

Cooper Select Board Meeting
September 4, 2014
Held at the Cooper Town Office

Attending: Daniel Ackley, John Viselli, Sandy Lyon, Karen Holmes, Scott Jamieson
For part of the meeting: Trevor Flood

Starting time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Agenda Item 2: School Board update – Karen got a phone call from Bucket Davis (East Machias Schools) that they may not be able to pick up Cooper students at the Cathance store. Karen said it is straightened out now; the bus will be there again this school year. They have a Cathance Twp. Student that they asked Karen if he was a Cooper student – he is not. Karen told us the bus will often take Washington Academy students too. Karen said that she was asked it is who plows out the store for the bus to turn? Daniel explained that his father, Dan, would rather plow it himself. He will double check with Dan to be sure. Karen has also been receiving a lot of phone calls about the school budget, which she does not mind explaining. She told us that Barry McLaughlin is back as interim superintendent. Some people who called her asked for a July summer meeting. Sandy said that is usually when it is held anyway, so that request is easy to comply with. If people want to set up a different meeting, we could tell them that it would be an information meeting only. Tax payers who are not registered to vote in Cooper could not vote at the summer school budget meeting.

Some reasons for the increase in taxes were discussed. In 2009 the State of Maine gave Cooper almost \$140,000 to finance schools: this year Cooper will receive less than \$4,000. This shift of the tax burden has been significant for a small town like ours.

Agenda Item 3: The Loss control recommends measures were discussed. Thanks to Lance Keen, the electrical recommendations are all done. The fuse box spaces were filled in, the hot wire in the area of the former kitchen has been taken out, and all exposed bulbs now have wire cages to protect them. There are three more items to get done: steps at two exit doors, and the fire escape stairs need to be closer to the building. Scott can work on these. Sandy said that her husband Denny would donate a 4x4 post if it is needed for a hand rail.

Agenda Item 4: Trevor was here to review the Emergency Operations Plan for Cooper with the Select Board. As Emergency Management Director, Trevor told them that we need to keep it current and to be sure we have a copy in the Town office. Trevor has presented a page that the Select Board and he can use to sign off when the plan is reviewed annually. Trevor spoke about a couple of updates that he feels are needed. Then the Select Board asked questions as they reviewed the document. The revisions were approved, and the Select Board signed off on the EOP. Sandy (town clerk) will send proof that this was done to the office in Machias. Since a few revisions were made, Sandy will see about retyping the document, and will ask Machias if they can email a copy for her to edit.

Agenda Item 5: The Facilities maintainer job description was reviewed and approved. See attached copy.

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Agenda Item 6: John asked if Trevor (who is also the Municipal Fire Chief and Volunteer Fire Chief) would talk to them about the Fire Dept. work. Trevor said he thought that there was an agreement between the Select Board and Scott. Sandy told John that this was also thoroughly discussed at the last Select Board meeting, which John missed. John may want to review the minutes of that meeting to get more information. Trevor told the Select Board that the gravel now being hauled to the fire dept. lot is not under the Town budget, it is under the Cooper Fire Dept. budget. Trevor asked that if there are any questions in the future, please just stop in and ask. Trevor has not spoke with Dan recently, but they have agreed to discuss any questions in the future.

The entrance that is at the Fire Dept. will stay there, but they are adding a loop so that they will enter 191 a little further up the road. This is a safety measure that is being done because of close calls in the past. Signs are also now up on to show drivers there is a fire dept. ahead.

Daniel asked Trevor how much work it would be to have added a flashing light. Trevor said they are trying to get information about a red flashing light over the road, as another safety feature. Trevor would love to have one of those lights; he is still looking for information about this.

They have contacted Eastern Maine about a dusk to dawn light, and are waiting for a reply.

Agenda Item 7: Recent mail: Town officers were invited to attend an Oct. 1 MMA Annual meeting. Everyone has other commitments, so no one plans to attend at this time. Sandy said she is already planning on two full day workshops this month.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Next Select Board meeting will be Thursday September 18, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.