

Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting> Password: 330460
Monday, January 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Virtually Present

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

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

1) Call to Order:

- a. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

2) Road Reports:

- a. Norman and Matt Gillilan met with an engineer from VT Electric Co-op on 1/15/2021 to discuss a potential right of way for a power supply easement. At this point he is not sure if it is going to move forward.
- b. Matt emailed Jim Cota about attending this meeting this afternoon and will do so again for the next meeting.
- c. Road Crew substitute position: Aimee sent the Select Board a draft of the post for social media. Jon provided feedback on the draft. Aimee made the changes Jon recommended, but was unsure if that was the final draft the Select Board wanted to post. The Select Board approved the updated posting to go on social media.

3) Accounts Payable and Payroll Orders: Jon, Matt Gillilan, and Jesse Wiens approved.

4) Broadband:

- a. Eli (Town's lawyer) completed another draft of the MOU and legal agreement. Jesse sent it to the Nulty's (Mansfield Community Fiber) to review and approve.
- b. Aimee was going to look into what a wage/salary would be for administering the grant (paperwork and other related tasks) while the project is going. We have the estimated hours, but we need the wage for the paperwork as well.
- c. Once the MOU and legal agreement are finalized with the Nulty's, the Select Board will review and sign. Then the MOU and legal agreement will be sent to Northern Borders and they will provide a notice to proceed.

5) Board Business:

- a. Karrie asked that the raises for the Road Crew be converted from a percentage to a dollar amount. Matt is okay with \$0.60 raises for the Road Crew. The Select Board unanimously agreed to raising the Road Crew wages \$0.60 effective 7/1/2021. Matt said that the Select Board should keep in mind that next year they may need to tighten up the wage between Ed and Randy since Ed has gained more experience since he was hired.

6) Metcalf Pond Access Area:

- a. Aimee and Karrie can have a communication draft ready for Metcalf Pond residents tomorrow and send it out to the Select Board. The Select Board will discuss in the next meeting.

7) Budget:

- a. The Select Board members each discussed the notes they had about different line items in the budget. Jon shared his screen showing the budget and his draft of the Select Board budget notes for the Town Report.
- b. Town Clerk salary: Last raise was in 7/1/2020. Jon proposed a \$0.75/hour raise for Karrie. The Select Board unanimously approved. The budget line for the Town Clerks salary can remain at \$38,000.00 due to the hours worked per year.
- c. The Select Board discussed adding a line item for Town's portion of the Wright Road bridge project.
- d. Jon suggested that we take the surplus and apply \$35,000.00 to the Wright Road bridge project and \$32,000 to reduce taxes. Jon asked the Select Board members what they thought of this suggestion.
 - i. Matt Gillilan agreed. Jesse agreed as long as the Select Board notes about the budget (which will be in the Town Report) clearly describe the use of the surplus. Rich agreed with the suggestion but brought to the Select Board's attention that some surrounding towns are flat lining their

Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/fletchersbmeeting> Password: 330460
Monday, January 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes

budgets due to COVID. At the beginning of COVID the Select Board discussed potentially reducing expenses depending on how COVID impacted residents. The amount of delinquent taxes has not increased and to the Select Board’s knowledge, the impact of COVID has been minimal to the town. Jon offered to explain the budget one on one with any Select Board members.

- e. The Select Board discussed next steps: Karrie will make the changes to the budget discussed in today’s meeting and will send the budget to the Select Board. Jon will revise the Select Board notes about the budget (printed in the Town Report each year) and send it out to the Select Board. Everyone will review both items before Monday’s (1/25/2021) meeting. Jon pointed out to the Select Board that they are in good shape and have made good progress on the budget.

8) Other Board Business:

- a. Karrie will get in touch with Matt Swartz to see if he intends to run for the Select Board open position.
- b. Jesse mentioned that there were a couple of people who have reached out to him for information about his position on the Select Board and what it entails.
- c. The Select Board discussed that there are three positions open on the Select Board: Matt Gillilan, Jesse Wiens, and Chris Nilson. The Select Board discussed the logistic of voters voting for those positions. Do voters get to select three people out of everyone who runs, or does each person run for a specific position? If each person must run for a specific position, there is the possibility that everyone will run for the same position, leaving a vacant position. The Select Board discussed that they could then appoint someone if needed.
 - i. Aimee said this question was discussed in a recent Zoom call she was on with the Vermont Election Division. The Vermont Election Division stated that since there are three separate positions open on the Select Board, each person must run for a specific position.

9) Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Select Board Meeting: January 18, 2020 at 7pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matthew Swartz

Rich Bidwell

Jesse Wiens

Matt Gillilan