

Cooper Select Board Meeting
October 2, 2014
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Daniel Ackley, Dan Ackley, Amanda Donaghy, Laurie Pike (only the beginning), Karen Holmes, Joanne McMahon, Scott Jamieson (left early), Sandy Lyon, Alice Sullivan (part of the meeting)

Starting time: 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: The Treasurer's warrant was reviewed and signed. The Select Board also reviewed the monthly statements.

Agenda Item 2: Karen attended the Education forum in Calais last week. Its purpose was to get everything out in open about how people feel and what they think about what has gone in education. In general, the political candidates were all asked to listen to the people and to leave control of schools in local hands.

Agenda Item 3: On Nov. 19 there is an MMA workshop for grant writing in Augusta. Kathy Hull and Karen Holmes would like to go. The cost for member towns is \$75 each. Cooper is a member Town, so we do get a cheaper rate. They are asking the Select Board if the Town will pay the fee. Select Board agreed to pay the fee.

Agenda Item 4: A discussion of the Audit report included sharing observations and questions that we would like to ask Wanese. Amanda will get in touch with Wanese and ask her to meet with us. Wanese had previously indicated that she was willing to do this. After we meet with her, we will discuss again.

Agenda Item 5: After the recent benefit supper it was brought to the attention of the clerk, Sandy (who oversees the use of the Community Center and keeps the calendar of events) that the walls – including the new wall, had many tacks used on them. The Select Board does not want this pristine wall damaged, and would prefer that nothing be hung on it. Sandy admitted that she had not given the Friends of the Cooper Community Center a copy of the guidelines this year, but had last year. Sandy said she would provide them with a new copy of the guidelines. Sandy will also email the guidelines to Alice asking her to share with members of the committee. Sandy said we might consider putting some hooks or nails in places where they could remain and be used time and again. Dan asked that the guidelines be amended to include only adhesive-type materials be used to hang decorations or signs. Daniel agreed. Sandy asked the Select Board if they wanted her to, she can order a supply of 'Command' type adhesive hangers and have them available. Dan said that was a good idea. Joanne said she was taking this as a slap in the face, she thought it was a lovely event. Sandy said she agreed it was a great event and she was sorry that felt it a slap in the face. We need to take care of the building. Joanne said she had seen larger holes made by nails when the ceiling and floor were painted. Dan said that is what they (Select Board) want to avoid, the pristine wall should remain a pristine wall. Now that we are making improvements, we need to care for the walls too.

Select Board vote unanimous to use only adhesive products on all walls.

Agenda Item 6: Sandy put the Flagpole on the agenda. It is here, we need to get it in the ground. Wouldn't it be nice to hold a flag rising on Veteran's Day? Dan suggested that it might be possible to

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have a work group finish putting the pole up over the Columbus Day weekend. Sandy will notify Ronnie and Scott. We will invite local veterans; Sandy can ask her father, Ralph Flood, to help with that. We will also ask Beth Turner and Kevin Raye. Karen will invite Katherine Cassidy. Veteran's Day at 10:00 a.m. with Coffee and Donuts. The Friends will help with the Coffee and donuts. Alice will see if there is a local student who could play the National Anthem. Karen will put it in the Quoddy Tides, and Sandy will ask her mother, Arline Flood to put it in the Calais Advertiser. There was a general sense that this could be a very positive event for our Town.

Agenda Item 7: Alice wants to have Friends of the Cooper Community Center committee meeting on Tuesday. She asked Sandy if the building was available. It is. They will set the date and plan for a Halloween party, if the committee votes to do it. Then they will share details.

They are also looking at hosting a quilting group. It will most likely start with just members and friends and maybe branch out later. They are just discussing ideas now, there will be more information to come later.

Agenda Item 8: Sandy does not have much to share for mail this time. Then Trevor and Shannon Flood's address was asked for, so that condolences could be mailed.

It is:

268 Cooper Hwy.
Cooper, ME 04657

Agenda Item 9: Other business – Joanne said she wanted to report back on the benefit supper that the Grange, Friends, and CLA worked together to put on. Over 100 people attended and \$1,155 was raised for the Fire Dept. Dan said he was sorry he had missed it. Joanne said they have called to thank people for donating food. What about Halloween? It will be discussed on Tuesday. Joanne said that they now have momentum. Dan said that a lot of people are looking forward to it.

Agenda Item 10: We need a lock for thermostat. It was set on 72 the day before a meeting, when we had warm weather. It has been left turned up, and we need to be sure it doesn't get forgotten.

Agenda Item 11: There was a Saturday meeting held to listen to summer resident concerns. More people showed than Dan had anticipated, so they had the meeting in the Community Center. The meeting was because some non-residents wanted to get together, there were 20-25 people there. They are concerned because they don't get representation, but most understand how it works. You must be a resident to vote at a Town meeting. The most frequent question was: What can we do to cut back? There are some costs saving measures. Then Dan wondered about whether we should look into what is involved in having 1 town meeting a year instead of two? It would be more complicated the first year, but would get easier after that. Another idea is to have the items we vote on in the warrant be for a specific amount and not take extra from General fund.

Sandy shared that the timing and number of Town meeting is usually set by the Town charter: we have not been able to locate Cooper's charter. The State told us that if there is no charter to guide us, we

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should assume that the way it has always been done is probably the way the charter said. Dan asked what goes into a making a new charter? Sandy said there is a process that is time consuming and would involve the Town voting on it.

Dan said at the meeting there were questions asked about looking into deorganization. Plus there has been a geographical divide in Cooper, with one side of Cooper hill going toward Calais/Woodland and the other side going toward Machias. Sandy said that she was on the last deorganizing committee, and she knows that the State will not let us deorganize. Sandy is not willing to serve on that committee again. Plus it would take a Town vote to start the process again.

Karen said we need to be aware that a charter school is funded by location. It can be very expensive for Towns who get billed for those who are sent to charter High schools. Then she spoke about home schooling: they need to take the student to a local school for testing from time to time. But it can save the Town on tuition, so we may want to be more supportive. Dan also thinks we should provide some support to those parents.

Dan said the crowd was told we will explore cost saving options, but no promises were made. When the new web page is done, we will put minutes up regularly. Dan also gave them his email and they were told they can ask him questions anytime.

Agenda Item 12: Sandy said the website plan is waiting for Sandy and Erica to get together. The Select Board wants it to be done by the end of October. If not, we will discuss other options.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Select Board meeting will be Thursday Oct. 16, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.