

Cooper Select Board's Meeting
Jan. 17, 2013
Held upstairs in the Cathance Grange Hall

Attending: Trevor Flood, Chris McClure, Ann Marie Flood, Norman Howe, Jacques Cartier, Donna Timpe, Arline flood, Joanne McMahon, Danny Sullivan, Kelly Ketchen, Timmy Ketchen, Karen Holmes, Micah Perkins, John Viselli, Sandy Lyon

Starting time: 6:46 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Treasurer's warrant was reviewed and signed by the Select Board.

Agenda Item 2: Danny Sullivan has been working on Broad band for about 3 years. He has learned that none of the local carriers plan to come to Cooper. The only option currently is Fairpoint DSL, which is already obsolete. Time Warner is the fastest in the state but everyone in the state is on it. So if someone else uses it, it slows down.

Danny has meet with all the politicians and been on all the committees he could. Only Angus King really understands this. Everyone else does not understand. Connect ME has spent 8 million already. "Do it yourself," is the advise Danny has been given. There are 24 states where it is already illegal, the companies lobby to protect their interests. Comcast is largest internet company in the world. To do broadband yourself is not cheap; it costs around \$15-25 thousand a mile. The closest place for us to connect to would be in Baring, we would need to do about 25 miles. Once you have cable in place and are connected you will have people *flock* to our area because we already have it. Danny has spoken to EMEC (Eastern Maine Electric Coop) about this because they already have the bucket trucks and the equipment, but they are reluctant to get into this. If we formed our own non-profit co-op, which everyone likes, we could leverage grant dollars. He does have one provider who says they would do this but need Danny to keep it confidential for now. Danny asked for numbers before this meeting, but they did not provide them. So now Danny questions their willingness to proceed.

We don't have enough homes per mile and that is how they decide. Danny feels that he has become such a pain that they will eventually give in with what he asked for, Danny will not give up. Did you know that 40% of people who work for IBM work from home? What if we give them the connection, here in beautiful Down East Maine, "The Way Life Should BE"? They are young people who want to and *have to* be connected. When the city of Chattanooga got wired, they had a plant open up there. There is so much going on, did you know Graphic imaging has become very lifelike? You can attend a ballet or concert without actually being there. We could have a doctor in your home so you don't need to travel on icy roads.

Danny will add anyone who wants to be on his email list, we need all the public support we can get. We already have lots of support, but we can always use more. Danny will continue to try to spread awareness. We need community interest. Other places have been able to get what they want because people kept calling, calling, calling, and bugging them.

Then questions were asked. Micah asked how does 4 G line up with this? Danny answered that it is a matter of how much you can send out, versus how much you can bring down. It means you can download a LOT, like shopping, but very little goes up. So it makes doing business difficult, with

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networks being asymmetrical. We can't get out, we can only buy. Vermont is getting wired right now, even in very remote areas. The small businesses there can all advertize to the *world* while having a home in Vermont and living the dream.

Danny also explained that Fiber Optics are just fiber that is a glass tube that can have light sent down and the information travels very fast. We need both wired and wireless. Select Board agrees.

Agenda Item 3: Hogs neck on Cathance Lake here in Cooper has been transferred ownership. We will follow the story in the Bangor Daily News.

Agenda Item 4: Arline Flood came to talk about the stove; she understands it is not useable. Not surprising since it is old and was old when donated. Timmy explained how bad it was. Micah said we need do a stove, and Arline said the Cathance Grange does not have enough to buy one, and she agrees we definitely need a stove. The Grange will help work toward it. Micah's concept is to have fund raising for a specific goal. When we tell people the goal, like we are having a supper for a stove, they will feel more connected to the projects. . Arline said the Calais Legion has had ticket sales on a basket in the past where the people in the organization donate the food. They made several hundred dollars. She will donate a gift card for a ham for an Easter Basket. If everyone sold tickets we could make a lot of money for a new stove. Sandy volunteered to take care of the tickets. Donna said she will donate a couple of items. Micah & John also support the idea, and said for Sandy & Arline to go with it.

Agenda Item 5: The first meeting in February will be dedicated to working on Warrant articles, and also the 3rd^d Thursday if we need it. The Town report needs to be sent to publishers in early March.

Agenda Item 6: John said the floor in the town office should be complete by the end of next week. Micah asked Ann Marie about furniture from the State auctions. We need 2 or 3 desks, some file cabinets, and shelves. Sandy said the use of the building and the office is being put on the calendar already. Micah thanked her for handling it over the past year. Micah said every town officer can decide if they want mail to come here or to their home, he prefers here, and understands why Sandy wants her town mail to go to her home. Danny used his internet connection to his phone to inform us the phone number for state auction is 287-2923. The website for the auction is being sent to Micah's phone while we are talking. ☺ It is: <http://www.maine.gov/bgs/centralserv/surplus/>

As far as moving the town records into the town office, it can be any time after the floor is finished. Timmy has baseboards to finish also. That should be within 2 weeks, John said. Timmy said we need a window for the space between the kitchen and the Grange. Sandy spoke about the energy savings of an exterior grade window. Timmy offered to check for a price. Timmy will have the window go down to the counter by cutting out the bottom, like he did for the counter service window.

Sandy asked if we could have the boarded in window spaces where windows upstairs were removed finished off. Timmy has the insulation, and enough paneling to this at a low cost. We will re-visit all this at the next meeting. Micah will check out the auction and report back on that next meeting too. Ann Marie said funds in the building account are low, about \$773. Micah asked if we have money in the

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general fund, which we do, but not sure of the general surplus amount until the audit comes back. Ann Marie said if the Select Board agrees to a transfer, they can let her know, and she will take care of it.

Chris has a couple of windows that are close to the size needed for the kitchen space, he has volunteered to donate one. Timmy said that Chris and he could measure the space after the meeting tonight. Chris has a tinted one that he believes would work.

Agenda Item 7: Micah asked Sandy to explain what an ad hoc committee is and how it works, which she did. These types committees do not have any real power or authority; they can only gather information and make recommendations to the Select Board, or in some cases the town council. An ad hoc committee cannot spend money, only recommend to the Select Board. The ad hoc committee has not power on its own.

Micah had asked MMA for guidelines for a community center. He had consulted his manual and it makes distinctions about the various uses. It mentions donation of use, versus a fee being charged, for a nonprofit. We are insured by MMA, so we can be covered for the public use. The question is: if we have a town supper, who would be the entity? The committee or the Town? Ann Marie said she questions whether the Town can make a profit. We would have prospective users get permission, and show proof of insurance. Micah said we will have to keep a file of that as we move forward. Sandy has already got one. Micah said need to develop policies, and Sandy read the guidelines that were approved last year. It was agreed that they will suffice for now.

Micah said we need to put our ideas on the next warrant, and Town meeting is coming up. Micah feels we need to have a separate committee to oversee the use of the building and separate it from the town. He sees us having something for kids once a month or so, there are so many worthy organizations out there, such as the Boy Scouts. Even though we have ideas, there is only so much that can be done. We also have ideas for improving the rest of the building, finishing it. We can do fundraising for these projects. Ann Marie stated that it looks like we'll be losing our revenue sharing for 2 years. It is several hundred a month, quite a chunk of money. There is going to be a noticeable impact.

Fees for usage will be contingent on the use; non-profits will be charged a different fee than someone holding an event like a wedding. The fee charged has been \$25 but now we have better facilities, we will be going up. Karen feels we should not ask for money for each day of use. Karen mentioned the CLA, which uses the building a lot every summer. Sandy pointed out that if they use the building 3 days in a row on a weekend, we may be losing revenue because no one else will be able to use the facilities that weekend.

Ann Marie said the light bill has gone very high this month. That may be because of construction. John said we probably will have a separate fee for a non-profit. Karen said the CLA is a non-profit. Micah said we will discuss further after the town votes on it.

Sandy asked for Trevor to speak about his request to use the building for Fire Dept. training on Feb. 16th. There would be about 18 firefighters, Trevor said. Alexander has offered to host if we do not have

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adequate facilities at the time. Micah said we should be pretty close to ready by then. Trevor, Cooper's Fire Chief, said Cooper has just got 2 more new members. By the end of April we will have fire fighters trained to fight internal, right now we are external only. We are heading in that direction, and will reach that end in mid April. Trevor said we will be able to have 4 people, 2 in and 2 out. That is the idea. Trevor and Donna went to NIM compliant training last week. Cooper has already adopted the policy. We just need to get the Select Board all caught up and we are on our way to NIMs compliance.

The question of where the property lines are for this land was discussed. Trevor and Micah discussed a future location for a new fire station. Sandy read from the deed, but did not know how long a "rod" is. Danny looked up the length of a rod, it is 16 feet. The measure of one side is 16 X 11, or 176 feet. Sandy will ask Justin just where the lines are. Justin Day is a surveyor.

Trevor wants to talk to Select Board at another meeting about doing a emergency simulation as a table-top exercise. It will take another whole meeting. Micah has thought about how we would use this building in an emergency.

Agenda Item 8: we need to organize a group to clean this building. Sandy explained that someone had offered to do it for \$100 a week, but we cannot afford that. She has volunteered her time to do it, but there is a lot of cleaning to be done now, understandable after construction. Micah suggested we have a cleaning party to work with Sandy. Donna, Arline, and Micah all volunteered to help. We will schedule a cleanup day on a Saturday in 3 – 4 weeks. John said after being put down, the new floor needs to be cleaned and then waxed a few times, so we could use volunteers for that. Kelly said she was willing.

Agenda Item 9: Micah said that using the building will probably not happen until we have it voted on by the Town. That is only two months away. Karen said the list of activity ideas that she passed out before the meeting had been compiled over a year or two by different people. There was also a sheet of grant information is because it needs to be a community effort, and she will not be available to do it.

Danny said he had talked to someone in Alexander about what makes a community center. To get a grant you have to be NIMS compliant first. Trevor spoke about this. ICS is a standardized structure within the Town, and then you don't have one person responsible for doing everything. Each person does a job. It came about after the 911 attacks. Local and private people and organizations are what is going to save you in a major disaster. We can't rely on state or feds to take care us; they will not be there immediately, look at the slow response to hurricane Sandy. Our County center is in Machias. That is where the use of ham radio comes in. In the event of a catastrophe, the grid may go down. We need ham radio operators ready instead. We could use Alexander school as an emergency shelter, kitchens & showers are there, but it does not have a generator. However, in Cooper, we about 90% there. Trevor has looked for grants, and to apply for any grant from federal government we need to be NIMS compliant. Danny said Axiom is supposed to use a grant they received to put emergency vehicles on the 700 megahertz spectrum, and we haven't seen it yet. That would be better than ham radios. Danny is willing to dig in deeper to get information so that Trevor will know which way to go. Trevor said he would like Danny to ask.

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Micah asked if Karen had more to say about grant information. She said yes, she has put out the options and yet, it doesn't mean you get any money. Sometimes they only fund 3 projects out of the many received.

Micah asked Joanne if she wanted to speak. Joanne thinks the basket idea and pot luck supper idea are good, but she is working on a grant from "the Stephen and Tabitha King foundation" that is due the end of June. They want to know specifics, so she is working on a grant for a projector, a pull down screen, and a stand. Micah said he could see a screen having many different uses. Joanne is including a request for 2 computers and accessories, and a children's computer. Also included is a request for cassette players to lend out to children and a sound system of speakers. Joanne said Karen is interested in a resource center and that she can donate items. She can bring them in for people to use. Micah said again that it is hard to be involved in too many activities, boy scouts and others; it needs to be more simplistic, fishing and hiking. Joanne said she is thinking about that too. Joanne said she would like to have display cases put on the walls, with our beautiful tax maps framed under glass. Ann Marie asked here are they and who had them? Joanne said she thought they were rolled up at Lynn Brown's. Ann Marie said there was an email from Judy East that said there were many mistakes on them which needed to be corrected. Ann Marie said we spent about \$50,000 for the maps, but as tax collector she does not have them. People call her for information and she is not able to give it.

Micah said by June we should know what our format for events and use will be.

Agenda Item 10: The Select Board received a letter of resignation. Donna has made her decision. Micah thanked her for hard work and respects her decision. John said they accept her resignation with regrets.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The next Select Board Meeting week will be Feb. 7, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.