

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
04/04/2022**

Select Board: Jon Bondy, Rich Bidwell, and Bruce Douglas.

Attendees: Dick McAvenia (SD Ireland), Bretton Gardener (Pike Industries), Pam Jedlicka, Paul Lawson (ST Paving), Sue McGregor, Alex Sargent (Lister), Sam Smith (Hutchins), Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk), Derrell Wescom (Engineers Construction), and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:00pm
2. Paving Bids for Buck Hollow Road: No decision will be made until Matt Gillilan reviews the bids and will make a decision tomorrow. Jon Body opened and read the bids:

Company	Reclaiming Cost	Mix Cost (per ton)	Tons	Total Cost
F.W. Whitcomb	\$10,834.00	\$74.50	993	\$84,813.00
Pike Industries	\$13,946.00	\$77.39	1,060	\$95,979.40
ECI	\$15,768.10	\$95.50	1,020	\$113,178.10
S.T. Paving	\$23,098.95	\$103.40	1,019	\$128,463.55
SD Ireland	\$19,437.75	\$82.90	1,020	\$103,995.75
J. Hutchins	\$10,999.50	\$82.00	1,020	\$94,639.50

Bretton Gardener joined the meeting before Jon opened SD Ireland's bid

Aimee will email the bids to all respondents.

Bretton Gardener, Paul Lawson, Sam Smith, and Derrell Wescom left the meeting.

3. Town wide reappraisal: Alex Sargent informed the Select Board that the listers need to extend the deadline for the reappraisal. The home visits took longer than expected to complete, and once they are complete the Listers will need additional time to enter the reappraisal data in the system. With this new deadline, the reappraisal will be complete by May 2023. The Select Board discussed if this changes the cost to the town. Alex explained that the total amount owed to Vermont Appraisals is the same. The one change is the final payment to Vermont Appraisals will be made after the data entry is complete and reviewed by Vermont Appraisals. Vermont Appraisals will amend the contract to reflect this new final payment date. Vermont Appraisal is offering to check in on the permits residents submit between now and 2023 to make sure that they are accounted for. This service will cost \$87.78/parcel. Alex will email the amended contract to the Select Board.

Alex Sargent left the meeting

4. Public Comment: Sue McGregor discussed with the Select Board that the culvert that drains one of her fields is not working and the water is flooding. Jon informed Sue that members of the Select Board (separately) went out to see the culvert and discussed, in a past Select Board meeting, that there is nothing more for the town to do. Sue expressed that she believes the town should fix it. Jon suggested that they set up a time for Matt Gillilan and one other person from the Select Board to come out and look at the culvert again with Sue. Sue shared her phone number and Jon will try and get a meeting with Matt Gillilan, Norman and Jon.

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Sue McGregor left the meeting

5. Town office boiler: Rich explained that there was an issue with the boiler in the town office. The company the Town was using for service said they were waiting on parts to arrive before they could fix the boiler; this went on for over a month. The boiler started going out daily, so Rich took a look and found the parts, in stock at a store in St. Albans. Rich fixed the boiler. Rich also spoke with the company where the boiler came from and found out that the boiler is discontinued. Rich suggested that the Select Board should consider budgeting for the boiler replacement in the future. Currently, it would cost approximately \$10,000 to replace. Rich recommended that the Select Board create a maintenance fund similar to the equipment replacement fund (in case of an emergency). The Select Board discussed the idea.
6. Road Report: Rich mentioned that Ed and Norman have worked the last two Saturdays to try and keep up with the muddy roads. They are doing the best they can during a bad mud year and while being short staffed.

Karrie and Aimee joined the meeting

7. ARPA Money: Bruce explained that lost revenue during the Pandemic can be reclaimed via ARPA money, but if the Town wants to utilize this "Standard Allowance", the option has to be selected by May 1, 2022. There is a webinar tomorrow that Karrie or Aimee will attend.
 - a. The Select Board discussed the ways that this could be utilized.
 - b. The Select Board discussed how they can solicit ideas from residents. Jon recommended that a mailing is sent out so that it is received by all residents. The Select Board discussed what other communications that would be helpful to send to residents along with this one (to reduce the number of mailings that are sent).
 - c. Bruce is going to draft a survey that can be sent out to residents.
8. Broadband: Aimee said that the third reimbursement request to Northern Borders was processed, so right now they are in good shape.

Pam Jedlicka left the meeting

9. Other Board Business:
 - a. Rich had a conversation with Alex (Lister) and Courtney (Vermont Appraisals) . Rich had a reassessment done on his house and they went over his listers card in the office. The card said he had an apartment quality basement; however, he does not have a basement. Rich is not looking for the Select Board to do anything but wanted the Select Board to know.
 - b. There is a new District Advisor Benton Mitchell (employed by the state to offer direct support to local assessment officials or listers); Benton came by and talked to Karrie and Aimee about Listers leaving their positions across the state. To handle this, towns are starting to hire assessors that they share with another town. The Select Board discussed that if this is the route the Listers would like to take, they should come to the Select Board with a proposal.

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- c. There was a letter from NEMRC saying that they can provide help with annual audits. Karrie can reach out to NEMRC to learn more and talk with the auditors.

Karrie and Aimee left the meeting

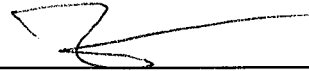
- d. Cambridge Rescue: The Select Board discussed the 3/21/2022 Select Board meeting with Cambridge Rescue. Jon followed up on some of the things that were discussed and discovered some misinformation. Jon spoke with George Putnam and George was open to have Jon attend the Cambridge Select Board meeting when Cambridge Rescue will be speaking (Cambridge Rescue attends Cambridge Select Board on a quarterly basis).
 - i. The Select Board discussed different ways of moving forward and decided to reassess after the Cambridge Select Board meeting.
 - ii. Since the Fletcher Select Board meeting on 3/21/2022 with Cambridge Rescue, Cambridge Rescue has not provided any of the data that they agreed to send.
- e. Towns sharing road equipment: Rich had a conversation with Tim (Fairfax Road Commissioner and Foreman). Tim said he was interested in neighboring towns sharing equipment that isn't used frequently. The Select Board agreed this is a good idea and discussed different ways it could work. Jon said that Tim can come to a Select Board meeting anytime to discuss his idea.

10. Adjournment: 8:50pm

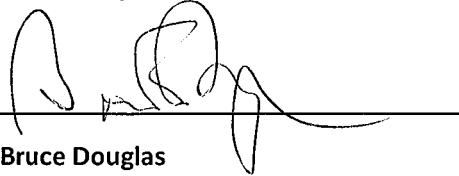
Jon Bondy, Chair



Matt Gillilan



Rich Bidwell



Matt Swartz

Bruce Douglas