

Cooper Select Board's Meeting
Oct. 4 , 2012
Held at the Grange Hall

Attending: Ann Marie Flood, Ronnie Flood, Sandy Lyon, John Viselli, Donna Timpe, Karen Holmes, Joanne MaMahon, Brenda Gove, Norm Howe, Trevor Flood, Jim Robinson, Dave Time, Scott Jamieson, Timmy Ketchen, Lance Keen, Micah Perkins

Starting time: 6:47 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Two treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed. Then Ann Marie presented an update on the building fund.

Agenda Item 2: Trevor Flood, Fire Chief addressed the Select Board about getting fire fighter license plates, and he needs signatures from the Select Board . It will be mailed to Augusta.

Agenda Item 3: Washington County Counsel of Governments is having their annual meeting in Machias on Oct. 17th; the cost is \$15 per person to go. Sandy and Ann Marie are the town representatives. But 2 more can attend.

Agenda Item 4: Sandy attended the Secretary of State's election conference, as required by law once every two years. She showed the attendance certificates that she had received. We need Election Counters for the Nov. 6th Election; Donna agreed to be one, and John will ask Terry if she would be the other one.

Agenda Item 5: FOAA training certificates still needed. A new law that went into effect on Aug. 30 requires Cooper to have a FOAA Officer. Donna and Dave nominated Sandy, who accepted.

Agenda Item 6: Jim Robinson is here to address the Select Board. Norm gave some background as to what has occurred to bring them here. A letter from Mr. Toffolon was shared with the Select Board. After reading the letter, Jim showed his documents. The valuation was done in 2007, and in '09 and '10 it was valued at \$74,500, and it was \$58,700 in 2011. He believes that is accurate, he does not know why it was higher in 2009-2010. John said he thought it could only be gone back over for 1 year when it involved valuation. Jim explained it was a mistake so he felt that it could be.

John said he is sympathetic, but thinks Jim is out of luck. Jim said if he is not happy when he leaves here, he will take it further. He believes he overpaid about \$1,977.05. Norm explained how valuations can change for a number of reasons. Norm said you can change valuation in current year, but not two previous. The Select Board can correct the two previous years if they believe an error was made, they can correct that. Brenda said she had the letters here to show she requested correct applications and they were not replied to. Jim said he wondered why the valuation went up and then down again. Brenda asked if it was correct now, and Jim said yes but he doesn't know about next year. Brenda said if that happens, please bring it in and they will fix it. Jim spoke again about the way the process had worked in the past. He said it was the foresters' plan that was a mistake. Brenda said it was 2011 that the foresters plan was corrected.

Micah asked for clarification from Jim of the amount he was asking for. Jim said it is \$1,977.05. Micah asked Norm if there was any additional information the Select Board should ask for. Norm asked about

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the Father's property, and Jim explained how he got the land from his father. Norm asked Brenda if there were tree growth plans going back that far? Did we use prior tree growth plans? Brenda said no, the first one used was from Dale Covey from 2009.

Brenda said she did not change his plan; she was only at the meeting when it was accepted. Dave said they only accept Jim's plan from Jim's forester. They do not change the plan. Dave felt they had given Jim his day to have his say and that Dave would not spend any more time listening. Norm reminded Jim that it is not between him and the Select Board. Brenda gave Micah some documentation to look at. Jim said he had a note that said he had not been taxed on lot #369. Brenda said it was part of a survey plan they found in Machias. If it is a new account, it was not a lot then, it was in tree growth. She said she had asked for a new application that is correct, that is what they asked for. Jim's forester had made an error, and that was a benefit when he had sold a lot. Norm asked if he had any forester plans that were correct? Jim said he had several plans, and requested a plan back from Micah, which Jim gave Micah to look at.

Jim said it is debatable any plan is correct. He thought some were good, but they didn't like them. Brenda said it was because he debated the 4 acres of lot in there. Brenda said that they go by the map he gives them.

Brenda asked if he recalled the letter, which she then read. It specified the request and the deadline. He said the application was wrong, and that he did not give the assessors what had been requested.

John asked if there had been any mistakes made on these 2009 and 2010 valuations? Brenda said they stand behind the numbers. Norm stated that they believe the law only allows the State board of property tax to decide on issues of tree growth. The issues appear to be on tree growth.

Micah said at this juncture we need to come to a conclusion one way or another, so that Jim can move on. Select Board will take it under advisement, and send Jim a letter with their conclusions.

Jim said he was here in 2007 for a meeting and that is why he feels he does have a leg to stand on. Micah asked if he would allow the Select Board a few weeks to come to a conclusion and said they would do that in Executive session, not open meeting.

The Select Board entered Executive Session at 7:48

Executive Session ended at 8:20 The Select Board will draft a letter to send Mr. Robinson with their findings. A couple of items were clarified for the record. The letter will reflect the opinions of the Select Board.

Agenda Item 7: Next Thursday will be the next meeting instead of the third Thursday of the month.

Agenda Item 8: It was decided to put the security system in. All 3 Select Board agreed on this.

Agenda for next time: put Joanne on.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next Select Board Meeting week will be Oct. 11, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.