

Cooper Select Board Meeting  
July 17, 2014  
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Dan Ackley, Daniel Ackley, John Viselli, Amanda Donaghy, Laurie Pike, Karen Holmes, Scott Jamieson, Sandy Lyon

Starting time: 6:39 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Treasurer's Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Agenda Item 2: Tonight was our General Assistance Hearing: there were no comments on the proposed ordinances. Sandy explained the way the State guides us when we have a GA request. They Select Board signed and adopted the State Ordinances and appendix A.

Agenda Item 3: Karen Holmes spoke about the summer meeting which was just held on Monday night, July 14<sup>th</sup>. The Town voted and approved the school budget for 2014-2015. It was obvious to Karen that the people in Town support our children's education but are concerned about the cost going up. Karen thanked the Town for always standing up for the schools. Karen provided the Select Board a copy of how many children go to each school. There once was an agreement that parents who sent their children to a more expensive tuition school would pay the difference of cost from what we pay Alexander for tuition. Our agreement with Alexander was for five years and is long expired. Karen will check with Superintendent's office to see if she can get a copy of it. There is interest in doing something like this again. Karen will keep the Select Board informed.

Agenda Item 4: The next topic was whether we need to pay a stipend for planning board members. Judy Doore from MMA had advised us to do this so that the Town insurance covered them. Sandy will double check with Judy, and we will discuss again. WCEMSA (Down East Ambulance) is a Select Board duty, and covered as such in the Select Board pay.

Motion was made to pay a \$50 per member, per year. All in favor – the motion passed, contingent on information from Judy.

Agenda Item 5: Brenda Gove attended the Brownfield Workshop in Machias, but is not here tonight to report back. There is concern that we may have one brownfields property in Cooper. After discussion of this issue, Dan said he will ask Laurie for information about the amount owed for taxes. This item is tabled until we have more information.

Agenda Item 6: Sandy is sharing information received from the municipal law for Clerks workshop attended recently. This week she explained the town of Gorham recently had their ordinances overturned in court because they did not have all members legally sworn in. They also lost because Freedom of Access requests were not answered promptly.

Sandy also researched the requirements to have someone who is not a registered voter speak at open town meeting. We did correctly have the motion made and 2/3 of the voters present approving. This is usually done at the beginning of town meeting, but may be done just before the person speaks.

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Sandy was also made aware of the requirement that the Town have a notebook which includes copies all ordinances. Cooper does not have one yet, so she will be looking for ordinances. We have a tower ordinance and a prohibition of dogs on the Town beach ordinance. The planning board will share any ordinances they know of.

Agenda Item 7: We discussed the auditor's visit. Judy Doore has asked Sandy to help the Select Board with their written response to Auditor. It was decided to hold a workshop after the planning board meeting on August 2. Sandy also told the Select Board that when she gave the notebook with copies of the Select Board minutes to the auditor, there was 13 months missing. Luckily the minutes were all saved and Sandy emailed them to the auditor, Wanese. Many questions were asked about why someone would take them? Amanda also was asked to look for missing items, but was able to locate them. She believes it will be easier for her next year, it was a learning experience.

Agenda Item 8: Recent mail included a copy of our MMA insurance which includes school bus insurance. Chub Cove has again requested help with the road. The request included a list of who paid for upkeep on the road but not the actual amounts. On other lake roads that we have information on, each landowner usually pays an equal share. Their paperwork does not state how much each one paid. Dan said he spoke to Steve Preston, who said they told the fire dept. it is okay to use Chub Cove road. Dan felt the Town is obligated to give them a load of gravel. Since they have already done the work, Dan told Dave Timpe for the Road organization to send the Town a bill for one load of gravel.

As for the current request, Dan suggests that we send a letter back to Ellen (treasurer of the Road organization) and ask for an explanation that includes amounts. John said he didn't think we should quibble; we should just pay for it. Sandy said at Monday night's Town meeting, it was very apparent that the Town is concerned about where we put road money. The Town wants the Select Board to be accountable for what is spent.

Table until we get more information.

Agenda 9: John produced a copy of the Auditors request with the questions that they need to write a response to. We will do a workshop on August 2 after the planning board meeting. Amanda and Sandy can meet with Select Board at that time, and Sandy will ask Laurie if she can come too. We think it should take about 1 hour.

Agenda Item 10: New business - The Select Board told Sandy to order the flagpole.

- Ronnie verbally accepted the Winter Road contract for the coming year. The previous contract was reviewed and will be updated to show the current roads and the current salary.
- Amanda went back through quick-books to see if there was a check made out for Churchill. We thought he handled a quit claim deed for us, but cannot find a check for his office. Amanda will call his office to see what she can find out.

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- Web site training is available, but the person Sandy spoke to, Jamie, said we need to own the site first. Jamie comes recommended, and is also on staff with Black Bear Security. She will help us to set up Town emails through the website. John said he has asked Erica to turn the website over to the Town, maybe last April. He said she is fine with doing that. John will speak to Erica again about turning the website over to the Town. John will stop in there tonight. John said he will ask Micah if it was Churchill we used for the quit claim deed.
- Black Bear Security sent Sandy a list showing who had used their security code to enter and code out. We reviewed the process with everyone tonight. Concern was raised because there have been a couple of times recently when the building was coded out incorrectly, and we don't want that to happen.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Select Board will hold a workshop on Saturday August 2 at 9:15 a.m.

Next Select Board meeting will be Thursday August 7, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.