

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting**  
**Fletcher Town Offices**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**01/03/2022**

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

**Attendees:** Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk) and Rachael Wilson (Secretary)

1. Call to order: 7:16pm
2. Board Business:
  - a. Equalization study: Ratio of what the Town says the Grand List is worth vs. what the state says what the Grand List is worth. If it is below 85% then a reappraisal is recommended. The Town is currently at a little over 84%. The Town is currently doing a reappraisal.
  - b. Automatically mailing ballots: The Select Board can choose to mail ballots to everyone or ask that residents request ballots.
    - i. Jon: Recommends everyone should receive an absentee ballot to reduce the risk to the office staff.
    - ii. Rich: Thinks residents should have to recommend a ballot and expressed concern of voter fraud.
    - iii. Bruce: Mass mailout.
    - iv. Matt Swartz: Mass mailout.
    - v. Matt Gillilan: Mass mailout.
    - vi. 4 yes, 1 no: The Select Board approves mass mailout of ballots.
  - c. Zoom Meetings: Jon was going to recommend discontinuing Zoom meetings if all Select Board members can attend in person.
    - i. Rich: Likes the availability for residents and the option for Select Board members.
    - ii. Bruce: Likes the availability for residents and thinks the Select Board members should take turns setting up the meeting to be hybrid (virtual and in person).
    - iii. Matt Swartz: Agrees with Bruce that the Select Board should take turns setting up and likes the flexibility of Zoom.
    - iv. Matt Gillilan: Likes the benefits of Zoom and being able to offer it to residents.
    - v. The Select Board will review and document the process for setting up the Zoom meeting and continue to hold hybrid meetings.
3. Road Report:
  - a. Rich spoke with Norman about Fairfax Road (where the Fairfax trucks turn around) and a section of Pond Road being icy. Rich or Matt Gillilan can follow up with Norman.
4. Budget:
  - a. The Select Board reviewed the budget page by page:
    - i. Page 4:
      1. Preservation of records will have ARPA money so it can be set to \$0 in the budget, but it will need to be explained in the Select Board

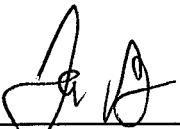
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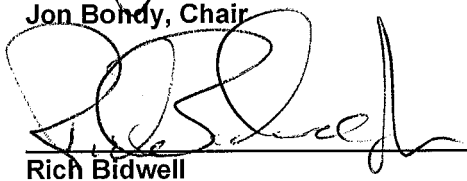
report. Matt Swartz recommended keeping the \$10,000 expense and adding a \$10,000 revenue.

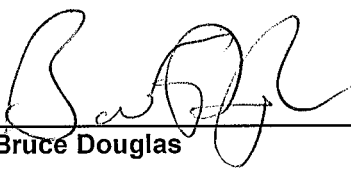
2. Auditor salaries: Karrie recommends dropping it down to \$1,000.
  3. Lister salaries: Karrie recommends dropping it down to \$20,000.
- ii. Page 5:
1. Rescue: Cambridge responds to 21% of the calls. Fairfax responded to 79%. Cambridge and Fairfax are asking for the same amount of money for the retainer (\$15,750). Matt Gillilan emailed Nathan about Cambridge's request for \$15,750 and offered them \$5,000 and Nathan responded by saying that Cambridge wants \$15,750.
  2. Matt Gillilan asked Fairfax if they could take all the calls if Fletcher provided \$5,000 more and got an informal yes. Matt Gillilan brought up a concern, if only Fairfax responded to calls, it could be a problem for residents who live further from Fairfax. Matt Gillilan will talk to Fairfax and ask their response time. If Fairfax confirms, Matt will follow up with Cambridge. Bruce will come up with a house count to provide to Cambridge. The Select Board will leave the line item in the budget for \$15,750 while they continue to negotiate with Cambridge.
  3. Pope Memorial cat rescue: \$400 line item. Franklin County takes cats, so the Select Board discussed removing the budget for Pope Memorial and increasing Franklin County Animal Rescue to \$300.
- iii. Page 6:
1. Newsletter: Bruce would like to open the possibility of having a quarterly or biannual newsletter for residents who don't have internet access. The Select Board discussed that it was a line item in the budget for years, but there was not consistent content for a newsletter. If the Town Clerks and/or Select Board receive a call with a question that could be in answered in a Newsletter to ask the person if they would like to receive a newsletter and keep a record of resident answers. This will be revisited after a few months of research.
- iv. Page 8:
1. Employee Benefits: Road Crew salaries increase for FY23, and FICA decreased. Karrie will look to ensure accuracy; the values for FY22 might be in error.
- v. Page 10:
1. Paving: Dropped to \$100,000 for FY22 and 23. It was dropped this year to account for a FEMA qualified structure. Karrie will add a line for the structure for \$25,000.
- vi. Page 13:
1. Equipment: \$28,000 over what is normally budgeted. Jon: Recommends removing the \$6,000 addition to the equipment fund. Matt Gillilan has not updated the equipment replacement spreadsheet yet and will put a revised one together.

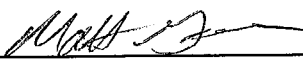
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- b. The Select Board discussed the FEMA money owed to the Town for the Halloween storm and the Wright Road Bridge projects. The Select Board expects to receive about \$150K from FEMA for the Wright Road Bridge, and about \$200K for the Halloween storm.
  - c. Matt Gillilan hasn't had luck finding a body for the 2007 truck yet but did find a drop in sander for \$9,000 that can likely be resold. This could get the Town through the Winter.
- 5. Adjournment: 9:11pm
  - 6. Next Select Board Meeting: 01/10/2022 at 7pm

  
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Jon Bondy, Chair

  
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Rich Bidwell

  
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Bruce Douglas

  
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Matt Gillilan

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Matt Swartz