

Minutes of the Town of Fletcher Selectboard's November 1, 2021 meeting

Members of Selectboard (in person)

Jon Bondy

Rich Bidwell

Bruce Douglas

Matt Gillilan

Matt Schwarz *Swartz*

MB 11/15/21 JD

Public

Pam Jedlicka (online)

Sue McGregor, 212 Spaulding Road (in person)

1. Call to Order: 7:02 pm
2. Public Input
 - a. Sue McGregor, 212 Spaulding Road
 - a. Sue had Bob Sweet do the ditches on her property Bob got permission to ditch out to the side of the road. He also dug out brush. Sue said that the culvert is too high for the water drain from her property, therefore her hayfield next to road is flooded – and could not be mowed for the last cutting this season.
 - b. Matt G said that the culvert was changed in 2017 and deepened at the time. The reason that the culvert was not installed deeper was for that to happen would have had to dredge out to Tinker's property and that was not in the scope of work.
 - c. Rich does not see a place for the culvert to drain, and pointed out that there is twelve feet of cover over the culvert.
 - d. Jon – We need to look at it – do a site inspection and revisit it
 - e. Sue said that she needs to be able to hay that piece, including a second cut. A second cut was attempted with a sickle bar mower – but the cutter bar was cutting in water.
 - f. Jon – Selectboard members who have not been to this site, should visit it so we understand it first hand and can take it up at the next meeting.
3. Pam brought up an apparent audio problem. Jon pointed out it was due to multiple people talking at once.
4. Road Report (Matt G)
 - a. Drainage and ditching on Will George Road has been done.
 - b. Received hydraulic Studies from East Engineering
 - i. Two out of 3 sites are potentially eligible for FEMA funding to replace temporary culverts put in after the 2019 Halloween storm – not eligible on Moore Road because it was never swept away (not replaced) .

- ii. The culvert on Boozan Hill Road is halfway up North Road to where Town turns around by Mocks and Picards. The Town installed two 48" culverts to replace two 36" culverts.
- iii. FEMA hates double culverts,. Therefore, FEMA wants to provide funding for a box culvert or other means of conveying water in a single channel. With a double culvert, one side may clog with debris and the over side gets overloaded, with a single large opening, there is less chance of clogging overall.
- iv. Kinsley Road had one 48" diameter culvert and the town installed two 48" diameter culverts right after the storm
- v. Cost for each box culvert may be roughly \$150,000 to \$200,000 with 12.5% from the Town. Or roughly \$25,000 for each)
- vi. It was discussed whether the Town's share of the funding could be taken out of paving budget.
- vii. Matt G responded that the Town would be able to one culvert without major budget increase. We have at least two years to do it.
- viii. Rich asked, what is a risk of a problem if we postpone it?
 - 1. Matt G – Boozan Hill Road culvert went out in 1985;
 - 2. Bruce – The culvert location on Kinsley has gone out twice since 1992.
- ix. It was suggested that we could pick one and proceed with it and get \$25,000 out of paving budget.
- x. Matt G pointed out that the current paving plan includes:
 - 1. Next year base and top Buck Hollow.
 - 2. Following year top Fairfield Road.
 - 3. Overall, the approach is grind and replace in each of the next three years.
- xi. Therefore, the town may want to spread out culverts over three years, and also spread out paving costs.

5. North Road (Rich)

- a. Rich said that Norm graded North Road on October 21st. Rich drove North Road last week and grading is needed again. Rich knows that Norm likes to flatten roads before winter. Rich is concerned that the road flattening happens too early. The Town is not cutting (grading) them deep due to short number of days between rainfall events. Rich says the stretch of North Road by the cranberry bogs is currently in horrible condition.
- b. Jon asked how about adding stone in holes to smooth it out? Matt G replied that we did add stone in holes last year and did not lose too much material
- c. Rich pointed out that wet fall seasons make road maintenance difficult. Matt G agreed.
- d. Matt G will touch base with Norm about what to do with gravel roads at this point in the year
- e. Jon asked how about tailgating to fill potholes
 - i. Fairfax does some spot grading

- ii. Norman graded half of Rugg Road but only had to do 20%
 - f. Matt G said we cannot grade upper half of Mayotte Road from first of October to May due to slimy nature of material not enough traffic to pack it.
 - g. Jon said a roller would help with that.
 - h. Matt G told the board that he saw a roller trailer Waterbury that goes on the back of the grader, and that he will look into it.
- 6. Cannabis (Jon)
 - a. Lars brought it up.
 - b. Jon will see what if anything Lars wants to do with the issue.
- 7. Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk) and Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk) joined meeting.
- 8. Broadband Grant Progress (Jon)
 - a. Is Aimee ready to send an invoice to Northern Borders?
 - b. Aimee is working with Kathy at NRPC on the invoice.
- 9. Budget (Karrie)
 - a. Karrie Sweet handed out paper budget sheets. She requested board start working on budget now.
 - b. Matt G said that he and the Road Foreman will do road budget. Matt G pointed out a mistake on page 11 due to formatting issue, that will be corrected.
 - c. Jon stated that the select board will do the budget every week in January – at some point the budget is 99% done. Then it goes into Jon’s format which is primarily tweaking and adding footnotes.
 - d. Karrie pointed out that there should not be a lot of tweaking necessary.
 - e. Jon’s format is based on Mike Farmer’s format. Jon’s revision is due to the fact there are no line numbers, account numbers are too long, and it is difficult to find code numbers. Jon changes the fonts and move things into the right place – to make it a readable report.
 - f. Karrie pointed out that most anyone who uses NEMRC software uses NEMRC’s output format.
 - g. Jon offered to have anyone look at how he does it, so we have someone do eventually take over some day.
- 10. Town Office Flooring (Karrie)
 - a. Asked Rich about the flooring tiles coming up.
 - b. Rich responded:
 - i. Glue should be rated to 90 to 100 degrees (Fahrenheit)
 - ii. Should run warmer with wood or wood and concrete underneath
 - iii. Noel had said that the glue is rated to 80 degrees
 - c. Jon pointed out a concern that it could be due to a failure of the thermostat that caused the heating system to be on continuously for a few days.
 - d. Rich said that Noel recommended tile in bathroom
 - i. Concrete may have to be manually ground down to bare concrete – if try to attach it to the glue issue is prep
 - e. Jon said that we need to get down to concrete
 - f. Rich is not sure it would be quicker than what we did with Maurice’s office
 - g. Karrie will get a proposal to tile bathroom floor

- h. Jon is okay with trying a different glue and try to address popping up
- i. Rich agreed, and pointed out that we have some spares tiles- get a price proposal for tile in bathroom and will try out

11. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- a. Karrie said the criteria are still vague
 - i. Possible projects at the Town office include:
 - 1. Dehumidifier
 - 2. Archiving of Town records
 - 3. Generator maintenance and warrantee payment
 - ii. Rich asked if we could paydown loan for building
 - iii. School heating and ventilating may qualify
 - iv. Maximize benefit to the tax payers
- b. Bruce mentioned broadband clearly qualifies for ARPA funding. Bruce has looked into preliminary costs based on map of properties greater than 400 feet from a town road. Internet connections (drops) beyond 400 feet appear likely to be an acceptable use of ARPA Funds. Total cost of remaining drops beyond 400 feet may be on the order of \$150,000 to \$200,000. Bruce has requested data from Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF) to see who is already connected, but has not received it to date. Jon will reach out to MCF about address who are already served.
- c. There was discussion of the issue of gathering as many ideas as possible from the whole town. The problem is that asking for suggestions raises expectations and the eligibility of projects is very narrow
- d. Karrie and Aimee will look into budget for potential ARPA projects. Rough estimates include:
 - i. \$25K /year matching of state grants = \$100K
 - ii. Digitizing \$50K
- e. Timeline –
 - i. Town meeting is just before the first report to the US Treasury is due in April. It was agreed that is a good deadline to be ready to discuss potential ARPA projects with the voters.

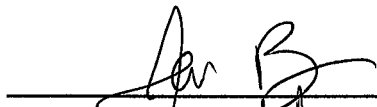
12. Metcalf Pond

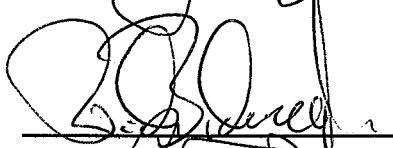
- a. Pond Water Levels (Matt G)
 - i. Water level gages arrived and they were installed in the following locations:
 - 1. One in the beaver baffle
 - 2. One in the parking area
 - ii. Sybil knows they have been installed
 - iii. Andrew Davis reported to Matt G that the pond water level is high. Andrew Davis has been texting Matt G
 - iv. The beaver dam impacts the water level of the pond – the beaver baffle and the pipes over the dam at the ledges would likely resolve the water level issues.
 - v. The area had 2” rain over the weekend.

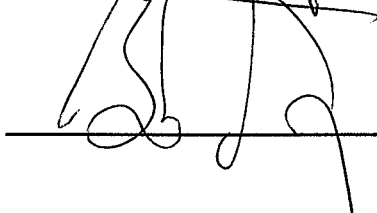
- vi. Jon hopes what we have done is adequate – expected water level dropping after rain events to take days not weeks.
- vii. Matt G will ask Sybil to let the board know if water levels increase. He reported that flexible pipes over the ledges are in place.
- b. Guard rails – Matt G talked to Tucker – Pinot Lumber \$30 to \$40 each would need 12
 - i. Going next week on job in Essex for black locust \$25 - \$20 each.
 - ii. Therefore \$400 for posts – no budget yet on Ropes
 - iii. Approved – - will go in before winter.
- 13. Town garage recycling – two full barrels
 - a. Leslie at MCF said that they will provide their own recycling containers, to be dropped off at Town Garage site. If they do so, then this will no longer be an issue.
 - b. Jon will let Leslie know that MCF will have to provide own recycling bins at Town Garage Recommend that they lock recycling bins, so residents do not put recycling in them.
- 14. Public Comment – no public was still on line or in person just prior to end of meeting.
- 15. Meeting adjourned at 8:37

Action items highlighted

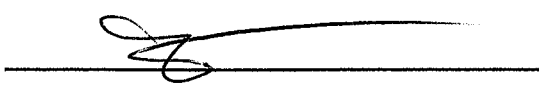
Minutes respectfully submitted by Bruce Douglas


 _____ **Jon Bondy, Chair**


 _____ **Rich Bidwell**


 _____ **Bruce Douglas**

 _____ **Matt Gillilan**


 _____ **Matt Schwarz**
 MB
 11/15/21