

**Cavendish Select Board Meeting, Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 pm**  
**Location: Town Office Meeting Room: 37 High Street Cavendish, Vermont**

**Present:** Bob Glidden (Chairman), George Timko, Mike Ripley, Shannon Devereux, Stephen Plunkard, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), OVTV and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

- **Call the meeting to order**

Bob Glidden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

- **Adjust Agenda**

Rick said that he would like to hold “Hear Citizens” later as he believed someone wanted to speak who was not yet present. Diane McNamara asked to add an item 3 under New Business “Errors and Emissions.” The Board agreed to these adjustments.

- **New Business**

1. **Flood Recovery Loan Approval**

Rick said that the Town will need to cover expenses before the FEMA reimbursement will begin. He said that he and Diane would like to get a \$2 million line of credit from Mascoma Bank in order to pay for road repairs.

George asked whether the interest would be reimbursable. Diane said that the Town would only pay interest only on the amount drawn. Rick said that he could investigate whether the interest would be reimbursable.

George asked when any FEMA money was likely to come in. Diane said that during Tropical Storm Irene it took over a year to get reimbursed. She said that the process has changed since then and all FEMA submissions would be done online, rather being done in person on paper, so she hoped the process will be more streamlined.

*George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to approve a flood recovery line of credit in the amount of \$2,000,000 at 4.7% interest from Mascoma Bank for a period of one year. All voted in favor.*

2. **Local Emergency Management Plan/Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Rick said the LEMP needed to be updated with new contact information since personnel has changed since the last update which was done in December 2022.

*Mike Ripley moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan as written. All voted in favor.*

Rick said that the LHMP lists local hazards and how to mitigate them over a five-year period. He said that not having a plan reduces the Town’s eligibility for grants. Rick said that adopting a LHMP will also make the Town eligible for 10% more state relief funds for the recent flood damages.

Rick said that the Town needs to submit a draft LHMP to Vermont Emergency Management within the next week and a public meeting needs to be held on Monday, July 31, 2023, for public

comments. Rick added that having this plan could mean several hundred thousand dollars more funds from the state.

Stephen asked if any houses were lost during the recent flooding. Rick said there were not but many were damaged. Stephen asked if mitigation meant building back the same as before. Rick said not necessarily.

***Mike Ripley moved/Bob Glidden seconded a motion to create a draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. All voted in favor.***

Rick said that he would start that process.

### **3. Errors and Emissions**

Diane said that she needed to correct the acreage on parcel 2R08-043 owned by Vicky Mastroianni. She said that 4.3 acres were sold and added to the new owner's property but not deducted from Vicky's. She added that the Select Board needed to approve changes made to the grand list after it has been set.

***Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adjust the acreage on parcel 2R08-043 from 6.90 acres to 2.3 acres. All voted in favor.***

- **Hear Citizens**

Miguel Seville was present. He handed out some information to the Board on the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. He said that he would like the Town to sponsor his request for an engineer to inspect his property to prevent further erosion. He said that his property borders Twenty Mile Stream, which flooded and eroded about 100 yards of his property and significantly damaged his neighbors' properties. Miguel said that he needs Town sponsorship to order to submit an application. He said that there would be a 25% cost share required from the Town, which could be in kind services, if his application is approved. He added that other properties could also be eligible for this program.

George commented that a 25% cost share for all properties damaged would be a very large liability for the Town to take on. Miguel said that cost share would only be required if his project was approved. Rick said that he could check if work done by volunteers would qualify for the 25% cost share.

Rick said that he will be meeting with Scott Jenson from Vermont River Management tomorrow, and he would discuss this property with him.

Abe Gross was present and said that in Whitesville (where Twenty Mile Stream and the Black River meet) nothing was done to prevent further flooding after Irene. Miguel said that he thought fixing his property would help control erosion both on his property and also limit flooding to help his neighbors.

Stephen said that he was troubled by towns not looking at the entire watershed but rather looking at small pieces of it, and he thought that someone needs to look at the watershed as a whole. Stephen commented that rip rap gets pulled out by ice and then tumbles out during floods and he thought plating along riverbanks would be more effective. Rick said that looking at the

watershed as a whole could be part of the hazard mitigation plan.

Mike suggested that the Board should take some time to look at this program, since there is a 60-day window to apply, before agreeing to sponsor any applications. Miguel agreed. Mike suggested that Rick should talk with Brendan, Ludlow Town Manager, since they are also looking at this program. Mike added that he wanted to make help available but was worried about the financial liability. Rick said that he and Brendan had agreed to look at this together.

- **Executive Session**

1. **Legal Matter**

*Mike Ripley moved/George Timko seconded a motion to enter executive session at 5:29 pm. All voted in favor.*

*Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to exit executive session at 5:42 pm*

- **Adjourn**

*Mike Ripley moved/Shannon Devereux seconded a motion to adjourn at 5:43 pm. All voted in favor.*

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_