

TOWN OF COOPER

ADDENDUM (SUPPLEMENTAL) TOWN MEETING Minutes

On Monday, July 14, 2014 the inhabitants of the Town of Cooper, qualified by law to vote in Cooper affairs did meet at the Cathance Grange Hall / Cooper Community Center in said Town at 6:30 pm in Cooper, and then and there acted on the following articles:

ART.1A. To choose a moderator.

(to be sworn in by Town Clerk)

MOTION: Nominate Neal Hallee

MADE BY: Scott Jamieson SECONDED BY: Dan Ackley

Discussion: none

Vote by paper ballot: 11 for Neal Hallee, he won by a landslide.

Town clerk Sandra Lyon swore Neal in as moderator.

ART. 1 to ART. 6. Were Cooper School Department Warrant Articles

Article 1 To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. Recommend \$168,547.

MOTION: To pass Article 1 as read

MADE BY: Scott Jamieson SECONDED BY: Dan Ackley

Discussion: Alice Sullivan suggested that we introduce the superintendent, who is present, Timothy Kane. Karen Holmes did introduce him to the Town. Timothy spoke briefly, saying hello and that he said he is resigning in August.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: none

Article one passed.

Article 2 To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education. Recommend \$11,411

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Scott Jamieson

Discussion: Dan Ackley asked if we had any Special Education students? Timothy Kane and Karen Holmes answered.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: none

Article two passed.

Article 3 To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration. Recommend \$9,313.

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Scott Jamieson

Discussion: What is article 3 for? Timothy Kane answered by asking everyone to look at the last page of the warrant handout. It shows our portion of the office expenses and stipends

for the school board. Dues are our school board member's stipend, and there is also our portion of the office staff for the superintendent's office.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: none

Article three passed.

Article 4 To see what sum the school administrative unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and buses. Recommend \$34,618.

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Stuart shotwell

Discussion: Can anyone tell us when and where the buses go? Which schools? Timothy Kane said we only bus to Alexander and to Baileyville. Question: When Woodland had us get the big bus, Bigger than Cooper needed, what happened to the money we were to be reimbursed for the large bus? Timothy Kane said we get reimbursed for the previous year. So we pay one year then get it back the next. Donna Timpe said she thought the previous superintendent said that he had goofed, and we don't get it back? Timothy Kane said he believed we did get reimbursed one year after each payment. Karen Holmes said that we are going to own the bus after we make one more payment. Then a question will go before the Town to see what we want to do. Karen said the bus was decided on before she became school board. However, she was told that it was supposed to be better for Cooper, but that it backfired. Cooper and Meddybemps each pay 50% of the bus driver's salary, and other expenses of the bus. Karen added that she comes to every Select Board meeting, making every attempt to keep everyone up to date on school issues.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: none

Article four passed.

Article 5 To see what sum the municipality will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs Services Funding Act (**Recommend \$142,407**) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688. (**Recommend \$139,326**)

MOTION: to pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Dave Timpe

Discussion: Deb Kinney asked where does this money go? We usually get a breakdown, and a struggling community needs to know where money is going. Timothy Kane replied it is on the last page: this page shows essential services and where the money goes. Deb Kinney looked at third page, which showed that private tuition is down. However, she would like to hear how tax payers feel about paying private tuition? Karen Holmes gave the breakdown as to which schools the students were attending. Washington Academy is a private school, but they are charging us the state-mandated cost. Deb Kinney said there were the hypothetical possibilities that she might have a child go to a private school in Southern ME. How would the Town like that expense? Under the current

system, anyone could do that and we would have to foot the bill. Kathy Hull said that she remembered when Callie Hatton was on the school board, we had passed an article to prohibit that: it was not enforced. Karen Holmes said it was before her time, but she understood that it had expired after five years. Deb Kinney said it was supposed to include a stipulation that students currently in school at that time were grandfathered. Several stated that we need to look at it again, and think about having a discussion. Danny Sullivan asked if we have any idea of who goes where? Yes, Karen Holmes had a list that she shared.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: 13 Opposed: 10

Article five passed.

Article 6 To see what sum the municipality / district / unit will authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 from the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools. **(Recommend \$223,990)**

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Trevor Flood

Discussion: A taxpayer asked how it compares to last year? Not everyone has a copy to look at. Timothy Kane said to look at Page 3, it is higher this year. Cooper is getting less from the state, and in order to receive even that amount, we have to raise a minimum. Question: Is the amount from the state \$3,000 per child? Timothy Kane said, no. It is the total amount we receive. Question: under the essential services formula, this is what they give us? Tax payers asked him to explain how it works.

We have a State Representative here who wishes to speak. The Moderator said we need to have a 2/3 vote of approval for Beth Turner to speak.

MOTION: To allow Beth Turner to speak to the Town.

MADE BY: Stuart Shotwell Seconded: Dan Ackley

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: 26 Opposed: 1

The motion passed, Beth Turner was allowed to speak.

Discussion: Beth Turner said: I am a former school board member, former many offices in town government. Supt. Kane is exactly right. Not very many in government understand the formula. The plan was that they were going to show how to run an efficient school. When they made the choices, there were only 6 schools. For example, if you have less than a certain number of students, 2,000 for example, they ding you for having a librarian. And we have small towns, with small school populations, but we need the librarian. Beth will be on the new committee to work on the school funding formula, she said. She wants us to get more money for education here in rural Maine. Beth will try to

get some changes in the formula. Beth knows that she is out numbered, but she will absolutely make sure that they hear our concerns! It will be looked at closely. Beth then said "Thank you for your time."

Stuart Shotwell reminded that we are just voting on this article tonight, not the formula. Dave Timpe asked when will we get the 55% funding from the State that the voters passed? Beth Turner said that you are right, and they need to respect the vote of the people. There is no way around that. Karen Holmes asked if the legislature had tried to pass a law that this issue can't be brought up for discussion again? Beth replied that we cannot stop that discussion because it can't be undone once it is passed by the people. So yes, it can be brought forward again. (There was applause)

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: none

Article six passed.

ART.7. To see if the Town will vote to change the method of selecting a road commissioner from elected to appointed beginning with the 2015 annual town meeting.

MOTION: To pass as read

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Scott Jamieson

Discussion: Question: Are they going to appoint someone? Dan Ackley replied, yes, if this passes, in 2015. Question: What is the other half of story? Why change? Dan Ackley answered that it is hard to find some who is qualified and also willing run. Ronnie Flood said that there is so much paperwork to the job, and so much you need to know. People aren't ready for it.

Bob Smith said he had worked road construction in 30 years. He watched sand go down the road past his house, no supervision of the work. Norm Howe asked if will they put someone in that is from Town? Deb Kinney asked the Select Board if this means they will appoint someone instead of voting for them? Lenny Dodge asked what happens now? Stuart Shotwell said he liked the idea because it means the road commissioner and the Select Board will be more likely to work together. There are towns where they have a war between the road commissioner and the Select Board. Kathy Hull asked if they would put an ad in the paper and how much would they pay? Dan they don't have all that organized yet. Bob Smith made the statement that he dug ditches with shovels and now there is a loader to dig ditches. Moderator Neal Halle asked the crowd to please get back to the article. Then Neal read article again.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: all Opposed: one

Article 7 passed.

ART. 8. To choose a Road Commissioner for the remainder of ensuing year, until the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION: To nominate Ronnie Flood

MADE BY: Karen Holmes SECONDED BY: Scott Jamieson

MOTION: To nominate Bob Smith

MADE BY: Lenny Dodge SECONDED BY: Scott Jamieson

Discussion: Lenny Dodge said you can't just close an unpaved road if someone lives there. Doug Pelliter said what about where he is? He doesn't get plowed by the Town. Ronnie Flood said that if you have maintained winter and summer roads, you go through a process and it ultimately gets a say in court. Dave Timpe said that he thinks the Maine Townsman says there is a process. Ronnie agreed, but the local road center says you are going to be unsuccessful if you try to take away maintenance. Danny Sullivan stated that this issue is a mess in our Town and it needs to be fixed. He said that 1/3 of the tax money in Town comes from people who are on the Camp road. Danny said it does need to be addressed. Bob Smith asked why don't we make it so they can get plowed? Dan Ackley said that this is an article to investigate the process. It is a long process, and your chance of getting through it is probably nil. Dan said it is just that question, to see what the Town thinks. Bob Smith thinks we should all just get along and work together. The Town can all go to the Camp road and volunteer to help them out. Dan Ackley said it puts everyone in same boat. They would look at all the roads. Deb Kinney said there once was an article to assist them on the Camp Road that passed in the past, but now they get no assistance from the Town. She said she hopes they are not sealing their fate. Dave Timpe said he believes there is a process to put an article before the Town. Six or more taxpayers put an article in front of the Town and ask to get it turned into a Town road. Bob Smith went to a fire down there once, and it took a long time for the Fire truck to get there. Bob said that people work together and help them out. Dan Ackley said that we would go through the process and each road would still get a vote before the Town. The Camp Road/Chub Cove Road - starts very wide then gets very narrow. Danny Sullivan helped clear the road for the power trucks (during the Christmas Ice Storm) and not too many other Camp Road people were there to help. Someone added that a lot of elderly are on the road. The Town does give help to the Camp Road when they can, cutting trees and clearing brush. Then it was stated that there is a lower value on the property because of the road. Is that true? Someone else asked? Brenda Gove said yes, it is a different value. Danny Sullivan stated that they should be taxed on an inaccessible road, because that is what they have unless they plow themselves in the winter. Moderator Neal Hallee used his gavel and asked them to get back to the article. Stuart Shotwell said he doesn't think we need this article because in the 2013 Town Report, Article 39 gives them (the Select Board) the power. Dan Ackley said, but this question was brought to the Select Board and they are trying see what people thinks and they want to be open to the public. Bob Smith said he thinks that if the Camp road is adopted as a Town road it could be opened up (to winter plowing). Deb Kinney said that she thought it used to be a Town road, there used to be a Town beach on the Camp Road. Deb thinks it was never discontinued or that it was never de-ceded from being a Town road. Dan Ackley said that this is just what we were asked to introduce. He said the Select Board knew it was a hot potato, and now they are asking the Town to vote on it. Norm Howe said that there is a choice you make to live on a dirt road, and it is *your choice*. The other area on the Camp Road was a boat launch. Norm said that you can all choose where you live.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: 10

Opposed: 12

Article 11 did not pass.

ART. 12. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the repair and upkeep of town roads. (Selectmen recommend \$20,000, plus State road Assistance Funds of \$8,841, total \$28,841) Explanation of Article 12: The State Funds for summer maintenance amount is not adequate for road maintenance.

MOTION: To pass as read

MADE BY: Scott Jamieson SECONDED BY: Dan Ackley

Discussion: Doug Pelliter asked if we will have money to put cold patch on the East Ridge Road? Dan Ackley said that we will spread the money as far as we can. Bob Smith said he heard that people have said we should tear up the road and have gravel? He thinks we should do that and drag it in the spring. We should do that, in his opinion.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: 19 Opposed: none

Article 12 passed.

ART. 13. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for maintenance for the Cooper Volunteer Fire Department for the ensuing year. (Selectmen recommend \$16,020.) (Municipal Fire Chief Note: this is for firefighter trainings, equipment improvements, and maintenance as listed below)

Station Operation:

Electricity.....\$420

Heating Fuel\$1,500

Station Maintenance:

Station Upgrades\$ ___

Grounds Upgrades..... \$ ___

Emergency Apparatus Operations:

Gasoline\$1,000

Annual Pump Testing \$500

Emergency Apparatus Maintenance:

Annual Inspection / Maintenance / Repairs.....\$1,000

Communications: Portable Radios / Pagers\$2,000

Structural Firefighting Equipment:\$5,000

Wildlands Firefighting Equipment:\$1,000

Miscellaneous Equipment:\$2,000

Equipment Maintenance / Repairs:\$1,000

Association Membership Dues Etc.\$100

Training Fees:\$500

Total Proposed Budget \$16,020

MOTION: To pass as written.

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Norm Howe

Discussion: Dave Timpe said that as the last Cooper Fire Chief, he wanted to know why it has blossomed from \$3,000 to this amount? Moderator Neal Hallee said just read the article, it is listed where the money would go. Bob Smith asked who is running? Trevor Flood said there are hours and hours of work put into the Fire Department, and the equipment is from the 19 70's and the 1980's. Shannon Flood said that they are actually showing up and saving houses. Dave Timpe said don't tell Vladimir that. Karen Holmes stated that they need our support as a Town. She said that we should see what they are doing! They

need the funding for a reason. Joanne McMahon said she thinks it is important and that during the Christmas ice storm, they came to her house with water, a heater, checked daily, shoveled snow, opened the Cooper Community Center for someone to come to when they needed to be warm. Her plumbing all froze. The Fire Dept. would have given her a ride. Joanne said they do the emergency preparedness, and they get together with other departments to train and to have mutual aide agreements. If that plan included all the older equipment it would be larger. Dave Timpe said what about Vladimir? Nonoe stopped by there. Shannon Flood said they did stop by there, more than once. It was stated by someone that we did not get FEMA money, the county did not qualify. Danny Sullivan said we are lucky to have people willing to do all this, thank you. Karen Holmes said that another more recent example was hurricane Arthur: Her cellar flooded, the generator wouldn't run, her husband was in Massachusetts, and the Fire dept. came to help. Stuart Shotwell said that he and Mary had a chimney fire and he had a great response. They were very professional and quick. Dave Timpe said it (the chimney fire) was in his day. Trevor Flood and several other Fire Dept. members shook their heads no. Dave said that they funded it fine with as little as \$2500, and he bought trucks for \$1 and \$25 so why do we need this now? W=Look at what happened at Vladimir's house. Ronnie Flood said it was because they had an old truck that wouldn't pump water: it had to be pushed aside to let other people put water on it. Trevor Flood said with this increase we have the chance to purchase good equipment, it is an investment. These investments will not to go up but the plan is to bring it (costs) down. The Fire Dept. wants to bring us up to a class 9 fire dept. Laurie Pike said that having just moved into Town, she has insurance for ½ the space of her previous class 10 home, but the bill is almost the same, even with no garage. Our Town is rated at 10, and this is an investment that would save everyone in Town. Trevor Flood said the old equipment is not going to cut it. Dave Timpe insisted that they already had what they needed. Trevor said he begs to differ. Norm Howe said he had the newest turnout suit and it was \$800 new. It is now so old that it shouldn't be used and is outdated. The new turnout suits cost quite a bit more. Norm thinks we are doing pretty damn good for a small town Fire Department.

Vote by show of hands

In favor: majority Opposed: one

Article 13 passed.

ART.14. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,000 to pay a stipend for the Emergency Management Director and the Municipal Fire Chief for the ensuing year.

MOTION: to pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Shannon Flood

Discussion: none

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: majority Opposed: one

Article 14 passed.

ART. 15. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 which will be added to the current year's pay for Brenda Gove as Assessor's Agent, and compensate her for

Chair of Assessors for the ensuing year. (Explanation: Select Board unintentionally cut her pay by not including this in the annual Town Meeting.)

MOTION: To pass as read

MADE BY: Dave Timpe SECONDED BY: Linda Howe

Discussion: none

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 15 passed.

ART. 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to increase the pay for the Treasurer for the ensuing year. (Select Board Recommends \$2,000)MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Karen Holmes

Discussion: Sandy explained that the Treasurer and Tax collector positions were combined, and Ann Marie felt that even though the Treasurer's work deserved more pay, she never changed it because she did both jobs and it evened out. Now Amanda is putting in long hours, learning to do the job, and she even took the whole day off when the auditors came. Sandy said Amanda is really working hard and deserves it. Someone asked how much was the Treasurer's pay already? Sandy said it was \$3,000.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 16 passed.

ART. 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the services of the Animal Control Officer for the ensuing year.
(Select Board recommends \$500 for the period of June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. This covers the officer who is trained yearly, uniformed, has an ACO truck, fuel, and will comply with all state laws.)

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Norm Howe

Discussion: Stuart Shotwell asked why can't you just take this out of administration? Dan Ackley said that they could have, but wanted the Town to be aware we are in a contract with the County. We have had issues with the Animal Control Officer in the past. There needs to be training, and there were problems with a vehicle to go to training. We even have to pay take a stray to paws. The County will be constructing a facility which will save us money.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 17 passed.

ART.18. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate to pay for a flagpole for the Town office area. (Select Board recommends \$700 plus any balance to come from the General fund. Cathance Grange no. 510 has offered a 9' x 5' flag to donate to the Town.

MOTION: to pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Danny Sullivan

Discussion: Sandy Lyon explained that the Grange had a flag to donate to the Town, it is very large, 9 feet long. She picked up the flag to show the Town. The size of the flag determines the size of the pole. She looked for the best cost we could get. Deb Kinney asked about a light on the flag? Sandy said there is a solar light that attaches to the pole for \$115 or we can put in an extra street light on the other pole. Someone asked if it was close enough? Dan Ackley said he thought it was. Bob Smith said he would cut a Spruce pole and donate it, if we want it. Someone asked if it would be out 24/7 ? Sandy Lyon said they had discussed having it out from Memorial day to Veterans Day.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 18 passed.

ART.19. Shall the Town vote to terminate the Comprehensive Plan Fund and put the remaining balance into the general fund.

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Stuart Shotwell SECONDED BY: Danny Sullivan

Discussion: How much is in the account? Dan Ackley said he thought it was about \$1500. But the Town can't spent it for anything other than the Comprehensive Plan so it has just sat there. Joanne McMahon asked if we could use that money be used to frame maps? Dan said it could be used in for anything the Town wants to use it for.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 19 passed.

ART. 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay for additional road repairs, chipping and removal of tree limbs along Town right of ways, repair of erosion at the Town beach area, and repairs to cemeteries, which are necessary due to winter storm damages. (Select Board recommends \$ 12, 400)

Explanation of Article 20: These are the *actual amounts spent*.

Road repairs, Chipping, limb removal	\$11,096
Town Beach area	\$763
Cemetery Damage	\$500

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Karen Holmes

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous Opposed: none

Article 20 passed.

ART. 21 To see if the Town would be willing to commit no more than \$10,000 to match funds for upgrades to the Cooper Community Center, contingent upon Grant approval.
(Friends of the Cooper Community Center will explain)

MOTION: To pass as written

MADE BY: Dan Ackley

SECONDED BY: Danny Sullivan

Discussion: Kathy Hull has volunteered to do grant writing for the purpose of upgrades to the Community Center / Grange building. They (grant people) want the Town to kick in to show the Town is in favor of the grant. If they (grant people) put \$30,000 in, then we put \$7,000. It would be capped, and only the full amount if it was a big grant. Danny Sullivan said that in his discussions about some grant, they were not given East of the Mississippi in so long that people stopped asking. So now is a great time to ask! Danny also said that Cooper is in the census as part of the poorest block in the nation. Kathy Hull said that a Town vote in favor shows that we support getting the grant.

Vote by show of hands:

In favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

Article 21 passed.

ART. 22. To adjourn

MOTION: So moved

MADE BY: Dan Ackley SECONDED BY: Norm Howe

Discussion: Danny Sullivan asked if he could say one thing? Axiom Technologies said that this week and next they are going to put radios up. Does anyone in the room have the White space radio? Trevor and Shannon Flood do, and they prefer it to the previous service. Danny was glad to hear it because he has spear headed this project, and maybe now we can see some results. He asked about the speed, and Trevor explained what his speed was. Danny said we were promised 10 megs symmetrical. Some cannot get Pioneer service where they are located. This White space radio is the answer, hopefully. Danny said if anyone wants this they should call axiom every three days. They (Axiom) received public funds for this, so don't be afraid to call. Trevor said it was minimal invasive. Danny Sullivan said he wants to be called when they do install.

Karen Holmes and Mary Dunn, School Board Members, want to thank the Town for the support of the schools, which Cooper always does.

Vote by show of hands:

All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

A true copy of the warrant,

Attest: *Sandra Lyon*

Clerk of Cooper