

Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting>
Password: 330460
Monday, December 21, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

Members: Jon Bondy (Chair), Rich Bidwell, Matt Gillilan, Matthew Swartz, Jesse Wiens.

Guests: Eva Gillilan, Pam Jedlicka, Rachael Scarpa (Secretary), Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Tara Sweet, and Aimee Tinker.

1) Call to Order:

- a. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2) Accounts Payable and Payroll Orders: The Select Board unanimously approved.

3) Town Office:

- a. Heat pump is working well. Karrie is waiting for Travis to get back to her about when he can raise the heat pumps. Rich explained that the roof above one of the heat pumps will also need to be raised. Karrie will ask Travis if he can do that as well.
- b. There was a gas smell in the office. The boiler needs repair.

4) Fletcher Rough Riders Snow Mobile Club:

- a. The Select Board unanimously approves the Rough Riders to use the list of roads emailed to the Select Board.

5) Road Report:

- a. Jim Cota won't be at tonight's meeting, but Matt will check in with him for the next one.
- b. The Road Crew has been plowing and sanding.
- c. The new salt vendor is working out well.
- d. Road Crew will try to get signs up for snow mobiles soon.
- e. Wright Road Bridge: Matt Gillilan signed a permit for the bridge. East Engineering is confident they will get bids out before construction season. Matt will confirm all the funding is in place after the holidays. They are still working on funds from FEMA as well.

6) Broadband:

- a. There are some outstanding issues with the project. Federal grant dollars cannot be used to buy equipment for a company. Anything that is defined as equipment would have to be owned by the town. At this time Northern Borders hasn't provided a solid definition for what is considered equipment. There is a possibility that Northern Borders could consider construction labor "equipment." Jesse and Mansfield Community Fiber are trying to restructure the budget given the challenges. Matt Swartz offered up help where needed. The Select Board discussed next steps and potential solutions. Matt Swartz and Aimee will work on getting an estimate for the costs of insurance, depreciation, and administrative work if the town were to own the equipment. The other issue is how to pay the legal fees incurred so far from the project. The grant and loan cannot be used to pay them because there isn't a letter to proceed. Jesse shared an idea that MCF could pay for the legal fees up front and MCF can take the amount from the universal access fund. Since this fund was an offer from MCF and not a part of the Broadband vote, it is a possibility. Jon and Matt Swartz think this is a plausible and possibly only option.
- b. Matt Swartz mentioned that he and his neighbors were able to get state funds for running conduit for Broadband. Though MCF at first said they couldn't get an excavator, Matt Swartz came home one day and there was one parked on his property. MCF did not follow up with Matt Swartz to let him know they found an excavator. Pam Jedlicka said that she paid a deposit to MCF weeks ago and has since gotten the run around and that her house was skipped for

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installation of fiber. Jon said that it is important that the Select Board understands what is happening with Broadband around town, but still suggests that a committee is formed to be a liaison between the town and MCF. Jon suggested a small committee that includes Pam, Matt Swartz, and Jon for now.

7) Select Board Report:

- a. Jon updated the Select Board report to reflect the impact the Halloween storm had on the Road Crew wages. Jesse hasn't found notes on the \$109,000 surplus.

8) Town Meeting:

- a. The Select Board discussed two options currently for Town Meeting:
 - i. Australian Ballot
 - ii. Defer the Town Meeting date.

Aimee received advice that towns could set up Australian ballots now and revisit if the legislature comes back with different options. Tara said the School Board was thinking the same thing, but that the School Board is hesitant to defer the Town Meeting date because they could only tolerate pushing the meeting out by a few weeks (which is not enough to mitigate the COVID-19 situation). Jon proposed to hold Town Meeting by Australian Ballot, not in person, for one year. The Select Board unanimously agreed. The Select Board discussed holding an informational meeting via Zoom with the Select Board presentation. Tara said the School Board planned to do an informational meeting and mailing. The Select Board also discussed the logistics of voting and handling people running for office. Aimee pointed out that voters would need to request a mail in ballot unless the Legislature authorizes ballots to be mailed out to all registered voters. If this does happen, then the Select Board will need to have a separate meeting to decide if ballots will be mailed to all registered voters.

9) Town Plan:

- a. The Planning Board held a hearing, but no one attended. The next step is for the Select Board to hold a hearing. The Select Board discussed the Town Plan. Matt Gillilan has notes and questions about the section on infrastructure. Jon has notes and policy questions.
- b. The Select Board discussed one policy requiring shared driveways if three homes are built near each other. Matt Gillilan said in his experience there are always issues with shared driveways and that the Planning Board needs to ensure the Town Plan doesn't conflict with Zoning.
- c. Jon and Matt will email their notes and the Select Board will have a hearing in February.

10) Metcalf Pond Beach and Boat Access:

- a. Rich emailed photos to the Select Board. Per the state's waterbody access rules. Metcalf Pond access use is limited to car top boats. The Select Board discussed other concerns regarding trailers being backed down the access area. Rich recommends that the rocks are put back up and that concerned residents should contact the Select Board. The Select Board unanimously agreed. The landowners around the pond will be contacted about this decision. Pam suggested getting signage from the state that says car top boats only.

11) Budget:

- a. Jon confirmed that everyone on the Select Board picked up their budgeting documents from Karrie.

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- b. The Select Board discussed the budget and if they should take the impacts of COVID into consideration when creating the budget. The Board will review the budget and mark any line items that need discussion. The Select Board will meet every Monday in January.

12) Other Board Business:

- a. The Town is over the Fairfax Fire retainer. The Select Board discussed if there are instances when the Town could receive a reimbursement from an insurance company. Matt Gillilan will reach out to Fairfax for information on what they do in these instances.

13) Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: January 4, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matthew Swartz

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan