

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting**  
**Fletcher Town Offices**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**10/04/2021**

**Select Board:** Jon Bondy, Rich Bidwell, Bruce Douglas, Matt Gillilan, and Matt Swartz

**Attendees:** Karrie Sweet and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to order: 7:05pm
2. Barry Doolan stopped by with a plan for the old town garage land; he will email it to the Select Board.
3. Board Business:
  - a. VT Electric Co-op would like permission to put poles and underground lines in the town right of way from Howrigan Road to Will George Road. The Select Board approved.
  - b. The select board approved the Fletcher Roughriders Snowmobile Club to use Boozan Hill, Mayotte Road, Howrigan Road, Wright Road (if bridge construction is complete), and North Road from 12/16/2021 - 4/15/2021 (snow permitting).
  - c. MC Fiber has been using the recycling bin at the Town Garage (permission was granted in a past meeting by the Select Board). The recycle bin is often filled. Jon will ask Leslie if MC Fiber can get their own recycling bin and leave it with the town's recyclables for collection.
4. Metcalf Pond:
  - a. Someone ripped up a sign along the Metcalf Pond access area, and backed over a rock with a trailer. The license plate number was acquired. The town will file a report with the state police.
  - b. Bruce and Matt Gillilan suggest the town purchase water level gauges for Metcalf Pond for \$150. Bruce will forward the link for the gauge to the town to order.
  - c. One pipe was installed at the beaver dam for beaver mitigation, but there are other dams where the pipes need to be installed. The Select Board asked that the road crew install pipes in all the beaver dams near the ledges. Matt Gillilan will talk with the road crew.
  - d. Rich noticed some trees around the Metcalf Pond parking area that should probably come down. Matt Gillilan will ask Ed to take a look at the trees in and around the parking lot to assess if they need removal.
5. Broadband:
  - a. As discussed in past Select Board meetings, Northern Borders won't reimburse invoices until the total expenses reach 50% of what MC Fiber has submitted. This has the potential to cause cash flow problems for MC Fiber. Jon created financial models for MC Fiber, and there were meetings and communications exploring strategies for MC Fiber to use the Northern Borders grant without risk to their cash flow. After these discussions, Northern Borders offered to reduce the match from 50% to 25%, but the cost of buying the fiber up front is so high, MC Fiber would still have a cash flow problem. After exploration of other solutions still did not prevail, Northern Borders said they would agree to no match. All the updated paperwork was drawn and Northern Borders said they will sign.
  - b. The Select Board discussed how to communicate to residents.

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6. Speed Limits:
  - a. The Select Board reviewed and discussed a map Matt Gillilan created of the proposed speed limits and where speed limit signs need to be placed. The Select Board also discussed intersections that might need stop signs.
  - b. Matt Gillilan will revise the speed limit ordinance.
7. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding:
  - a. Decisions on how ARPA funds will be spent are due by December 2024 and must be spent by December 2026. Any unused funds will be returned to the treasury.
  - b. Karrie mentioned using funds for digitizing and rebinding land records (if possible). Karrie is going to get an estimate for the Select Board.
  - c. Bruce has a list of properties in Fletcher that are more than 400 feet from the road. This could be used to figure out a budget for connection help for broadband.
  - d. Matt Gillilan will look at large scale projects.
  - e. The Select Board discussed that the first step is to identify potential uses for the funds along with a budget. Then, the list will need to be prioritized. At this time there is limited information out regarding how the funds can be used.
8. Other Board Business,
  - a. An invoice from January for the Fairfax Fire Department was not paid. It was emailed in January and got lost in the email. A follow up was recently received, after the fiscal year closed. This means that approximately \$20,000 will hit this fiscal year's budget. The Select Board discussed increasing the budget. Karrie will email the bill to the Select Board.
9. Road Report:
  - a. Upcoming Road Closures:
    - i. Saturday from approximately 9am - 2pm School Road and Black Mountain. The Fire Department will be burning a house at no cost to the town.
      1. Eva will do the VT Alert.
    - ii. Week of 10/11 road closures on Buck Hollow Road. The road will be closed for two days for a culvert replacement.
      1. Matt Gillilan will let Fairfax and Fairfield know.
      2. Eva will do the VT Alert.
  - b. Wright Road:
    - i. Tyler Billingsly reported that the abutments should be all poured this week.
    - ii. Matt Gillilan discussed hiring East Engineering for three hydraulic studies for Kinsley Road, Moore Road, and Boozanhill Road. These sites are eligible for FEMA money. It will cost \$2250 total for all three studies. The Select Board unanimously agreed..
10. Adjournment: 8:34pm

To Do:

1. Jon:
  - a. Ask Leslie at MC Fiber if they can get their own recycling bin and leave it with the town's recyclables for collection.
2. Bruce:
  - a. Forward the link for the water gauge to Karrie and Aimee to order.

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3. Matt Gillilan:
  - a. Talk with the road crew about installing the beaver mitigation pipes at all needed areas.
  - b. Ask Ed to take a look at the trees in and around the Metcalf Pond parking lot to assess if they need removal.
  - c. Revise the speed limit ordinance and email it to the Select Board.
4. Karrie:
  - a. Send Select Board an estimate of what it would cost to digitize and rebind town records.
  - b. Email the Fairfax fire department invoice to the Select Board.

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**Jon Bondy, Chair**

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**Matt Gillilan**

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**Rich Bidwell**

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**Matt Swartz**

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**Bruce Douglas**