

Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting>
Password: 330460
Monday, November 2, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

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

Guests: Sybil Gupwell, Pam Jedlicka, Rachael Scarpa (Secretary), and Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk).

1) Call to Order

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

2) Road Report:

- a. Town has a new salt vendor, Compass Minerals. The salt price is 65.84/ton (lower cost than our previous vendor). Matt received good feedback from other towns that use this company.
- b. The Road Crew has been grading and getting the trucks ready for Winter.
- c. Wright Road Engineer Bids:
 - i. Ruggiano Engineering: \$34,000 with the possibility of an additional \$5,000 for soil borings.
 - ii. East Engineering: \$16,000 with the possibility of 30-35 hours to coordinate with FEMA and construction inspection. Cost per hour would be \$100.
 - iii. Cross Consulting Engineering: \$25,300 with no disclaimers attached.Matt reached out to East Engineering and they provided several references and said they could start immediately. Matt recommended using East Engineering and the Select Board unanimously agreed.
- d. Mansfield Community Fiber retainer to dig under the road: Matt suggested putting a term limit on the retainer. The Select Board will leave it up to MCF to set.
- e. Fill: Aimee mentioned that in the Town Clerk List Serv other towns were wondering if they need a policy regarding giving fill to residents. Matt explained that the Road Crew typically tries to give fill to residents who live closest to the area they are working and that there hasn't been a problem with this process. Jon asked that Aimee let the Select Board know if a problem arises from the current process.

3) Beavers:

- a. Howard had his traps set in the pond. As discussed in a previous Select Board meeting, traps would not be used unless necessary and permission was given by the Select Board. After clearing that up with Howard, Howard removed his traps. The Road Crew received a report that Howard was outside of the Town's right of way. Jon recommended not giving Howard permission to trap. Kyle said he would be willing to trap, when instructed, if he has a paper from the Town showing he has permission and as long as there are limited people who can give permission. Aimee read the current trapping agreement and the Select Board agreed to change the trapping agreement to state that only the Road Commissioner and Road Foreman can grant permissions to trap.

4) Orders:

- a. Jon, Matt, Rich and Jesse approved the Accounts Payable and Payroll orders.

5) Heat Pump:

- a. Town office heat pump is working well. Still cooling and heating as needed.
- b. The Select Board discussed ensuring the heat pumps get raised off the ground before Winter. The Select Board approved Rich to spend up to \$1000 to raise the heat pumps.

6) Broadband update:

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- a. The MOU is complete. The letter of commitment and lease agreement is needed for Northern Borders.
- b. The Select Board discussed the reporting work involved with the Northern Borders grant. Aimee's time cannot be paid for by the grant, but it can be paid for with the loan. Aimee will keep track of her time spent and everyone will loop back after the election.

7) Metcalf Pond:

- a. Jon met with a representative from the state who said the Town could not mess with the wetlands. Jon also met with Tyler about beaver mitigation and he said the Town should be able to get something done by Spring. Matt hasn't had a chance to talk with the Road Crew about what will work. Matt said the fencing could be easily purchases. Matt and Norman came up with a list of 18 locations that are affected by beavers. Jon asked Matt to leave the list in the Town Office.
- b. Beach and boats: The state forwarded a statute to the Select Board about the guidelines. Rich was trying to collect data about the pond history and hold a meeting on the pond. The major problems to solve are that the Road Crew can't move rocks all the time and there is beach erosion because people backing trucks and trailers down to the pond. Matt said there was a suggestion to have a season for when the rocks would not block the beach. Rich reminded the Select Board that the state lists Metcalf pond as a carry in only pond, no trailers. Rich explained that for a long time there was no boat access at the pond until the culvert was replaced and the existing posts were removed and not replaced. Jon asked if Matt could reach out to Terry Riggs about why the posts were removed from the beach area. Tyler suggested putting a larger culvert or a box culvert so that the bottom foot of two was sand so it could help wildlife or fish passageway. This might open the town up to funding. Pam thought signs should be put up near the pond regarding pond use rules. The Select Board will talk about water levels and access in the next meeting when they will hopefully have more insight on what beaver mitigation will work and the history behind launching motor boats from the beach.

8) Other Board Business:

- a. Jon followed up with the Select Board about endorsing the statement from Braver Angels. Jon believes the statement is politically neutral. Matt is hesitant for the Select Board to endorse something even if it is politically neutral. Rich thinks the statement is great but doesn't want to endorse anything in case it is perceived that the Select Board is endorsing something political. Jon expressed frustration that the Select Board isn't willing to endorse the statement. Jesse agrees that the Select Board should not make any political endorsements but doesn't understand why endorsing the statement would be taking a political stance. Jon decided the topic should be dropped.
- b. Reappraisal update: The North Eastern side of town is complete. There were only a few residents who refused the appraisers.
- c. Town Meeting:
 - i. The League of Cities and Towns gave towns two options for Town Meeting:
 - 1. Hold a regular in person town meeting.
 - 2. Australian Ballot
 - ii. The Select Board discussed these options. Jesse prefers a regular meeting, but would like to hear what the state guidance is. Matt prefers a regular meeting, but things that

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attendance would be lower with an in person meeting. Rich typically prefers a regular meeting, but with everything going on this year, he thinks it should be Australian Ballot. Jon would like Aimee to go on Muninet to see what other town's timelines are and if the state is going to provide guidance. Jon also said he would like the Select Board and the School to be aligned in what they do. Aimee said that the state is waiting to provide guidance until after the election.

- d. Quote for raising the heat pumps at town office will be pushed to next meeting's agenda.
 - i. Matt Swartz volunteered to write a rough draft of the charter for this group. Jon will help create the liaison group.
- e. Decision on Wright Road engineering: The Select Board unanimously agreed on Matt's selection of East Engineering. Matt will respond to the engineering companies.

9) Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: November 15, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matthew Swartz

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan