

Cooper Select Board's Meeting
, 2011
Held at the Grange Hall

Attending: Micah Perkins, Bill Kridder Sr., Bill Kridder Jr., Danny Sullivan (until 7:10), Ronnie Flood, Sandy Lyon, Donna Timpe, Ann Marie Flood, Joanne McMahon, Karen Holmes, John Viselli, Judy East

Starting time: 6:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: The Treasurers Warrant was prepared and signed.

Agenda Item 2: Sandy distributed to the Select Board copies of the Snow Plow contract, and also a congratulatory letter from MMA for our Town's great loss prevention record. We also received a check, which Ann Marie has received, as a reimbursement payment.

There will be a notice in paper about the Animal clinic Nov. 19. Donna said she will talk to Dave (fire chief) about it being held in the fire station.

Agenda Item 3: Joyce Mykleby has told Micah that she cannot provide legal services for the Town. After a discussion, it was decided to have Micah contact John Churchill.

Agenda Item 4: The furnace downstairs is missing 2 important parts. Androc was here to look at it, and said it could not be put back together without them. They can put a furnace in for us at a much cheaper price than we were previously quoted. A new installation of a furnace would need to be done in the summer. Ronnie is willing to get the Town a rental heater to get us through Election Day. The issue with purchasing an older heater is that it would need to be brought up to the current code. Donna & Micah spoke about a possibility of a second-hand propane heater that can be bought from Alexander. They may look into it.

Agenda Item 5: Danny Sullivan is here to discuss the "Connecting Cooper" campaign to bring high-speed internet to Cooper. Danny said 50 surveys came back. Stuart and he have absorbed the entire cost of this effort so far. They need a high turnout at the meeting, and lots of names on surveys & petitions. Stuart and Danny asked to use the hall on Nov. 19th but we don't have heat. Danny said that may make a logistic change. He does want to do a presentation for the people who don't know about high speed internet. Most people just don't understand the benefits behind it. He used the furnace as an example, how he could type in the model number, do a Google search, and it would let him know several choices of where he could get the part. Danny also used as an example the birthday gift he ordered that was delivered within 12 hours.

We can see how the heat goes for the election, and also see what the cost is. Danny is willing to take some pictures of the furnace and try to get us the information: however, Androc did not say what the parts names were, just that they were not available on the older model. Danny is looking for people to help him with the supper. Fair Point, Axiom and others are already in touch with him. There is a grant for a tower in Twp. 14, but you must apply for it. Donna suggested they consider doing a breakfast instead. Danny thought that might work, and asked for guidelines for the use of the hall. Erica has a town website up and going, she could share this information on the site. Ann Marie wants to put information,

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such as tax maps, on it. Ronnie again confirmed that he will check into the heaters. Danny likes the idea of a breakfast, Coffee and donuts is so much simpler. It will be warmer in the daylight.

We should spread the word that everyone in the household can fill out a survey. Bill Krigger Sr. said he had a good experience with using the internet to fix a washing machine for his wife. Danny gave another example of scanning a bar code to see where you can buy something cheaper. They are still looking into either fiber or wireless. Joanne asked who will pay for the coffee and donuts. Stuart and Danny have paid so far, but they will now ask for donations, and may put a cup out to ask for donations. Micah thanked Danny and Stuart for providing this service to the Town.

Agenda Item 6: Ann Marie asked if we can put an ad in the paper about the new Town website. Micah will check with Erica first to be sure it is ready. Ann Marie thinks we can now get rid of the email she has been monitoring for the Town. Micah says yes. Ann Marie will see how the new website works before giving up the email.

Agenda Item 7: Sandy read the Thank you card from the Hulls. They borrowed chairs and tables from the Grange Hall, and made a \$100 donation to the Building fund with the thank you card.

Agenda Item 8: Micah asked if Judy East and Karen Holmes had discussed the current progress on the grant. Judy said yes, and there is a workshop coming next week that she feels Karen should attend by polycom in Machias. She said they have talked about this process in detail, but she was not sure where we are at this point. Karen filled her in with our ideas about using Town money as the matching funds to put in a Town office, and also applying for the spot blight grant. Donna said Karen had already adequately filled us in about the process.

Judy asked if we have photos yet. She said the pictures need to reflect any structural issues and concerns. Judy will help with the language to use in the forms. Judy is our community development person. She can't write the application, but will assist us with the whole process. The maximum amount awarded is \$300,000. We would need to have \$75,000 as cash match. The amount needs to be approved by voters, and then the money can't be spent until we get the okay. There is a pile of paperwork, and then an environmental review needs to be done. It results in an "environmental clearance letter", which is ***hugely important***. The health issues with the bats and the outhouse are also significant, need to be in the grant. A letter of intent and spot blight designation must be done by January. Karen has the deadlines.

We need to put wording in the Town vote that the spending of the money is contingent on receiving the money. Then we don't have to raise the funds if we don't get it. Many towns have done this where they spend the match on a town office. We have a huge uphill battle, there are many communities trying for the money. Judy thinks it is competitive for us, we stand a good chance, but she has been stunned in the past. The public hearing is the very last thing, but you want 50 people there at least, however, even that is no guarantee. Ronnie asked if it is like receiving money from Fema, do we have to earn 'points'? Judy explained how it works for CDBG. We need to keep records that are of the times people have said we need to work on this, newspaper clippings, radio or TV reports. We should also include the \$100 that

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was just donated (from the Hulls) in a match fund. Separate operations funds out from the Capital reserve.

Micah asked if not going for the max helps? Judy said no, Cherry field lost out on their Library while not asking for the max. The staffs at EEDC are the ones who usually decide, and Judy has 99% praise for the job that they do. If we don't get it, we just try again next year. Judy read some of the categories that are used. If you apply for less, you raise less for a match. If we try to do some improvements before receiving grant money, they **do not** count as part of our cash match. Ronnie asked about the workshops. The closest is in Bangor; however, it will be put into Machias by poly com. The funding comes from HUD, it is federal monies. It is now the lowest funded that Judy has ever seen.

The use of census data to determine income was explained by Judy. LMI is a town wide designation, and we missed it. We can approach the grant 2 ways, but we need to work at the spot blight designation. The wording on the spot blight form that Jim Slowe signs was discussed.

Micah asked if tomorrow at 11:00 someone with a key will be around. Donna gave hers to Micah to make a copy, and then he will get it back to her.

Between the letter of intent and the application we need to have hearing. There is concern that we need to include as many people as possible. Judy again said we need to include newspaper comments that support our efforts. Micah asked what we would need to do if we put a foundation under the office and the hall, can we do that without having issues with the use of the money. Judy said we need the contractor to help us document the distinction. Letter of intent deadline is Jan. 20th and we need the spot blight filled out before then. Judy suggests we send it in before Christmas.

Micah thanked Judy for coming to talk to us. We will stay in touch. Judy left. Donna thinks we have as good a chance as anyone. Micah agreed and feels the grant monies were probably intended for a situation like this. Ways to finance were also discussed.

Micah suggested that we look to the committee to get this moving forward. Karen said she has given the outline to many of the people here. She has got the packet set up, and she is not doing it herself. Anyone can work on it. She needs others to work on it. Donna said we can use the committee, and also devote some of the Select Board time to this. Karen asked if John's son was the engineer who would work with us on this. John said yes, but we need to give him some ideas of what we want done. Micah said we also need to look at what the Town is willing to do aside from the grants. John said his personal business has liability insurance, and perhaps he can help us and use it for this. The letter of intent says we need an architect/engineer. Joanne made the point that we don't want to do this in the snow.

Sandy has the grant folder that Micah passed on. Sandy shared that MMA magazine has several ads for firms that do municipal engineering. Perhaps we should consider hiring someone who knows this process? John said his son just graduated last year, is not experienced, but he is willing to help, and is qualified to sign our paperwork.

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The next committee meeting is Nov. 14th, and the Select Board will attend. John suggested we meet on Sunday, this Sunday the weather is supposed to be nice. They will bring a ladder and flashlights so they can really look over the building. Micah will take pictures. The people who can will be here at 2:00.

Agenda item 9: The Kridders have two bills to present. Sandy apologized for putting the ad about removing flower pots from the cemetery in late. According to the ad, Nov. 30th is the deadline to get flowerpots and displays off if individuals want them saved; the Kidders' will clean up after that.

Ronnie suggests we form a new cemetery committee. We have one now, but it is not active. Bill asked Ronnie a question about putting the bill in.

Agenda Item 10: Ann Marie gave Sandy a copy of the Town's insurance policy, and some funding requests to save for putting in the Town Report.

Agenda Item 11: Ronnie said the State of Maine surplus auctions are available for Town officers; they notify a week before the auction. He gave the paperwork to Micah, Donna and John to sign.

The meeting next week will be Nov. 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.