

Town of Cooper
Select Board Meeting
Thursday, July 2, 2015
6:30 P.M.

Meeting opened at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Dan Ackley, John Viselli, Brenda Gove, Scott Jamieson, Amanda Donaghy, Sandra Lyon and Joanne McMahan

1. Treasurer's Warrant approved and signed
Warrant was approved and signed
Report accepted from Tax Collector
2. Previous meeting minutes - June 18, 2015
Dan made the motion to accept the June 18, 2015 meeting
With an additional note added that Dan delivered the dump sticker to Lonny Michaud.
2nd by Brenda
All in favor
3. School Board Representative
Karen Holmes, school board representative was unable to make the meeting, but sent a report which is accepted and added to the end of these minutes. The auditors for the town and AOS 90 would have to help with setting up a bus /van fund if it is to be done for 2016 town meeting.
4. Website Contract
A contract for the website was reviewed and accepted with minor changes.
Dan made the motion to accept with 2 minor changes and bring to all for signatures.
2nd by Brenda. All in favor.
Dan asked if we could check with Erica to see if she could store the e-mails on the website. We will check this possibility.
5. Town equipment
Dan said there is a lot of unknown about the town equipment. He had the understanding that Ronnie came to the select board and had purchased the trailer. The town either paid \$10,000 for the trailer or reimbursed Ronnie. Dan will try to get more information by looking for this purchase.

Dan made the motion to put the backhoe up for sale and give Ronnie 20% of the sale price for the backhoe.

Motion 2nd by John

All in favor

John will call Ronnie and tell him of the board decision and ask if he will drive the backhoe to the sand pile lot so it can be listed for sale.

6. Opening winter maintenance bids

2 bids were opened

One bid was from Joey Wallace for \$5650 per mile. This annual contract would be \$90,400.

One bid was from David Lee for \$4846 per mile. The annual contract would be \$77,536.

David also gave a cost of \$4991 per mile if contracted for 2016/17 winter season and \$5140 per mile if contracted for the 2017/18 winter season

John made the motion to accept David Lee's bid for winter maintenance

2nd by Dan

All are in favor

Dan made a motion we write a warrant article for summer meeting for additional money to cover additional the expense of \$12,600

2nd by John

All in favor

There was some discussion on entering into a multiyear contract. Scott felt there might be a problem with the legality of this. Dan said the contractors would like a 3 year because they would like to be sure they can pay for additional needed equipment. Maybe with a multiyear, we can get a better price.

Dan made a motion to have a warrant article that addresses a 3 year contract.

2nd by Brenda

All in favor

7. Other Business

Flag for the 4th

Sandy would like to know if the donated flag could be flown for the 4th of July. The board agreed this would be nice and would try to see that it got properly folded when put away.

Grange concern

Sandy, speaking for the grange, said there were concerns in how the building was left after the yard sale. Grange members were concerned that tables were pulled away from the walls while the walls were washed and treated with fire proofing and they would like to have had a meeting in the downstairs. Also, there is concern that tiles are coming down from the ceiling because wind is blowing through since the shingles were removed.

Dan asked that they have some patience while the fire marshal's requirements were met. He felt these requirements would be completed by the middle of the month. Dan has the new emergency door. The steps in the back will be worked on by Dan and Scott. The only thing that will be left will be to do the electrical. Craig Nutter will do the electrical. The ramp needs to be done. Scott and Dan discussed how the ramp should be done. The fire marshal was worried about people slipping.

Sandy questioned the salt for salt sand.

Dan has already talked to people and has it taken care of. He will fill out the paperwork and send.

Joanne gave a report for the Cooper Community Center Friends. She said that Ken Holmes and Travis Hull had done some of the ground work and flower bed. The old shingles on the back of the building were removed and hauled to the dump. The tar paper was left to cover the cracks. The walls were scrubbed top to bottom and the whole downstairs is fireproofed. Curtains have been dipped. There is about ½ of a five gallon can of fireproofing left and CCCF would be willing to do the stairs, walls in stairwell and storeroom if the board approves. The board agreed that would be good. CCCF would like to place a changing table in the bathroom and equip it. This was also approved by the board. They did make a fair amount of money at the yard and plant sale on Flag Day. They are planning to have a star party on July 11 with the rain date of July 25. The star party will start at 8 p.m. and go till about 10 p.m. These dates were chosen because they are ¼ moon dates and the best time to see the stars. Kathy plans to check with neighbors on parking. People will need to bring lawn chairs, drinks and snacks. Dan said he has not problem if you speak to abutting land owners. Flyers might be passed out at the pancake breakfast which is July 11 put on by the CLA.

Brenda will make 2 laminated signs that say no alcohol.

Dan said he will take ropes and buoys down for this event. Amanda will ask her husband, Dan to help with the buoys.

Dan made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

2nd by John

All in favor

School Representative Report

I called the AOS 90 office and talked to Chrissy there on June 24th and got some information. She knows the budget details. In fiscal year 2010/2011, the Town approved at the Town School Budget meeting an article which stated: "To see what sum the municipality/district will authorize for the establishment of a tuition reserve to be transferred from the undesignated fund balance. Recommend \$50,000." In this year's Town Report General Fund on page 34, there is an education balance of \$233,346. Some of that has already been spent for this fiscal year (she said about \$81,00 was spent already). Within whatever becomes the final balance is that \$50,000. So I asked if it is for tuition reserve, can it be used for a transportation cost (bus, van). It could be used for unexpected special education costs, etc. Bus, van???? Chrissy at AOS 90 office suggested that our Town auditor and the AOS auditor get together to figure out how to do things. We cannot do anything this year anyway as formal Cooper's School Budget has already been created for July 20th Town meeting. I think the two auditors should set up a reserve fund for transportation costs we start contributing into in 2016 and onwards. The bus will be paid for end of August. I wonder if Meddybemps will still want to pay 50% of costs of bus? I would think AOS 90 and Meddybemps School Board might contact us if changes are to be made. Right now the bus does go to Woodland High and Elementary Schools. Meddybemps no longer has school choice. At their recent Town meeting they voted that their students have to go to those two schools. If parents want to go elsewhere, they have to pay full tuition, not the Town of Meddybemps. The big reason for Meddybemps voters to drop school choice was the huge expense of a special needs child there. Now AOS 90/Woodland schools handle the special education costs. Maybe at this years summer Town meeting, we discuss with voters about setting up a fund? Maybe we also discuss about the future and the problem of lack of state subsidization and costs of special needs, charter schools, etc.? People would not be able to vote but we could be transparent about our ideas. I update at every Select Board meeting because I want to be open to communicate with people. I don't want to be reactionary but be proactive. I wonder if I should contact the parents of every school child and ask them to come to the July 20th meeting? It surprises me that some parents never come and I think they have been lulled that things will always be what they have been. Changes might be forthcoming. Look at what happened when Robbinston voted to shut down the town school. Now their share of funding AOS 77 (about 10%) has been dumped on remaining AOS 77 towns! There may have to be changes in Cooper down the road. So that summarizes my thoughts. I emphasize the auditors for the Town and AOS 90 have to help with setting up bus,van fund for 2016 Town meeting. I will add that when I was asked to go on School Board in early 2011, I was told that "all I would have to do is sign warrant

article papers." Well, it is more complicated than that and School Board earns their yearly \$100!!! Karen Holmes