have not accepted another grant or avenue forward. Mike says the bond bank is a good avenue, cumbersome but a good thing for the town to go though, he asks what the percentage is, 3% says Amy. We do not have any money budgeted for radios so there is no real option other than the bond bank. Asks if the prices for radios are going to change, he believes is until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Jen says it is until 2028. Dean has a comment that the sinking fund was established for only apparatus. What does the budget need to be going forward for the bond bank. Amy is going to have to look into that. Will believes that the bond bank is the best option. Amy says the we have to retain bond council and there are only 5-6 attorneys that are approved for this. The board wants this on a September agenda to start the bond bank process. Amy is gong to find out what the average bond council costs. She will get that information.

b. Dry hydrant easements discussion/action

The board needs to be aware that we are going to need to go to bid to replace a dry hydrant on 215 north. Believes there is a crack somewhere in the pipe. He has some money earmarked under dry hydrants. The average cost is about 15,000. Mike wants to know if there are any others that have issues. Yes- The one on Westshore Road. The beavers are building the dam on the intake for the dry hydrant. It was condemned and inoperable. Someone that takes care of beavers can do it and gave a quote to just get the beaver if Sid takes care of the dam and the other is for doing the whole thing. 50\$ a beaver at a 500 ceiling. He works with Vermont fish and game and they relocate the beavers. The culvert under the road is being blocked and the water is backing

up and causing damage to the tennis courts. The beavers need to go. Would baffles work ie beaver diverter? It could work, but it is not in the quote. The only cost could be to just remove the beavers and then do a baffle/defeater and culvert work at a later date. The debris need to be removed to the stump dump or anywhere but there. Mike suggest the road foreman deals with culvert and dam, the money comes out of dry hydrant. Jen wants to know what we do first. Dam goes first and then they will be active and he can capture them. The board says to move forward Jen will get with Sid and Dean will contact the person that will remove the beaver. Liz says there needs to be an easement in the land records. 2020 today the language is different. Dean and Brittany will look over dry hydrant information in order to put the easements into deeds.

11. North Tributary Bridge Replacement Project - Selection of engineering contractor Gary believes Tyler would be a good fit based on cost and familiarity with the town. Tyler also said we would be better off waiting to construct in 2028. Need memorandum of understanding from the 4 landowners that will be affected or could be affected with the project. Gary shared the memorandum with the board. He suggests whoever is selected that they meet with all landowners in person prior to starting the project. Mike made motion to accept East Engineering (\$130,000 vs 210,000 SLR) as the contractor for the north Trib project., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred all are in favor. by Peg wants to know if there is any negative impact for the cut off dates for the funding by moving the date back. Gary says no we technically have 6 years. Gary will draft the contract as the next step. Stephen commented,
12. Knox box ordinance discussion/action- Liz comments on reasons for the amendments of this ordinance. There was a lot that was not included in the current version, there is also a difference between a box at the creamery vs residential. This ordinance was also 30 years old. Skip says that the boxes are small, are they going to be updated? Dean says the bottom line is technology has advanced far beyond the means of the current ordinance. The problem currently is that the FD does not know all of the structures in town that have hardwired alarms. There are currently 14 around town. The cost is approximately \$350. Motion to approve the amended ordinance by skip and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peggy. All are in favor.
13. Water and Wastewater
  - a. Meter update- EJ Prescott is going to come in and help Amy with how we are going to do the billing. Fred says talk to him, he knows what should and should not be billed. Fred gave an update on all the ones that have been completed and the ones that we still need to do. There will be a meeting with the Water/wastewater ordinance and the Clerks office and Fred to go over all the hookups, etc. They are going to bring in someone to go through all the hydrants. Can he send dean the report when finished.
  - b. Other business
14. Town Clerk's office
  - c. Orders
  - d. Other business Approve license for Burts special events permit- mike made motion fred 2<sup>nd</sup> all are in favor.
15. Other Business- school on next meeting in July and get some school board members to the meeting as well to begin the discussion. The board agrees and Brittany will contact the school board to see what meeting they want to come to.

Bulk removal day cost: 4 dumpsters 2,800(2025), this year we had 4 and it is 3,100. Tires? What is the amount that the town is willing to expend to get rid of all the tires that are dumped all over town. Skip says that we should have the bulk day removal 2 times a year.

Motion to enter executive session Mike , Fred 2nd. At 836.

16. Executive session x2: treasurer/assistant town clerk Came out of Executive session at 9:25pm Mike made motion, Skip 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 yes Fred was not in attendance.
17. Motion to Adjourn Mike made motion to adjourn at 9:27 pm Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 yes Fred, not in attendance.

Zoom Summary:

## **Meeting summary**

### **Quick recap**

The Cabot Select Board meeting on June 16th, 2026 focused on several key topics including the upcoming Fourth of July celebrations, policy updates, and flood mitigation projects. Lori provided updates on Fourth of July activities, including new events on July 3rd and increased parade prizes up to \$1,500 for first place. The board approved updates to the Code of Ethics Policy, dog ordinance amendments with increased penalties, and revisions to the grant policy. Gary presented updates on flood mitigation efforts, revealing that building relocation options would cost approximately \$2 million, similar to the original mitigation project cost. The Fire Department discussed purchasing a cab and chassis for a tanker truck to avoid significant price increases due to new emissions regulations in 2027, with an estimated cost savings of \$30,000. The meeting also included a presentation from Laura from Vermont Council on Rural Development about their Resilient Communities program, which could help with climate-related disaster preparedness and community resilience building.

### **Summary**

#### **4th of July Celebration Planning**

The meeting focused on updates and decisions regarding the upcoming 4th of July celebrations, town policies, and community resilience initiatives. Lori provided detailed updates on parade plans, including increased prize money and new activities, and outlined parking and traffic management strategies with the help of volunteers and law enforcement. The board approved updates to the ethics policy, dog ordinance amendments, and the grant policy, with specific attention to ensuring transparency and efficient processes. Additionally, the town received approval for a \$45,640 Resilience Hub grant to enhance community preparedness and infrastructure resilience, with plans to develop a work plan by August 15. The conversation ended with an introduction to a potential new climate and economic resilience program, with further discussion planned at a future meeting.

#### **VCRD Resilient Communities Program Presentation**

Laura from VCRD presented their Resilient Communities program, which provides free facilitation services to help Vermont towns address climate resilience through community engagement processes. She shared examples from previous work in Weston, Plainfield, Johnson, and Hardwick, demonstrating different approaches from single convenings to multi-phase community processes. The discussion revealed that VCRD would meet with Cabot's Land Access and Opportunity Board to discuss potential collaboration, with next steps including coordination with the Resilience Hub grant and other town entities within 6-12 months. Peg expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity to have full community conversations beyond just flood recovery, noting the importance of addressing extended power outages and extreme weather events.

#### **Flood Mitigation and Equipment Updates**

Gary provided an update on flood mitigation efforts, reporting that the task force evaluated seven sites and narrowed it down to two viable options for relocating the cabbage garage, with construction costs estimated at around \$2 million per site. The team will explore debris management upstream and potential grant opportunities, including buyout funds from Vermont Emergency Management.

#### **Fire Equipment Purchase Planning Meeting**

They also addressed the need for new radios, considering a loan from CCIF with 5% interest starting in January or waiting for a bond bank option in December. The board noted that grant applications for large fire department assets should continue to be pursued, with Liz joining the department to help with grants.

#### **Radio Replacement Funding Options**

The board discussed funding options for replacing radios, with Brittany presenting two main choices: using the CCIF fund (\$14,000 annually) or pursuing a bond through the Vermont Bond Bank (around 3% interest rate over 40 years). The group agreed to pursue the bond option, with plans to put this on a September agenda and begin the process of retaining bond counsel. Chief DC also reported that dry hydrant number 11 on Route 215 North needs replacement due to likely cracking, with estimated costs around \$15,000, requiring the town to go through the bid process since it exceeds the \$20,000 threshold.

#### **Beaver Dam Removal Discussion**

Dean reported that beavers have rebuilt a dam on top of the town's dry hydrant intake, rendering it non-operable and causing water backup damage to nearby structures including buckled tennis courts. The Select Board discussed removing both the beaver dam and addressing the culvert issue, with a contractor providing quotes for beaver removal at \$50 per beaver with a \$500 maximum, and dam removal at \$450. The board agreed to have Sid handle the culvert and dam removal work, with funding to come from the dry hydrant maintenance budget. Elizabeth raised the issue of recording fees for landowner agreements related to dry hydrant grants, suggesting the town waive recording fees since these documents would benefit the town and need to be recorded in land records.

#### **Board Meeting: Projects and Updates**

The meeting covered several key topics. For the dry hydrant easement discussion, Dean explained the need to properly document easements in deeds rather than memorandums to protect future property owners, and noted ongoing challenges with getting responses from Mike regarding zoning regulations. The board unanimously approved hiring East Engineering for the North Tributary Bridge Replacement Project at \$130,000, with Tyler Billings recommended due to cost savings and local experience, though construction would be delayed to 2028. The conversation ended with a discussion of updating the Knox Box ordinance to accommodate modern technology, with Elizabeth presenting a revised draft that includes swipe cards, passcodes, and encrypted digital records, affecting approximately 14 boxes across various premises in town.

#### **Cabot Board Meeting Updates**

The board approved an amended Knox box ordinance for the town of Cabot. The group discussed updates on water and wastewater meter installations, with Fred reporting progress on meter replacements and installations across various locations. They addressed billing concerns and the need for a comprehensive water ordinance to handle multi-unit buildings fairly. The board also approved a special events permit for Burt's Orchard and discussed the potential acquisition of the Peacham school property by the town. Finally, they considered implementing additional bulk waste removal days, including tire disposal, and discussed cell coverage issues in the area.