

SELECTBOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Those attending: Selectboard: Michael Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Bernie Shatney and Ted Domey by phone.

Community Members: Ruth Goodrich, Rich Aronson, Irv Robbins, Don Mitchell, Larry Gochey, Morgan Churchill, Jeff Haslett, Marcy Martin, David Pike, Bill Wheeler, Chuck Miner, Jennifer Miner, Tricia Scribner, Aldo Nunn, Terri Nunn, Brittany Butler, Walter Daily, Gary Gulka, Steve Cox, Amanda Legare, Rose Bothfeld, Skip Bothfeld, Bobby Searles, Johanna Thibault, Dave Covell, Sandy Pond, Don Church, Jeanne Johnson, Lori Augustinak

Town Employees: Karen Deasy, Road Commissioner, Michelle Leclerc, Assistant Town Clerk, and Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm call to order by Michael Hogan. Ted Domey is on the phone to participate in the meeting. Jack Daniels is on vacation.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Bernie and seconded by Fred. Mike would like to add under Other Business - Citizens Involvement and Karen Would like to add under Road Commissioner- Green Mountain Power Marshfield Dam Project. A roll call was taken and agenda was approved 4-0 as amended.
3. Approve Minutes of September 4, 2018 Selectboard Meeting – A motion was made by Fred, and seconded by Bernie. A roll call was taken and motion passed 3-0 with Ted abstaining as he did not attend last meeting.
4. Public Comment –
 - a. Brittany requested that the agenda state if they are going to vote on an item it should be on the agenda as we are not following the guidelines.
 - b. Tricia asked what the Select Board will vote on. Rich Aronson says the agenda has to say the same.
 - c. Fred said the grant has to be done by October 31, 2018 not December 31, 2018. Ruth commented on Roberts Rules of Order on page 222 regarding the vote. Bernie requested a vote last meeting and was not done. Mike is not sure if they can change the agenda and Fred would like to go forward and vote on the Saw Mill Contract.
 - d. Charles Miner didn't know about this project until recently. Wondering why the Town should be purchasing this property when the damage was done by the construction company during the Wastewater Project.
 - e. Ruth reviewed taking the dam down and the costs down the road.
 - f. Jeff is on the communications workshop and stated that it essential that we describe on the agenda what the discussion is about. Example: Danville Hill project, should have read: Danville Hill Water Line Replacement Project.
 - g. Terri asked Mike if he is allowed to vote on the Saw Mill property because his property will benefit from the dam being taken down. Mike said being a Select Board member he has the right to vote as the Chair and will make that decision when it is time to vote.
 - h. Fred would like to make a motion to put on the agenda tonight to vote after the discussion. By roll call Ted, Bernie, Fred, Mike voted to change 6. Saw Mill Contract Discussion to Saw Mill Contract Vote.
 - i. Jeff Haslett passed out Sam Mill Project Communication Track Record that he made and reviewed it (this will be posted on the Cabot website). Tricia agreed with Jeff that the minutes are not complete. Mike told them that the minutes don't have to include everything verbatim as we would have multiple pages of minutes. The meeting is recorded and people can listen to it. Jeff stated that it should be in the minutes.
 - j. Terri Nunn inquired regarding the property that was bought for the fire department. Terri asked where the heating system is and the kitchen cabinets. The heating system -the Board knew nothing of where that went. The kitchen cabinets were given to someone who made a donation. Terri is wondering if the town needs to hire a contractor to fix the kitchen and the heating system if we try to resell the property. Terri wants to know how much the donation was. Betty said she made a \$300 donation for the cabinets. Ruth wanted to make clear that Terri is making the point that the building's value is lowered because there is less stuff in the house. Fred stated that the house was abandoned for some time and many items were taken from the house before the Town purchased the property. It was asked if there was insurance on the property. It was stated that there is insurance on property. Mike stated that Brad Alexander did an inventory of the house and that most of the items were in bad shape and would be put out for donation or free to the public prior to any demolition
 - k. Trish Scribner was not happy about not knowing anything about the whole Saw Mill project.
5. Request from landowners re registered letter notification policy-Ruth Goodrich – reclassification on the roads. Ruth says that all land owners should be sent certified letter and a date for examining the premises and give 30-day notice as

required in Vermont Statutes. Karen said she did talk to Myles and Rhonda and received written info from them. Ruth thinks that in the future that the landowners should be notified by mail when the meeting is to be held to discuss their road closing.

6. Sawmill Contract discussion – changed to Saw Mill Contract Discussion and Vote – Mike reviewed where the information has been posted. Gary Gulka discussed the dam and the Winooski River. Talked about the cold water fish in that river. The dam could be removed without upstream harm. VT Fish and Wildlife is also in favor of having the dam come out. He would like not to have the door closed on dam removal even if the property is not purchased by the Town. Having the dam come out will be an advantage to the river. Walter Daily- when you take the dam out is there going to be 20' crevasse? Ruth said that there are blocks on top of ledge. It will only lower three feet. A lot of sediment will go down the river if the dam gives way. The river will be dredged if the dam is taken out. The sediment will be trucked out approximately 3,500 cubic yards. The sediment may be contaminated with issues that have happened thru many years.

Jennifer Miner prepared a letter and requested that Betty read the letter to the select board members. She is requesting that letters should have been sent to the landowners on the river that would be affected. They are asking the Select Board reconsider the future of the Saw Mill Project. Ruth read several comments from page 19 of the Feasibility Assessment. Mike had a letter from Roy Shift from ANR regarding the removal of the dam. Amanda Le Gare is confused regarding what is being voted on. Mike said we are voting on the project with phase 1 of purchasing the sawmill through the contract/grant process.

Steve Cox wondering why we are buying this property in the first place. Fred has learned that it might be wise at one time that it was a good time but as more information comes together it may not be. Johanna read thru the paperwork that the FEMA was involved and now that they are not part of the program and sometimes when you are chasing the money you forget the goal. It may very well put the Town into liability. Ted apologizes regarding not being on board through this process. He discussed that when we first started this process in 2015 the Town was trying to get rid of an eyesore. The history of the dam along with the process of the dam removal, and the contaminated site is serious but not quite as serious as many believe it may be. He also stated that the minutes only need to have the approval of what was voted on, but he also stated that more minutes are not required. If you write down everything people say it would be very long minutes.

Ruth discussed that the Charles Miner survey for his property and each side of him are taken from the top of the dam. His property line is the river. Jeff appreciates Ted over view about the contamination but that the town's people have concerns of the contamination and the liability of the town on the property.

Jeff asked about communication on the contamination when did the select board know. Mike doesn't recall when they were notified. He asked when Karen found out about this and she knew on August 31 and did not notify the Board. He also questioned if the Town attorney has read the report. Mike stated that he believed he did. Bobby asked if there is any group that would help the landowner to remove the dam and help with the property such as Friends of the Winooski and other groups for the dam removal. Brittany said that now it is talking about removal of the dam but not purchasing the property. Her other concern is that all of the paperwork needs to be in by October 31, 2018 or the Town is stuck with the rest of it. Rich is wondering what the cost of the taxpayers or what the issue is with the property owners located next to it. Irv has listened to this discussion three times. His concerns are future grants and that they may change. Ruth said in the original agreements and federal funds and grants can become null and void at any time given that there are so many disasters happening around the United States. Sandy discussed contamination on food and water and the more money that might be needed to take care of the contamination. Don Church who lives near the old saw mill thinks there are too many moving parts on this property to take on the project even though he would like it taken down because it is such an eyesore.

Ruth discussed that if we table this issue and it can be brought up any other time down the road. Mike stated we are not tabling this issue tonight. Jeff said that a complaint to HUD has been filed due to a conflict of interest on the agreement: there is no flood event or damage on the property during any major storm. Jeff passed out listers sheets to the select board members and many sheets have been changed on the assessment. Fred stated that Jeanne has information on the listers value of this property. Jeanne has only learned the hard way of taking notes as they make changes to property and initial them. In doing some research on this property, she discovered that all notes or changes made are listed as the generic lister. The lister card only had the land value and how they have changed over time. No changes were made until 2015 and then there were two pages of changes. The value of the property at one time was \$24,000, then \$58,000, up to \$97,400 then up to \$101,200. As of April 28, 2015 the price was listed at \$82,600. Jeanne

has contacted the listers during that time which were Robyn Hall and Kate Chatot. No one else had access to this system. There is no easy answer to the changes of the listing and who made them.

Jeff is wondering what value was given to HUD. The CDBG grant is for flood damage only. There was damage to the road network. If the Selectboard goes thru with this and HUD investigates it can cause some serious repercussions for the Town. Larry indicated that during the wastewater project a large rock landed on the Sawmill during excavation. Ed Larsen received insurance money on that damage.

Fred would like to call the question. Fred moved that we vote on the purchasing the Saw Mill Contract with the HUD CDBG Agreement. Bernie seconded. Before the vote, Mike asked if there were any more questions from the Selectboard. Jeff questioned whether Mike will vote on this. Ted stated that Mike is not going to gain on this financially then he doesn't have to recuse himself. Jeff stated that Mike should read the agreement. Mike indicated that he understands the agreement. To clarify: Yes, means to approve the project and No means that the project does not go forward. Roll call was taken: Fred-No, Ted-No, Bernie-No and Mike abstains. The project on the sawmill property has been defeated. The grant people, DEC and landowner need to be notified of the outcome of the vote.

There was a question if Ed Larsen has received from the State any letters. Yes he has. Bobby says Ed Larsen should be notified of all the help he can receive. Ted would like to "Thank" all the people who asked him to call in.

7. Water and Wastewater – The contractor is still working on the punch list. The sand is still getting into the line of the gym, cafeteria and other places in the school. The flow in the wastewater increased significantly and they found it was the school that had fixtures that weren't turned off. Around 33,000 gallons of water ran thru the school. They checked the fixtures and found the sand in the line. Karen showed some rocks that they took out of the lines. We usually flush the hydrants at the end of October, but will be doing this at the beginning of October. This process will be done again to try and get as much out of the line that we can. The final requisitions have not been signed or funds released to the contractor. Larry is wondering if they will be charged. Karen said they will be charged.

Tricia asked about the results on the school water results. She asked Karen where the samples were done and what passed. Bacteria was found in the Cabot Danville Hill School water supply and we are chlorinating the system. Terri asked about chlorinated the water and who was notified. Karen says that it is done at a low level and you would not be able to taste it. The State says the low level of chlorination that is used and people using the water line don't need to be notified. Terri thinks that everyone should know. Larry told Karen that Tricia's house is the last on the water line and that all the water contents settle on Tricia's water line. Fred asked when we started chlorinating. Karen indicated it was last Tuesday when it started. Karen can get the charts from Ethan to see the results. Jeff asked if we add anything to the water like fluoride. We only had it chlorinated and that's recent. Karen will make sure they get the test results.

Wastewater has one landowner that is doing a change of use from single family to multi family. We also will be getting two more applications. One with water and wastewater and one with just wastewater.

Larry asked about paving. Karen said the paving will be Cabot Plains Road apron, in front of Elm Street, Common Road and possibly the sidewalk on Main Street and will be done in later September or early October.

8. Projects for Past Two Years – Sandy asked last meeting about putting together a list of projects and ideas of what the Selectboard has been working on in the last two years. It will also be posted to the website. Mike reviewed the list.

Fred added comments on the Old Route 2 reconstruction and he talked to Carl Fielder who worked for AOT and understands roads. Take a grader over there and take the dirt off the side of the road. Also, what is under the black top after it is grinded? Take the drainage towards the culvert. Ted looked over the road also. Before they grind the road they need to check to see what is under the road.

On September 29, 2018 we will be having a bulk removal at the Recycle Center for Cabot residents only. They will not take tires for free. The Town is paying for this removal day. Gary suggested that a small fee could be done for next time. There is a phone number on the flier.

Mike has been talking with people in government in other parts of the state that are facing the same issues as Cabot: getting people involved locally. He would like the Selectboard to consider forming a Citizen Advisory Group. Mike will talk further about this in upcoming Selectboard meetings and would like anyone that is interested in this to contact

Betty or anyone on the Selectboard. This group would consist of six to nine citizens to discuss with the Board issues and potential projects that they are concerned about. Its ok if we don't always agree on everything that we are discussing. That's democracy! Mike is urging people to participate. The Selectboard puts a lot of time into its responsibilities as a board. We want ideas from the town; we don't have a hidden agenda. We all ran for Selectboard because we care about the town. Fred discussed about people getting involved and thanked the people for coming to the meetings and their input and asking questions that we haven't asked ourselves. Fred would like to thank everyone for the process that we have been going thru. Irv is wondering if we have explored other ways to contact people. Mike is considering looking at a web portal that will list all the activities in town government and make it interactive for the taxpayers. The newspaper would be a good place for agenda to be posted. We are looking for ideas! Betty reminded folks that the Hardwick Gazette is published on Wednesday's and the meetings are on Tuesday.

9. Road Commissioner:

- a. Project Schedule – The Town has received an application with Better Roads Grant for Old Route 2 culvert work. It funds bank stabilization, erosion issues, culvert, and a wide range of things.
- b. Karen talked with Pike about having the sidewalks paved and it will be an additional \$2,000. The other prices will be the same.
- c. Other Business - Green Mountain Power project over at the Marshfield Dam. The board wants Cabot's input to be included with the project. Karen reviewed what Green Mountain Powers projects are. It's a way for the town to review the project. Mike asked that the project information be put on the on the town website. Fred asked if the town highway crew could do some preliminary work on Old Route 2. Aldo said there are utility lines in the ditch. Fred suggested using Dig Safe to identify the lines. Mike said they will work out the details.

10. Town Clerk

- a. Orders - done
- b. Health Officer – Val Covell's term expires on September 30, 2018. Betty has contacted Val and she is willing to be the Health Officer for the next three years. The term is from October 1, 2018-September 30, 2021. Bernie made the motion for Val Covell for a three year term with a second from Ted, motion carried.
- c. Change date of first meeting in October – October 2nd there is the foliage day for town of Cabot changed to Wednesday, October 3, 2018.
- d. Other Business – Lori regarding a municipal planning grant. This is for the trails thru town to connect to other trails around the Town. She gave an overview of the grant to the Selectboard. There will be no cost to the town. The match will be provided by the Cabot Community Association. Ted moved to approve the Municipal Planning Grant with a second by Fred. The motion passed unanimously by roll call.
- e. A representative for the Town Fair on October 3-4. Bylaws for VLCT and other different things. Betty will be going as the Town representative. Jeff Haslett also volunteered.

11. Other Business – Bernie asked when the remainder of the roadside mowing will be completed. Aldo talked to the contractor and they will be coming on September 24, 2018. Dave wanted to know why we hired someone and not do it ourselves. Fred said that we thought we would like to try something else this year and compare the results and re-evaluate for next year.

12. A motion was made by Fred and seconded by Bernie, motion was passed to adjourn by roll call. We adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer