

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
07/19/2021

Select Board: Jon Bondy, Rich Bidwell, Bruce Douglas, Matt Gillilan, and Matt Swartz
Attendees: Eva Gillilan, Pam Jedlicka, and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to order: 7:14pm
2. Board Business:
 - a. Lawn Mowing Bid:
 - i. The Select Board received one bid for mowing from Brenda: \$50/mow. The Select Board unanimously awarded the bid to Brenda.
 - b. Tax Rate approval:
 - i. The Select Board unanimously approved the tax rate.
3. Broadband:
 - a. Jon explained that there were meetings between Aimee, MC Fiber, VEDA, Northern Borders, Northwest Planning and other consultants to discuss what needed to be done to move forward with the broadband buildout. After the town received the letter to proceed (about a month ago), the Planning Commission recommended that some things are clarified before proceeding. The recommended update is that MC Fiber's project plan should show that tasks are completed in such a way that makes the most use of the Northern Borders Grant and takes into account that there are certain expenses the grant won't pay for, but the VEDA loan will. For instance, MC Fiber wants to buy the fiber first (approximately \$270,000) that expense would come from the VEDA loan, and would be covered by the Northern Borders Grant. Aimee is on vacation this week, but can provide an update at the next Select Board meeting.
 - b. High estimates for connections: The Select Board and MC Fiber had spoken about a universal access fund for people who have excessive connection costs. There are grant options for this, but in order to get funding, the town would need to have an estimate of how much potential funding residents would need. Matt Swartz will reach out to MC Fiber to see if they can provide information that will help the Select Board get a budget together and submit for funding for excessive connection costs. Residents are complaining on Facebook about connectivity estimates from MC Fiber, but not one has contacted the Select Board.
 - i. Rich pointed out that the Select Board is going to do what they can to help, but taxpayer money will not pay for broadband connectivity.
 - c. The Select Board looked at the memorandum of understanding and Jon explained the chart on page 2.
4. Road Report:
 - a. Matt Gillilan reported that the Better Roads grant project is complete on Pond Road.
 - b. Rich mentioned that the outflow stream has a lot of growth growing into the water. Jon questioned what the town was allowed to do with the vegetation growth surrounding the outflow stream.

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- c. Wilson Road: Matt Gillilan reported that there was an inspection report for one bridge on 8/19/2020 on Wilson Road. The report indicated that the structure is fairly good. Matt is looking into getting an inspection report on the other bridge. The construction company does not have an excess weight permit for use of the bridge. The bridge weight limit is not posted, but once the other bridge is inspected they can get the proper signage and contact the construction company.
 - d. Wright Road Bridge Project: They are currently dewatering.
5. Metcalf Pond:
- a. Matt Gillilan suggested getting a port-o-let and placing it in a spot that is visible from the road. The Select Board discussed the past port-o-let they had was vandalized. The Select Board is willing to try having a port-o-let for two months as long as it is placed where it is visible from the road.
 - b. The Select Board hasn't received any complaints about parking on the road. Ditching was done a bit steeper than normal, making it less appealing to park on the road side.
6. Speed ordinance:
- a. The Select Board discussed the changes they would like to make to the speed ordinance. Matt Gillilan explained that a traffic study isn't needed if the speed limits are set at or between 35 and 50 mph. Rich and Matt Gillilan are going to draft the new ordinance and send it to the Select Board to review.
 - i. Bruce mentioned that Kinsley Road turns to 30mph and thinks it would be a problem if the speed was increased to 35mph. The Select Board discussed doing a traffic study. Matt Gillilan will find out when the last studies were done on the 30 mph roads and will ask Jim Cota if a traffic study is needed on a road that has been posted at 30mph and there was an ordinance in place since 2007.
7. Other Board Business:
- a. Fiscal Year report: Jon drafted the Select Board budget report for the fiscal year that just ended and asked that everyone on the Select Board review the report and give feedback based on lines that might need to be explained.
 - b. Town office heat pump has not been moved yet. Rich will follow up.
 - c. Vermont Alert: Eva asked the Select Board via Zoom chat if she could give an update on Vermont Alert. The Select Board unmuted Eva, but could not hear Eva and she dropped off the meeting.
 - d. Tech for hybrid meeting:
 - i. The Select Board discussed the video and audio being difficult to hear and how technical issues delayed the meeting start. It also takes approximately 30 minutes to set up the equipment for the hybrid meeting, when only two people attended. The Select Board discussed a strategy to make the meeting run smoothly in the future.
8. Adjournment: 9:04pm

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To Dos:

1. Matt Gillilan:
 - a. Reach out to Karrie about a port-o-let for two months at Metcalf Pond.
 - b. Find out when the last traffic studies were done on the 30 mph roads. Ask Jim Cota if a traffic study is needed on a road that has been posted at 30mph and there was an ordinance in place since 2007.
2. Matt Swartz: Reach out to MC Fiber to see if they can provide information that will help the Select Board get a budget together and submit for funding for excessive connection costs.
3. Rich Bidwell and Matt Gillilan: Send draft of the speed limit ordinance to the Select Board.



Jon Bondy, Chair



Matt Gillilan



Rich Bidwell



Matt Swartz



Bruce Douglas