

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board**  
**Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting>**  
**Password: 330460**  
**Monday, September 7, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Virtually Present**

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

**Guests:** Michelle F., Pam Jedlicka, Dan, Deborah Parenti, Rachael Scarpa (Secretary), and Matt Swartz.

**1) Call to Order**

- a. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

**2) Select Board Members:**

- a. Chris will be moving before the end of this year but will likely still be in Vermont in November. The Select Board will need to appoint a replacement and encourages anyone interested to contact them.

**3) Road Report:**

- a. River Road Culvert work will be next week. The road will be closed near the town line on 9/14/2020 – 9/25/2020.
  - i. The completion of this project will close out two grants.
- b. Pike industries is coming next week to complete repairs on Fairfield Road (from the 2019 paving project).
- c. The Select Board discussed if they use Pike in the future there would have to be a penalty clause in the contract if Pike fails to perform the work according to the contracted schedule.
- d. Matt asked Road Crew to come in early on 9/8/2020 because of predicted high winds overnight.
- e. The Road Crew has been grading and hauling in winter sand.
  - i. The Road Crew will review the grading done on Rugg Road to ensure it allows for proper drainage. The Select Board discussed if there needs to be a process for reviewing roads after grading is complete.
- f. The Wright Road Bridge Repair is moving forward. FEMA will cover 75%, the state will cover 12.5%. Matt suggests we hire a civil engineer and the Select Board approved the creation of an RFP. The Select Board discussed setting money aside in next years budget with Wright Road bridge in mind. After the repairs are complete, there is potential for Wright Road to be open year-round.

**4) Metcalf Pond:**

- a. The Select Board received concerns from residents about the water level of Metcalf pond. Rich looked at it today and he saw that the level was well below the rust lines on the culvert, which was taken to be the normal water level. The Select Board hired someone to fly a drone over the swamp this year and the first beaver dam was many hundreds of feet away from the Metcalf pond culvert. Matt will look near the culvert and will reach out to Alan Cary as well. A resident recommended the Road Crew paint markings on the culvert and take photos to measure the water level over time.
- b. Beach area: Rich is going to collect information about the beach area. Rich spoke with Sybil and some students in town that need community service hours for school. The students are going to do research about the history of Metcalf Pond use. The Select Board will also work to pull the residents around Metcalf Pond together to discuss the beach area. The goal is to have a policy in place by Spring.

**5) Board Business:**

- a. The Select Board unanimously voted to recommend David Clark as the town Health Officer.

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- b. Heat pump in town office: The Select Board is concerned the heat pump will have the same issues as last year. One issue is that the heat pumps are currently sitting on the ground (not recommended by the manufacturer). Rich will get a quote for raising the heat pumps off the ground.
- c. Orders: The Select Board unanimously approved the accounts Payable and payroll orders.

**6) Broadband:**

- a. Jesse sent out memorandum of understanding for Select Board review. Jon mentioned the Addendum needs minor rewording and to add a statement about spending all grant money before spending the loan money. Jesse read the statement Paul Giuliani prepared; the statement indicates that the MOA was prepared by Giuliani for Fletcher rather than for MCF or VEDA. The Select Board agreed it was sufficient.
- b. Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF) has been working on the draft for the VEDA loan application. VEDA has a copy of the grant award letter. Jesse will work with MCF to ensure the loan application gets completed.

**7) Public Comment:**

- a. Questions about broadband accessibility for residents who have conduit; the issue has to do with who owns the conduit, the home owner or the phone company. The Select Board and residents discussed different scenarios and determined that connectivity costs and procedures may vary depending on individual circumstances.
  - i. Jesse will reach out to MCF for a policy statement about conduit.
- b. A resident suggested the Select Board add a broadband information page to the town website. There is currently a Broadband FAQ on the website. The Select Board will be adding new questions and answers as they arise.

**8) Generator at town office:**

- a. We need to ensure that no combustible materials are placed near the exhaust of the generator.

**9) Digitizing land records:** The Town Clerk would like to apply for a grant to digitize land records and store in a database so people can research the records online. The Select Board requested more information about annual cost estimates and what percentage the town must pay if they did get the grant.

**10) Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Select Board Meeting: September 21, 2020 at 7pm

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Jon Bondy, Chair

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Christine E. Nilsen

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Rich Bidwell

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Jesse Wiens

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Matt Gillilan