

Cooper Select Board Meeting  
May 1, 2014  
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Dan Ackley, Daniel Ackley, John Viselli, Laurie Pike, Amanda Donaghy, Sandy Lyon, Karen Holmes, Scott Jamieson, Friends of Cooper Community Center Committee members.

Starting time: 6:55 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Discussion of the Due date of the Payment to MMA between Select Board and the treasurer, Amanda. The Treasurers warrant was done next.

Agenda Item 2: The Friends came in to talk about painting the floor in the Grange, and they know of super durable floor paint that Kathy Hull used in the Cathance Variety Store when it was open. They would like to paint it soon. Kathy said she thinks 2 gallons would do it. It has 2 parts that are mixed before applying and dries really quick. The square footage of the room was figured out and it was decided it would more likely take about 5 gallons. Kathy said it is a good idea to have it "cure" before being walked on. A five Gallon bucket would probably be cheaper – it was decided to talk with Viking. Dan thinks we should get 1 extra gallon, just in case. Alice asked how do they get the supplies? Dan said he will get the supplies, and the paint. Scott said that he would move all the furniture. It was decided to use tan, but if not available in the amount we need, then use Grey. Monday May 5 was set as a tentative date to paint.

Outside clean-up day: The Friends would like to organize it for us this time and they will provide a pot-luck for anyone who works on the clean-up. The date will be set later.

Grant: Kathy Hull passed out folders of Grant information to the Select Board and to the Clerk for Town Records. Kathy explained the information, and how it was gathered. The first step is to have an needs Audit done. The contractors who would do an Audit would need to be paid for up front. It is common to be turned down the first time applying for a grant. The Select Board would like to meet with the Auditor prior to an audit being done.

No motion was made to support/or deny at this time.

Agenda Item 3: The Cathance Grange No. 510 requests some help with the area under the stairs. Many of their kitchen items were put in boxes and placed there. Can they have help with getting it out? Dan and Scott can pull it out if the Grange will be here when it is done. Alice Sullivan volunteered to help, she has a strong back. Some thought the floor should be painted first.

It was agreed that Alice will contact everyone when the floor is done, and a date will be set.

The other Grange request is that it is difficult to organize the kitchen when paint and other items are there, and no cupboards on the walls or shelves in the cabinets. Can this also be cleaned? Can the Select Board consider finishing the cupboards this year?

No motion was made to support /or deny the cupboard & shelf idea at this time.

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Agenda Item 4: Karen Holmes gave a review of the Cooper School Board Meeting with the new superintendent, Mr. Kane. They went through the budget together. Karen noted that the number of students was off, and pointed this out to Mr. Kane. The budget will need to be redone. They will have a budget soon to present for the Annual Summer Town meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Karen is raising money by doing a bird-a-thon that will benefit the Cooper Volunteer Fire Dept. She is accepting pledges, all money goes for the Fire Dept. Someone can pledge per species of bird, or pledge a flat fee. A list of the different species will be given to each person who pledges. Please support this worthy cause.

Agenda Item 6: Sandy received a letter from Suzanne Miller, regional director of the DEP, about coming to meet with us. She asked that the office be contacted, or they will contact us. Suzanne's goal is to learn about our concerns and issues before a need arises. Select Board said they would be happy to meet with her. John Viselli took the letter, and he will call her.

Agenda Item 7: Other business – John said the group wanting to purchase Township 19 has a representative, Julie Evans, who would like to meet with us. It sounds good to him, public access, sustainable wood harvesting, and other ideas are being presented. She would like to meet with the Select Board. Julie is coming to meet with the town of Wesley on May 12<sup>th</sup>, then Alexander on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Julie wants to come here on May 13<sup>th</sup> around 7-7:30.

The Select Board agreed to meet with Julie on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Agenda Item 8: New business - Scott turned in a list of Road signs that need to be replaced to Dan, who now handles our 911 business.

Agenda Item 9: Dan addressed some items that could be done better, using suggestions from the auditor. One is using a spreadsheet with a line item for each area so they know the balance. Also can Amanda email warrant items to them ahead of time. Amanda Donaghy asked a clarifying question. Amanda may not have by next meeting but she will work on it. The concept of what the general fund is was discussed. Other suggestions were discussed. One is to review the Checking account statements by the Select Board before meetings. Sandy stated that since her name is now on the account, she needs to see each statement too. The Select Board wants everything done as transparently as possible.

Agenda Item 10: Laurie Pike has an update; she has purchased a TRIO module and a new laptop computer. She feels it will be easier to produce reports for the Select Board this way. Sandy asked her to explain what the process will be for others to view the reports, and Laurie is learning this new program. She will explain once she understands it better. There were no new tax liens since 2008 on file with the courts. Then Laurie spoke about the tax lien process. First, they need to go to lien during the year of the commitment. There is no way to recoup some of this, so she will be working on last year's tax liens. Once Laurie knows the program, she will be sharing by providing reports.

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Agenda Item 11: Dan took a ride with Ronnie Flood, former road commissioner, and they discussed some of the Town road issues. Dan thinks we need look for someone to come in to work on some of these washed out roads. Dan said we should get some prices for the different areas. Some of it is too big a job for Ronnie with a backhoe. Some needs to be seeded down; some is in need of edging. Dan thinks we should get at least 3 others to come in to get some ideas and estimates. Dan had 3 emails from Jeanne Tonizzo, who owns land in Cooper but is no longer a resident. She wants to know who was piling up ditches by her place. Scott Jamieson was recognized to speak. He thinks they need to do something quick on the East Ridge road, it is really getting bad. The longer we wait, the more it will cost. Dan said he had talked to Ronnie about bringing in a chipper, because there is a lot of brush left from the winter storms. EMEC (Eastern Maine Electric Co-Operative) left a lot of brush beside the road after the ice storm and power outage. There is an old culvert right beside the Crowe Road that is a hazard. Dan mentioned that Wayne Spear, David Lee, and Hancoms' are three road contractors to consider. Karen asked for the Select Board to clarify the way they are acting as Road Commissioner. Sandy explained the MMA view that the article 11 in the Annual Town Meeting needed to be put to voters 90 days prior to Town meeting. What happened is that we basically "failed to elect" a road commissioner. That means another article needs to be put to voters at the Summer meeting, and the Select Board is required to act as Road Commissioner in the meantime. Dan authorized Ronnie to gather the Brush, and chip it.

Scott said there is a lot of work he can help with. Chips will be blown into the woods. Camp road also needs to do chipping, and Dan thinks they can get together with us if they want to and they want to organize a work crew. Dan will check with Power Company to see if they plan to do chipping or if they want to reimburse us for doing it.

Dan made a motion to bring contractors in to see what the issues are and the cost. Motion seconded by John: all agreed.

Dan made a motion for Ronnie to act on Dan's recommendations regarding the roads. Motion seconded by Daniel: all agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Special Select Board meeting will be Tuesday May 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. (So we are ready to go when Julie arrives)

Next Regular Select Board meeting will be Thursday May 15, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.