

Cooper Select Board's Meeting
April 5, 2012
Held at the Grange Hall

Attending: Micah Perkins, John Viselli, Donna Timpe, Ann Marie Flood, Karen Holmes, Joanne McMahon, Lynn Brown, Dan Ackley, Bill Kriddler Sr., Scott Jamieson, Sandy Lyon, Justin Day

Starting time: 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: The Treasurers warrant was reviewed and signed.

Agenda Item 2: Planning board appointments were made: Dan will remain for the remainder of his term, one more year. Lynn Brown was sworn in for a 1 year term, and Scott Jamieson was sworn in for a 2 year term. Chris McCormick was never sworn in as an alternate last year, so he cannot sign paperwork. His experience as an advisor has been valuable in the past and he will be asked to continue in this advisory role. Dan will ask him to continue. Dan will also talk with the Planning Board about a regular schedule of meetings. This will comply with Maine State requirements to have a regular schedule of meeting times, predictable so the public can attend if they desire, and Dan will let her know what the schedule is. This information is requested by the State after each annual town meeting, and repeat requests are sent periodically if we do not provide complete information.

Agenda Item 3: Micah is going to reach out to Dave Timpe about the Emergency Management appointment. It is hoped that Dave will reconsider and accept. Micah will let the Board know Dave's answer.

Agenda Item 4: Third Party requests were considered. Each request is accompanied by a letter explaining the functions and roles of the organizations. After reading the letters and discussion of the merits of the request, amounts were agreed upon. The total allocated at this time is \$1550 out of the possible \$2,500 approved at the annual town meeting. The Select Board will use their discretion if more requests are received.

Greenland Point Center's request received lengthy discussion: instead of the \$500 they asked for, it was decided to split the funds, sending \$250 now and another \$250 if a Cooper Resident attends their camp. This is an opportunity to have a scholarship program, so we will put a form on the Cooper website so that resident's children can apply for it. Micah suggested the scholarship idea, and everyone agreed it is a chance to provide something special for children in our town. Micah will ask Erica about doing the form. Ann Marie will let Greenland Point know our intent.

Third Party requests decisions were:

Greenland Point Center	\$250 now, \$250 later for a Cooper Resident
Washington Hancock Community Agency	\$250
Downeast Health Services	\$250
Catholic Charities / Calais Maine	\$150
American Red Cross, Pine Tree Chapter	\$100
Cathance Lake Association	\$100
Community Health and Counseling Services	\$50
The Lifeflight Foundation	\$100 (information sent to the Fire Chief)
Down East AIDS Network	\$50

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The request from House of Peace was denied, they operate in another county and do not offer services in our area.

Agenda Item 5: Judy East from the WCCG sent Survey to be done for MDOT to prioritize local road repairs. Ronnie Flood, Road Commissioner, spoke about the survey and that he has done this before. Ronnie will call Judy and will also take care of the survey. There is an April 21st deadline for completion. He has recently heard that the state plans to put down a 5/8" layer of tar from the Grange hall corner to Rt. 1. Ronnie said it is called "skinny mix". This is only a temporary fix, not what is really needed.

He spoke about the problems with snowplowing on this kind of "skinny mix". He described what happened when the road gave away on the hill just above Sandy's house. It did a great deal of damage to his equipment, costly repairs to his plow truck were needed, plus he most likely cracked his ribs when he was thrown around during the event. Ronnie called to report it to the State DOT and they put a sign in the snow bank. They did not attempt to repair the road then, or since. This is one of the road sections he will put at the top of the priority list for repair on the survey.

Agenda Item 6: Joanne has a request to add a bulletin board back to the Community Center signs. She has a vision of announcements placed there that will change frequently, maybe even weekly. She showed the sketch she had made, and suggestions of replaceable and reusable inserts. Joanne described how it would work. She thought of Denny Lyon as carpenter for this project, but Sandy said he is getting really busy and is not available. Joanne showed the samples of the replaceable/reusable inserts. Joanne is in a hurry to do this because she needs to have carpal tunnel surgery, so she wants to get this done before she has surgery. She thinks it is important to show the building is "jumping" busy.

Micah asked her if she knew another carpenter, or does John? John said possibilities were to discuss with Chris McCormick and also Timmy Ketchen. Micah asked who would call Chris; John said he will contact Chris to see if he is available and interested. It was thought to cost about \$200, but Micah said to ask for an estimate. Then the Select Board will reconsider this at a later time. Ann Marie mentioned that the Tech. College and local High schools do sometimes do things like this in their carpentry classes. It would save the Town money, and their work is wonderful. We would buy the materials and they do the work.

Joanne said she has been here in Cooper for 27 years and when she volunteered on the comprehensive plan she found out that this town is nice, a wonderful place. She is 80 and she wants to devote the rest of her life to the town. Joanne asks the Select Board to consider this as they make a decision.

At another time, Joanne wants to discuss signs which say "Welcome to Cooper".

Agenda Item 7: Loan application forms for the Town's addition will be picked up from Machias Savings Bank by Micah. Micah will bring the paperwork to next meeting.

Agenda Item 8: John said we need to talk at the building committee meeting on Monday. Micah will try to get Timmy Ketchen, Ronnie Flood, Dan Ackley, and Chris McCormick to attend.

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Agenda Item 9: Joanne is applying for the position of Town sign painter. Can they appoint her as such? Micah said they will discuss at executive session.

Agenda Item 10: An executive session was considered. Micah got an answer from MMA, we are good to go. Micah needs to ask a lawyer to do a quit claim deed, does the town want to do a title search? Micah will ask the lawyer in Calais. Ann Marie will send an email to Micah and they will proceed. Executive session was not needed.

Agenda Item 11: Bill Kridd Sr. would like to see a newspaper article put in to say that individuals should only put flowers in front of the stone. Or a sign could be placed at the cemeteries? Micah laughed and said we could have our sign maker do it.

Were there any complaints over the fall clean-up notice? Sandy spoke of the one she knew about, where the individual thought November was too early to remove flower arrangements. Everyone here thought November was actually quite a late time! There will be a notice put in the paper.

There is spring clean up needed too, he will look the cemeteries over and get an estimate. Bill will send the estimate to Micah and we will discuss next time.

Joanna asked if we had any guidelines for the new cemetery. Micah said there are and then asked Justin what he thought. Justin said the new area needs to be graded, roads planned, and some boundaries marked. Micah said we need to stay focused on one thing at a time, and we can plan the cemetery after the addition is finished. Scott asked how long will this drag on? He may need a lot. Ronnie and Justin both said there are some places still available in the current cemeteries. Micah said we will keep this important topic on the "radar".

Agenda Item 12: Ronnie asked who we talk to about signs for the E911. Sandy explained how Norm Howe helped out in the past when we needed E911 addresses for the cemeteries (at the state's request). We do need to replace some signs. Micah said to point people his way for now.

Agenda Item 13: Ronnie requested attendance to a seminar that he would like to attend. It was approved for him to attend.

Agenda Item 14: Sandy suggested we contact Eastern Maine Electric about a security light for this building. The two poles already in place were discussed, and the one in the back was chosen to have a light put on. The cost of a security light was discussed, and the Select Board approved adding the light to the monthly light bill. It is a good idea considering the proposed work that will be occurring outside.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The Next meeting will be May 3rd at 6:30 p.m.