

Town of Fletcher – Select Board

<https://zoom.us/j/773096279?pwd=Y3JaV0pJOGQrUIZCTXRiNFILQU1HZz09>

Password: 714111

Monday, July 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

Members: Jon Bondy (Chair), Rich Bidwell, Christine E. Nilsen, and Jesse Wiens

Guests: Stearns Allan , Sybil Gupwell, Pam Jedlicka, Trista Ringer, Rachael Scarpa (Secretary), Dan St. Cyr, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Tara Sweet, Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk).

1) Call to Order

- a. Jesse called the meeting to order at 7:09pm

2) Board Business:

- a. A repair was done on the heat pump in the town office, and it is currently working. Rich and Jon expressed concern that the repair might be a temporary fix and that the heat pump may need to be replaced or have a major repair done in the future. The heat pump will be monitored to ensure it remains in working order.
- b. The Select Board inquired if town employee raises can be discussed in public meetings or if they should be discussed in executive session. Aimee reviewed the statute:
 1. Merit based raises are discussed in executive session
 2. Cost of living increases can be discussed in public meeting

Since three out of four full time employees are on the Road Crew and the Road Commissions was not present at tonight's meeting, the Select Board agreed to move the raise discussion to the next Select Board meeting agenda.

3) Broadband:

- a. The Town Clerks received many questions after the bond vote for broadband. The questions were directed to the appropriate people for answers. Currently, the influx of questions has slowed. Jesse offered to help the Town Clerks redirect questions to the appropriate person if needed.
- b. Next steps (in no specific order):
 - i. Draw up a formal contract with Mansfield Community Fiber.
 - ii. Jesse is going to set up a video conference with the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA), Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF) and the Town Clerk to review the loan application.
 1. VEDA wants to know what the town will do to promote the broadband option to residents. The Select Board discussed ideas and agreed on a sending a mailing.
 - iii. The State opened more broadband funding for towns. Jesse spoke with Clay Purvis from the State and learned that Fletcher's broadband build out would be eligible for the funding. Clay also mentioned that utility companies were asked by the State to fast track the application for permits for pole usage for broadband build outs.

4) Orders: Jon expressed he would not approve the orders, but that other Select Board members could approve. Jon expressed his frustration that after numerous requests (over the past two years) to have a sign replaced on Rugg Road, the Road Crew has not replaced it. Jesse, Christine, and Rich reviewed and approved the orders.

5) Road Report:

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- a. Wright Road bridge: Residents, Bob Sweet and Harold Wright were inquiring about the status of the bridge. The town is currently waiting on FEMA funding to repair the bridge. Matt and Aimee are scheduled to meet with the town's FEMA representatives two weeks from now and will have an update at that time.
- b. Wright Road grading: Past and present grading is being done by resident Harold Wright. The Select Board will follow up with the Road Commissioner regarding the grading of Wright Road.

6) Metcalf pond:

- a. There was an incident where horses were urinating and defecating in the pond, but this issue has been resolved and has not happened again.
- b. Rocks placed on Metcalf Pond public access area: The town received calls about erosion near access area. The VT Fish and Wildlife site is municipal, car top (non-trailer boats). Rocks were placed there to prevent the erosion of the road and sandy beach area. This decision was made by the Road Crew and Road Commissioner. Jon expressed his concerns that the rock placement was not discussed at a Select Board meeting before being placed.
 - i. Residents expressed their concerns about not being able to launch their boats if the boat launch is blocked by rocks.
 - ii. Sybil Gupwell offered to give a brief history of the Metcalf Pond access area: Historically, boats were launched from privately owned launches. In the 80's there was a guardrail blocking the access area; non-cartop boats couldn't launch from the access area. There are now so many boats from non-private launches causing ruts, erosion, flooding, and safety concerns for swimmers. The road crew is willing to move the rocks to allow a boat to be launched or retrieved.
 - iii. Jon suggested that residents contact the town garage to verify that the road crew will move the rocks for a boat to be launched and retrieved, and to contact the Select Board if there is an issue.

7) Other Business:

- a. Animals:
 - i. Karrie and Christine tried to mediate and resolve a dispute about a cat going onto a neighbor's property without permission. They were unable to come to a resolution. There is no leash law regarding cats in Vermont and no violation of town ordinances, so the town is leaving it up to the residents to resolve.
- b. Town Zoom account: Jesse will walk Aimee through the type of Zoom account to get for the town.
 - i. The Zoom account will be open for use by town committees. The Select Board discussed who should have the Zoom credentials and how other town committees could utilize the Zoom account. The Select Board decided to figure out the logistics after purchasing the account.
- c. Email Server: Matt Bouchard is migrating town employee emails to a new server. Jesse reminded the Select Board to contact Matt with the information he requested.
- d. Line of Credit: Karrie will be going to People Trust Company to open a new line of credit for approximately \$50,000 (might be more) to cover capital expenses. This will be paid back as soon as taxes come in, likely in the next 4-6 weeks.

8) Adjournment:

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- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: July 20, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Christine E. Nilsen

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan