

SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Those attending were Ted Domey, Jack Daniels, Fred Ducharme, Bernie Shatney, Michael Hogan, Jeanne Johnson, Frank Kempf, Richard Aronson, Andrew Gilbert, Mark and Brigitte Codling, Lynn Lehoe, Rory and Johanna Thibault, Jan Westervelt, Sharon O'Connor, Lori Augustianiak, Chris Tormey, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.
2. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Jack with the suggestion from Ted that we have the bid opening at immediately following the approval of the minutes. Motion approved.
3. Approve Minutes:
 - a. April 25 – Personnel Policy Working Meeting - A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Fred to approve these minutes. Motion carried.
 - b. April 25 – Road Reclassification Working Meeting - A motion was made by Fred and seconded by Bernie to approve these minutes. Motion carried.
 - c. May 3 – Personnel Policy Working Meeting – A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Fred. Motion carried.
 - d. May 3 – Selectboard Meeting – A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Fred, Motion carried with Mike abstain as he did not attend this meeting.
4. Public Comment – Brigitte would like to consider lowering the amount for a mass gathering. Also, Andrew Gilbert spoke of another problem with a dog at 565 Lovely Road. He was literally knocked down and needed to use the pepper spray.
5. Act 46 (40-minute time limit) – There are four or more individuals who would like to comment on the pros and cons of Act 46 The Selectboard invited individuals to come. Chris explained that each town will need to approve this. If this is approved, there would be a nine-panel board with 2 members from Cabot which would take place in July 2018. There definitely incentives from the State to merge for property taxes. If all the variables play out, we could gain \$200,000 on property tax savings. It is possible to reduce values of the property.

Mike - what about other mergers in other parts of the state similar to Cabot. Chris stated they do not have enough information.

Jeanne - Cabot Chronicle - is not the voice of any philosophy but of the community. She works to have both sides of the issue and strive for balance.

Lori - CCA - no position - Economic Development work group - feels that it is in the best interest to maintain the school. The consultant did make clear that the Town should fight for its school, but could find ways to work around it if the school does close. The CCA felt that ACT 46 was only the perspective of education not about the other areas.

Ted - there have been communities that have lost their high schools, but not the graded school and have survived. One thing that is evident is that Cabot always brings their voters out.

Lori – Cabot should talk to realtors and see what can happen. CCA will have more information by November.

Roy Thibault discussed why his family moved to Cabot and discussed the smaller towns. Why would you move to Cabot if they have to go to Plainfield – I would have moved to Plainfield. The school what attracts families here. Restructuring - if school budget fails - are they apt to cut across four towns - would they cut Cabot.

Ted - what have we wasted in the last 24 months. - Voting on Option 1 - high school to close.

Roy Thibault - learned what the weaknesses are. How we can have the voice of Cabot heard. Possibly a Crafsbury/Cabot.

Mike – asked are we talking with Craftsbury?

Chris - have not talked with them.

Ted -There doesn't seem to be transparency.

Jack - what happens after four years to the graded school. If the Cabot Community votes no on June 20 in between

that time at November 30.

Thibault – what would be the impact to school. If we become a K-8, the state would have no authority over us. We would be looking at Academy type of school. Even if it does fail, we can go back and look at the endless possibilities.

Mark wanted to clarify that Roy Thibault was not on board

Brigitte Codling - group of individuals who support the merger. If vote yes - gain 4-year tax reduction. By merging of supervisory union savings - staff members - \$360,000 savings. Reduce staff members in high school. \$150,000 grant - keep it. Lose our small school status. Eliminate tax penalties - if we don't merge - could have some significant tax increase. Facility repair needs - quite extensive. Unified board would share the cost of the maintenance. Larger class sizes - more opportunities for the student.

Ultimate mergers - no - need to figure something out by November 30. Took a long time to get to this, can't get this done in just 5 months. H513 opens up some alternatives and can risk savings, etc.

Fred – I personally don't believe that Danville or Twinfield has any more to offer.

Jack - voted the school board not to support the merger. 150,000 grant - spread among the schools. Are you concerned about the long term risk.

Brigitte - went to small schools and then went to larger schools. If we fail to merge on June 20 or November - state will come in and merge - who and where we will merge.

Chris - lot of uncertainty.

Jack made a motion that the Cabot Selectboard not support the merger and encourage voters to vote no on 2017. Fred seconded. Discussion - if a yes vote - Cabot can't look at other options. If no - at least other options to possibly not lose the k-8. Schoolboard and Selectboard to come up with a plan. Ted – the school board had years to find solutions. The schoolboard has had many opportunities to fix up the buildings - Gave facility repairs and hired a school teacher instead. We could have done other options.

Mike - appreciate all work done. It's not the select boards job to come out to say how the voters should vote. The voters have the choice. Do not feel comfortable in voting yes for this motion.

A vote was then taken and there were 2 yes, and 3 no. Motion denied.

6. Health Officer Update - Fire Marshall coming in Monday to inspect. Does not feel that the fire marshal is too concerned. He will be here on Monday, May 22. He cannot inspect the rest of the building unless he is invited in. If he doesn't find anything structurally wrong, the Town will need to figure something out. It would be good to get examples of apartment codes ordinance from St. Johnsbury and Rutland in how they deal with this to help tenants out.
7. Planting Flowers/Town Maintenance - received a letter from Amanda Greenhouse - UDAG committee not doing this. We could have this go out to bid, but there is no money in the Town budget to allow for it this year. Bernie does not understand why CCIF would not do this. She could submit a request to CCIF for 2018 flower planting, or we could put it in the budget for next year. Nothing this year.
8. Road Commissioner Report
 - a. Project Schedule - Doug and Karen will review bids and make a decision. Select lowest bid then check references, and make sure they are bidding correctly. It will be up to the board decide.
 - b. Forestry Survey - sent letter to board for review for regional planning grant. Planning commission wants to be part of the letter and will sign with the board. Conservation commission will write their own letter.
 - c. Purchase winter sand - Gravel construction - discount - .50 a yard savings if we buy now. In the budget is \$18,000.00. We normally purchase more but last year we had a lot left over. This year we don't have as much left over. This will purchase 2,570 yards. We spent \$20,000 last year, but the budget was cut to \$20,000. We have a little left. We purchased 2,850 yards last year. We may have a savings in gravel in the summer that we can purchase more for 2017-2018 if we need to.
 - d. Mower looking to rent a tractor for mowing with option to buy. We cannot not purchase this year, but would like to check with Marshfield or St. Johnsbury to see if we can work borrow there's.

- e. Project bid opening:
 - f. Paving – bid opening - done
 - g. Danville Hill Culvert replacement - done
9. Town Plan - Planning Commission decide to pass onto Selectboard to review and adopt. Public Hearing will need to be done no sooner than 30 days - no later than 120 days. We will discuss this in our first meeting in June 6. If revisions are made, we will then need to have another public hearing.
10. Conflict of Interest – tabled for tonight.
11. Mass Gathering Ordinance – Would like to rename Public Assembly Ordinance. Would appreciate everyone looking at this.
12. Town Clerk Report
- a. Signing of Orders – these were signed.
 - b. Dog Warrant – We have 25 dogs left to be licensed. Jack made a motion that we approve the outstanding dog warrant, Mike seconded. Motion carried. This will be then passed onto the Constables. Mike indicated that if they need help in calling people to let him know.
 - c. The contract for the CCA to do an economic development grant with the consultant was asked to be signed tonight. Jack moved that we sign this for the consultant to the grant, Mike seconded.
 - d. Union Bank asked us to sign an Allonge agreement for the UDAG loan of \$200,000. It seems that their accounting system would not allow for the way the payments were structured. A motion was made by Bernie and seconded by Fred that we sign this. Motion carried.
 - e. Betty received a letter from a concerned citizen regarding the Faith in Action food drop. Bernie checked into this and found that there was one isolated incident but will keep an eye on it.
13. Water/Wastewater application Bancroft - white house and barn - putting in apartment - there is a connection. It is recommended that we approve this. Mike motioned that we approve this and Fred seconded. Motion carried.
14. ANR has asked that we now submit our monthly reports on line and sign them electronically. We do not have a policy for signing electronically. The question was “Who signs them?” It was recommended that Karen sign them. We should have a policy for this. - no issue for both to sign. Policy for electronically signing - who is going to sign and get them back.
15. Report on VT215 Class I - Marshfield - last week - Karen talked with Dan at regional planning - meeting with Walden next week. A Class 1 road - does not need to be any wider.
16. Ambulance - Marshfield looking for an option - if we don't respond it goes to Barre not East Montpelier and they should be connected to respond. We would like to invite Andy Luce and Shelia Brown to come to next meeting. Marshfield is going with East Montpelier, and we would get left behind. Fire Department has the same issue. We are geographically challenged. Perhaps we should look into some type of incentive and perhaps a stipend to help this situation. Fred suggested and will contact Will Schwartz to find out what is really happening.
17. Selectboard Goals - talked combining public safety and public security - Rory Thibault would like to come to the next meeting. Then have some subgroups under this. Jack motioned that combine security and safety committee. Fred seconded. Motion carried.
18. Other Business - Jack - Judy Pransky - received letter - can't operate closing at midnight - - she said that she will come and talk with Selectboard. We would discuss her permit and the Public Gathering Ordinance.
19. It was proposed that we meet at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 23 to discuss the bids for Danville Culvert Project and the paving, the Personnel Policy, Conflict of Interest, Public Gathering Ordinance, Health Officer Update.
20. Bernie would like to make sure the sign is put up about parking overnight ASAP.
21. A motion was made by Fred and seconded by Bernie. Motion carried. We adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer
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