

Cooper Select Board Meeting  
August 7, 2014  
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Dan Ackley, Daniel Ackley, Amanda Donaghy, Laurie Pike, Brenda Gove, Kathy Hull, Karen Holmes, Sandy Lyon, Scott Jamieson, John Viselli, Kathy Hull (briefly – at the beginning)

Starting time: 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: The Select Board reviewed and signed the Treasurer's warrant. Dan Ackley said that we need to discuss some items on the warrant. They would like to talk to the fire chief & assistant fire chief at the next meeting. Dan has discussed the Town ownership of property with MMA, Mike Stoltz, who advised him. Sandy was asked to invite them to the next meeting.

Motion: to pay the Fire Dept. half on this warrant and then discuss with Fire Chief and resolve at the next meeting. All in favor – the motion passed and the warrant was amended.

Then there were questions about how Amanda pays for machine use versus the hourly wage for an individual. After discussion, Scott was advised on how to apply for each, and save some on taxes for him and the Town.

Agenda Item 2: Laurie Pike, Tax Collector, gave the Select board an update of the status of the 30 days notices and tax liens for 2013-2014. 39 notices were sent out. Of those, 19 accounts were paid in full by the July 21<sup>st</sup> due date. So there are 20 liens out now, and some of them are already resolving. Some properties in particular are seriously outstanding, and Laurie typed a sample letter that she gave the Select Board to review. After reading, the Select Board gave Laurie permission to use the letter. There is also a property that the town has acquired by Tax lien – as far as we know. There is a family member who is interested in purchasing. Micah was working on this last year, and he told John that Fletcher & Mahar were approached to handle the quit claim deed. Laurie wants to know how the Select Board wants her to proceed.

While we were discussing taxes, Scott asked if the Town might be better off to just forgive this particular back tax amount and get out from under this. Dan and John agreed, in theory, but we need to handle it carefully. Brenda Gove, Chair of Assessors, said that she has never received a copy of the deed, so she doesn't think it was an expense to the Town. Laurie suggested that the potential purchaser be given the amount for 3 years taxes. Laurie will do some more research. It was decided that she will check on the status of this property, figure out the total due for back taxes, and present at the next Select Board meeting.

Dan Donaghy asked if he could speak about taxes too. He has power of attorney for Bruce Glanville, and shared concerns about Bruce's property taxes. Brenda said that the Select Board can make a decision when in Executive session. It was decided to do this at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Dan Ackley has received a notice from BMV (Bureau of Motor Vehicles) about making the bi-monthly reports timelier. Laurie and Amanda has discussed and have a plan that will tighten up on the times.

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Agenda Item 4: Brenda attended the Brownfield's class, which was very interesting. If the Town owned a property that needed a clean-up, we could use it. But Brenda doesn't think it will benefit Cooper at this point.

Brenda also wanted to let the Select Board know that the tax mil rate is up from 16 last year, this year it is 18.9 mil rate. We lost taxation on Vining Lake and also on Hogs neck as taxable property. The cost for Schooling, Roads, winter storms, it all took a jump. Tax bills will be mailed on Monday.

Agenda Item 5: Loss control Action plan was received, and Daniel went over what Dan Whittier from MMA suggested that we need to address. A written reply is required within 30 days. Sandy typed the Select board response to the Action plan. (after the meeting ended, it was emailed to Dan Whittier and the Select Board) Sandy was asked to invite the Municipal Fire Chief to come to the next meeting, to call Lance Keen about electrical, and Scott will address the two doorstep and railing issues.

Agenda Item 6: The School Board update from Karen was brief. The Edmunds school bill finally came, so she now knows what that tuition amount is. Also, Karen shared the rumor that Barry McLaughlin *may* come back as interim superintendent. She will keep us informed.

Agenda Item 7: Sandy has been in touch with Erica Perkins by email. Erica has been having issues with Weebly, and that is why the Website has not yet been turned over. Sandy spoke to Jaime Tucker, who also works for Black Bear, about the possibility of her company helping with this process. Erica said she would release the domain name and we can pick it up. Jamie can transfer all our data from the Weebly site to a new site. Weebly does not support email, and we do want a site that can do that. Jamie said she can transfer us to the new site seamlessly, so we will have the same URL (<http://.coopermaine.com>). The cost depends on issues with Weebly. We were offered the discounted hourly rate of \$55 per hour. Jamie does also do edits when requested, and she will bill by the quarter hour. Can Sandy contract with her on the Town's behalf to work on this with Erica?

Motion: to hire Jaime Tucker to transfer the website, to keep the domain name, for an amount not to exceed \$300. All in favor – the motion passed.

Agenda Item 8: Did anyone attend the Washington County Commissioner Caucus meeting on Monday July 28<sup>th</sup> in Baileyville? None of the Select Board was able to attend: Sandy will try to get a copy of the meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 9: the Select Boaed reviewed and signed their written response to the auditor, James W. Wadman. Sandy will mail to Mr. Wadman and also forward a scanned copy to Judy Doore.

Agenda Item10: The Winter roads contract was edited, and Dan thinks we can finish it at the next Select Board meeting. Dan asked Sandy to invite Ronnie Flood to next meeting to help edit and then we will print to sign.

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Agenda Item 11: The cemetery mowing job description was signed with no changes. Sandy will mail one to Bill. Discussion of changing to an hourly rate resulted in deciding it would be more costly, but it is something to think about for the future.

Agenda Item 12: Scott said he still needs a mop and a bucket. Dan said will take care of it. Scott was asked to look at the job description. Sandy will consolidate the list and we will look at next time.

Agenda Item 13: Mail – Election information has already started to arrive. Last meeting, the Select Board discussed a letter from Chub Cove Road Association. Dan was asked to prepare a response, which he presented. After the Board reviewed it, Dan asked Sandy to proof read this letter, type it on Town letterhead, and then mail this reply to the Chub Cove road association.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next Select Board meeting will be Thursday August 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.