

Cooper Select Board Meeting
July 3, 2014
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Dan, Daniel, Amanda, Sandy, Ronnie, Scott, Dave, Karen

Starting time: 6:50 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Treasurer's Warrant was reviewed and signed.

Agenda Item 2: Karen said School Board needs a copy of the new Insurance policy for the School Bus, and as soon as she gets it, she will have Sandy scan and send to Judy Doore at MMA.

Agenda Item 3: Stipend for Emergency Management Director and for the Municipal Fire Chief position was discussed. Dave said he was interested in being both positions. Dan explained that the Fire Dept. Chief was voted on through Fire Dept. Ronnie said you could have two, but Cooper chose to combine into one position. Dan said the Emergency Management director position has already been filled, it is Trevor Flood, and he asked for a stipend for the position. Dave asked if the way the Fire Dept. was organized had changed, Dan referred to Ronnie, who said it has not changed. Trevor is already appointed and he just came to the Select board to ask for the stipend. Dan said Trevor does a good job and the Select Board agreed to a stipend. Dave repeated that he wanted to be considered for the positions in the future. Dan advised Dave to attend the annual meeting in March and speak up then. Dan said they would take it under advisement.

Motion: to approve \$1,000 stipend for the two positions combined. Dan made the motion, Daniel seconded. Dan and Daniel both voted in favor, the motion is approved.

Agenda Item 4: Mr. Lew Dwelley came to ask the Select Board permission to use the section of the East Ridge Road from the Rt. 191 sand pile to the Crowe road, about 1 mile. Lew explained that he needs permission to run ATV's that mile. Once he has it, then he will ask the State about the section on Route 191 from the Calais side of Dead Stream to the sand pile. Dan has no problem, it is okay with him. Dan asked Ronnie if he could see a problem with the request, and Ronnie said no. Ronnie told about the old Rt. 191 road that goes up the side of Hill's hill to the sand pile. There is still tar visible in sections. If the state let them, they could open up that old road section, which wouldn't take too much work, just some tree trimming. Ronnie asked if the ATV club would like to work with the Cooper Volunteer Fire Dept. on this project, since the Fire Dept. was discussing clearing a way through there so they could put in a type of hydrant. Lew agreed to this, and phone numbers were exchanged.

Motion: to allow for ATV use of the East Ridge Rd. from the sand pile to the Crowe road. Dan made the motion, Daniel seconded. Dan and Daniel both voted in favor, the motion is approved.

Agenda Item 5: Scott has a plan to put in a hand rail for the back door. All the decking, handrails, and the wheelchair ramp that were torn off the main entrance are outside. Scott said it would not take much to re-install it at the back door. Daniel is waiting to hear back from the loss management visit, and he will share the results once the email comes. It was decided to wait until we hear from MMA loss management.

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Agenda Item 6: WCEMA meeting –Dan attended as representative from Cooper. He received a summary sheet, and it was interesting. Dan called for an ambulance this past winter and Baileyville arrived quickly. Dave said it is his opinion that the company is not well managed, which is why the stipend the Town pays has increased. Dave spoke of some problems he knew of. Dan will continue to attend the meetings as our representative. Dave said Alexander's first responders are a division of Downeast Ambulance: Alexander gets the ambulance with the agreement that they must respond if the call is from the Alexander / Cooper area. Alexander must try to get here first. Alexander's crew is not trained EMT's, they are first responders.

Agenda Item 7: The previous drafts of articles were reviewed. The finished Warrant will be posted by Scott on Sunday after the Select Board has signed.

As part of the warrant preparation, the Road contract for winter maintaince was discussed. Dan asked if Ronnie would consider doing all the roads. This is recommended by MMA as an insurance measure. Ronnie said he had questions first: who did the Select Board talk to about roads? Dan said they asked Wayne Spear if he would do sand and salt for same price. Dan did add 10% for salt for this year, in case it is a particularly difficult year. Dan asked Ronnie what he thought it require for summer maintaince to improve the roads, especially the East Ridge Road? Ronnie said they have worked on preventing runoff for a long time, with very little money. But they need to solve the water run- off problem. Dan and Ronnie agreed on the need for some Rit- wrap. Scott said the problem is getting the water from the road off the shoulder. Scott said they post the road, but then is gets used anyway, and the ruts go deep down into the road. The road was never built properly in the first place. Ronnie said that we do need to fix it. We can't really ask for the full amount it would take, but the amount Dan mentioned, \$28, 841, would go a long way. It is a good figure to start with. The road needs new culverts and Rit- wrap. Some old culverts were only 1 foot under the ground, not deep where they should be. Ronnie explained the work that they have put into it, repeatedly because of storm damage from 8 or 10 storms most years. Ronnie said the original cost of the pavement on the East Ridge road was expensive. They had the money the first time, but it didn't get finished, he is not sure why. Scott said the money from the state has been going down every year, and that is all they have had to work with. Dave said we should have the East Ridge Road made into a gravel road, and then grade it every year. Dan has he has thought of that also, and even talked to Scott about it. Sandy added that the Town voted to pave it, and she believed it would need to be put before the Town for a vote if it was changed to a gravel road. Ronnie said that there is even a charge for grinding the road up, which is a consideration. Discussion of what it would cost continued.

Winter maintaince: Dan said again that they would like to have Ronnie plow all the roads. They are very happy with the job he does. Ronnie said it can't be a favoritism issue, we have to have the Town vote on which roads to plow, which we voted on plowing other roads in the past. Jon Reisman was Select Board when the decision to have the Vining Rd. plowed was made, so now we are locked into it. Then Ronnie talked about the roads that have been blocked off, like Grove Pond. Sandy shared the changes to road law she learned about at the Municipal Law workshop she attended on Tuesday July 1. Ronnie said we

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need to put it before the Town to have plowing done legally. Ronnie requested the Select Board put in an Article to have the Town vote on whether to plow these roads or not.

Motion: to include the articles the way it is written up in the draft. Dan made the motion, Daniel seconded. Both Dan and Daniel voted to approve as written.

Discussion continued: Ronnie said they can't just do favors for a friend, by including roads where only a couple of people live. Dan said he was including the roads because they were being plowed before he became Select Board. More discussion continued. Ronnie pointed out that there is a process that needs to be followed. Dan agreed with Ronnie that they will put it before the Town. Ronnie said everyone needs to pay the insurance if they are plowing, not be listed as a town employee. Ronnie takes care of all his own expenses, he pays for his insurance. For summer road work, we have always paid the state rates, not put out to bid. It is cheaper for the Town this way. It was stated that you need someone to supervise, and all agreed.

Dave said he also wants to put in a bid to work on roads. Then Dave said the mowing contract was one that we get nickel and dimed over every little thing. Dave said he is happy to bid on it too, he can do it cheaper. Dan told Dave if he wants to, he can stand up next March at the next town meeting and state his position. The position is already filled this year.

Ronnie said it is best to put decisions about winter road plowing before the Town. Scott said some people who chose to live back in the woods, can't expect to be first plowed out. Daniel said he doesn't expect his road to be plowed at all, if he needs to get out, he will take care if it himself.

Motion: to put an article about discontinuing the winter maintaince of unpaved roads before the town for a vote. Motion was made by Dan, seconded by Daniel. Both voted in favor, the motion passed.

Agenda Item 8: Dave wanted to have a discussion of the repairs that were made on the Chub Cove Rd. Dave is unhappy about the fire truck going down the road to get water during the Drozdoff house fire.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Select Board meeting will be Thursday July 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.