

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

Virtually Present

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

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

1) Call to Order

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

2) Road Report:

- a. The Road Crew has been working on the dirt roads and filling holes.
- b. Wright Road: Matt Gillilan and Norman met with engineering and the old bridge was removed. The Town of Bakersfield might be interested in the bridge if so, Matt will email the Select Board. Matt reached out to the Fletcher snow mobile club and they are not interested in the bridge. Norman, Matt, and the engineer looked at the plans for the new bridge and made notes.
- c. Signposts: They had to order signposts and have them shipped because the deliver comes from out of state and the drivers would not quarantine.
- d. There is a workshop this week on beaver management put on by VT Roads. Someone on the road crew will try to attend if possible.

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

4) Broadband Report:

- a. Jesse gave Jon an update; Jesse will be able to provide more details. There was a need to restructure the project financially because Northern Borders wants to ensure that they pay for half of all costs associated with the Broadband project. This means a revised budget is needed and Jesse was wrapping his head around everything. Currently, there are \$8,000.00 in legal fees associated with this project and discussion is needed about how these can be paid.

5) Town Clerk business:

- a. The Town Office heat pump is working fine. Karrie spoke to Travis about raising the heat pumps. He came to look at them today and he said that he can get them raised for under \$1,000. The Select Board confirmed that this was approved in the last meeting.
- b. Karrie needs at least 3 Select Board members to sign the line of credit by this Thursday. Preferably all Select Board members would sign. This needs to be signed every year.
- c. Fred Fletcher requested permission from the Select Board to advertise the tax sale with the next tax statement. The tax sale is for people who failed to pay their taxes in the last fiscal year. The Select Board unanimously agreed that Fred Fletcher can advertise the tax sale with the next tax statement.
- d. Karrie will give the Select Board a copy of budget with blank lines to work with and the copy of where the budget is at so far, so they can work on the budget.
- e. Karrie was considering doing winter hours because she is the only person in the office on Monday nights. Since the office isn't open to the public, Karrie is proposing to be open from 6pm-8pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month until the end of February, unless there is a need for her to be there. Karrie could announce it on social media. Jon said that if Karrie has her budget information with her when the office is closed, Winter hours should work fine. Karrie said that she will have the working budget ready and will have printed packets ready for the Select Board to pick up. Jon asked that Karrie and Aimee record anytime the Town gets a notice

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for an expense and send out the document to the Select Board once per week; this would help the Select Board with the budgeting process.

6) Town Plan:

- a. The Planning Commission sent a Town Plan for the Select Board to review. Jon has four pages of grammatical and suggested revisions. Jon asked that the Select Board read through town plan and come prepared in the next two weeks to discuss.

7) Town Meeting:

- a. Jon has talked to about four people who are in town government for towns that have floor voting. Some believe we need to move to Australian ballot, and some believe the state is going to come up with a plan to postpone town meeting.
- b. Aimee and Karrie got an email today from a Town Clerk in Barre and she gave an update about where the legislature is at with Town Meeting:
 - i. There have been many committee meetings. These committee will bring their discussions to the legislature once session begins.
 - ii. There are a few things that are likely to be discussed:
 1. Granting authority to municipalities and schools to change date of Town Meeting.
 2. Giving municipalities permission to mail ballots to all voting residents.
- c. A decision on how to hold Town Meeting will need to be made by late January. The Select Board and Town Clerks discussed waiting until the legislature meets before deciding. Tara Sweet attended Vermont School Board Association Annual Meeting and several other School Boards were leaning towards doing Australian ballot. Matt Gillilan and Tara are concerned that if the meeting was to be pushed back it makes budgeting very difficult. Jon proposed that, since currently Australian Ballot is the only option, the Select Board agree to do Australian Ballot unless the legislature comes back with a different option. The Select Board unanimously agreed, and a final decision will be made in January.
 - i. Aimee or Karrie will put together a list of open positions and offices up for election. Jon can write up something to put on social media to gather people who might want to run. Tara would like to include the open positions on the School Board as well. Jon said he would write a rough draft after he gets the lists of open positions and then he can send it to everyone before posting on social media.

8) Select Board Report:

- a. In October Jon wrote a draft of the Select Board report and would like to discuss. Matt Gillilan has a few notes: The Halloween storm was a big-ticket item and caused work hours to be over budget. Karrie believes that Jesse has notes on the \$109,000 surplus. Jon encouraged the Select Board to read what he wrote and to go through the accounting report. The printed report Karrie is going to give the Select Board will have the budget for the last two years. The Select Board discussed some of the report and budget but will wait for Jesse's notes. The Select Board discussed the budget and went through some items to keep an eye on.

9) Metcalf Pond Beach and Boat Access:

- a. Rich will talk to Karrie tomorrow about the possibility of scanning Sybil's information about the pond. Aimee said that it will take a lot of time for them to scan the entire book, but Rich can sit with the binder or take it home. Jon suggested Rich take photos of the pages. Rich doesn't want to take the binder home. Jon suggested that Rich let Aimee and Karrie know what nights they

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could leave it out and Rich can come in after hours to look at the book and make copies. Rich said this would work well for him.

10) Other Business:

- a. Jim Cota was supposed to join tonight's meeting, but Jon will move him to the next agenda.
- b. Matt Swartz has a draft charter for the Broadband Committee and will send it out to the Select Board.
- c. The general budget process is that each person will have a packet with budget report, actuals and what is budgeted this year and then a blank spot for next year's budget. Last year, Chris went through the budget and proposed numbers for everything. Jon said this might be an option this year if someone wanted to take it.

11) Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: December 21, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matthew Swartz

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan