

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
03/07/2022

Select Board: Jon Bondy, Rich Bidwell, Matt Gillilan, Bruce Douglas (minutes), and Matt Swartz (remote - arrived as noted below)

Attendees: Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk – as noted); Aimee Tinker (Asst Town Clerk – as noted)

1. Call to order: 7:10 pm
2. Nominations and Voting
 - a. Road Commissioner – Matt Gillilan was nominated; seconded; Board unanimously voted in favor of Matt Gillilan as Road Commissioner
 - b. Selectboard Chair – Jon Bondy was nominated and seconded; Board unanimously voted in favor of Jon Bondy as Selectboard Chair
 - c. Clerk – Rachael Wilson was nominated and seconded; Board unanimously voted in favor of Rachael Wilson as Selectboard Clerk
3. Road Discussion
 - a. Road Crew Advertisement:
 - i. Board reviewed proposed draft advertisement; it was agreed to have applicants should contact Town Office
 - b. Metcalf Pond “Beach” Posts
 - i. Stearns Allen wrote a Letter requesting reconsideration of the Selectboard’s decision to install posts
 1. Rich brought up the limited line of sight which makes it dangerous if a vehicle is blocking the road to load or unload a boat trailer
 2. Board agreed unanimously to install the posts as previously planned and agreed to
 - ii. Installation of posts was discussed –
12 feet long posts will be installed 6 feet on center
 - iii. Posts will be placed 25 feet to 30 feet on either side of walking access opening in the middle
 - iv. the town will need to rent an auger to install the posts and order rope.
 - v. Board discussed the option of establishing a tow zone.
 - vi. A towing ordinance was discussed.
 1. Jon requested Matt G look at Town of Fairfax’s towing ordinance
 - c. Winter road maintenance was discussed
 - i. It was suggested that the Selectboard could send out a survey or hold a meeting to request input from the public
 - ii. This item was tabled to be revisited later in the meeting after Matt Swartz arrives

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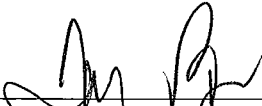
- d. Salt Shed
 - i. Jon asked if we should consider using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for a salt shed
 - ii. Matt G pointed out that the last time the salt shed was considered, the town was awarded a \$300K grant, but the lowest bid was \$780,000, so the project was not advanced at the time.
 - iii. Jon asked if we have a sense of whether federal ARPA money could be used for a salt shed
 - iv. Bruce asked about the current salt storing arrangement
 - v. Matt G replied that there is currently a three-sided bunker with a roof
- e. Matt S arrived via Zoom
- f. Randy's last day on the Road Crew will be Friday March 18th. Matt G will set up a lunchtime gathering
- g. Winter Road Maintenance discussion was resumed
 - i. There was a discussion of whether a survey on this topic could be handed out with ballots for upcoming School Director election.
 - ii. Karrie Sweet was invited by Jon to join in the meeting to discuss the distribution of a survey along with ballots for the school director election
 - iii. Karrie said that they will be starting to make ballots for school board tomorrow morning.
 - iv. It was decided that the survey did not need to go out the next day.
 - v. Karrie left the meeting
 - vi. Matt S pointed out that his experience driving on the roads reinforced the need for a policy
 - vii. Matt G suggested that the policy could have a specific start time for clearing roads
 - viii. Rich said that he had looked at road crew timesheets - for example in one day the crew was plowing the roads from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm. The hard part is the middle of the day, when there should be times for a break. It was suggested that breaks could be staggered to keep one person plowing at all times.
 - ix. It was suggested that the survey could have multiple choice questions, asking :
 - 1. When should the road plowing should start in the morning?
 - 2. When should the road plowing start in the evening?
 - 3. When should the weekend plowing occur?
 - x. Bruce read from the Fairfax Winter Operations Plan, the following: " in most cases there will be no maintenance between 10:00 pm and 3:00 am".
 - xi. Matt S pointed out that we only see the road conditions based on what we see our individual schedules

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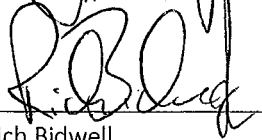
- xii. Rich' referred to his email – one day at 6:00 pm there was 6" of snow on the pond road, that was apparently due to the order in which the plow truck driver did their route that day.
 - xiii. Matt G described how one truck typically plows blacktop while applying salt, then does School Road, River Road and Black Mountain Road
 - xiv. Rich is concerned with maintaining Taylor Hill so that cars with 2-wheel drive can get up it
 - xv. Bruce brought up Metcalf Pond Road from the Pond to Taylor Road, which is also quite steep
 - xvi. Bruce stated that he does not want to over prescribe road maintenance and that he prefers the approach that Fairfax has taken – identifying when the roads would not be maintained
 - xvii. Rich mentioned that the Pond Road was fine at one point, but apparently the plow driver received a call from a Pond Road resident, informing the driver that there is not enough sand on the Pond Road.
 - xviii. Jon stated that he has no problem with a survey, and that in two weeks we will talk about revised road policy. The discussion can include whether to have a survey, which could be announced on website and social media
4. Cambridge Emergency Response cost proposal for FY 23
- a. Jon reached out to Nathan Pickard - inviting him to tonight's meeting, but he has not shown up.
 - b. Jon asked Nathan for their annual report for last 3 – 5 years, and has not heard back from Nathan
 - c. Jon feels they should come up with data to support their fee hike
 - d. Rich mentioned response time from Fairfax to East Fletcher would be long, so it would be a good thing to have an ambulance coming from Jeffersonville
5. Road Report by Matt G:
- a. Box culverts – email from Tyler at East Engineering last Friday with designs that we can bid from for Boozan Hill and Kinsley Road.
 - i. The Town needs to be granted a temporary ROW for access due to both box culverts being located on dead end roads.
 - ii. This will require landowner permission for a temporary easement to divert travel while bridge is under construction
 - iii. Matt G said he will ask Aimee to reach out to landowners on the east side of Kinsley Road
 - iv. Bruce volunteered to reach out to neighbors who know the new owner of the field on the east side of Kinsley Road if Aimee cannot get in touch with the owner
 - b. Road Crew Member Recruitment
 - i. Job posting will be out later this week, in the St Albans Messenger, Lamoille County paper and on social media
 - ii. Rich – should we be looking at a candidate that is willing to move up to road foreman

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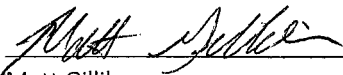
- iii. There is a potential opportunity for advancement – but this should not be on advertisement but would be a positive candidate characteristic
- iv. Questions need to be prepared for interviews
- c. Road side mowing was discussed – this is typically contracted out.
- 6. Karrie and Aimee stepped in
 - a. Karrie reiterated that the special school district meeting is scheduled for 3/28/22
 - b. Jon asked them about ARPA planning. Response was that they are still waiting for news from VLCT on what is allowable
 - c. Karrie and Aimee left
- 7. Jon read list of recurring annual events:
 - a. Bids for Mowing
 - b. Budget status review
 - c. Ditching coming up
 - i. Matt G said he will get billing rates from excavating contractors so we have them in hand before a storm.
 - d. Meet with VTRANS about possible grants
 - e. Paving and construction grants due 4/15
 - f. Road mileage submittal to VTRANS
 - i. Matt G confirmed that this has been completed
 - g. Authorize Town Clerk to pay wages without a signed order and get discount without Selectboard consent
 - i. Board voted unanimously in favor of authorizing Town Treasurer to pay wages without a signed order and process Accounts Payable to get discount without Selectboard consent.
- 8. Jon brought up recent Fletcher Folk social media issues and it was briefly discussed
- 9. Other Board Business: None
- 10. Public Input: None
- 11. Adjournment: 8:18 pm



Jon Bondy, Chair



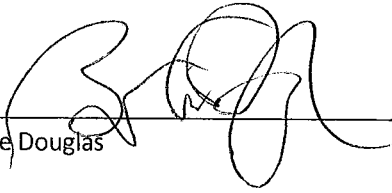
Rich Bidwell



Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz

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Bruce Douglas