

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
05/02/2022

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

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

1. Call to Order: 7:01pm
2. Site visit at Sue McGregor's property: The Select Board discussed their visit to Sue McGregor's property on 4/23/2022. Bruce mentioned that if any soil is coarse, then the drainage will go farther (it will drain better), but much of the soil on the part of Sue's land that the Select Board inspected is clay and is very heavy when wet (and will drain poorly). Sue said most of the rest of her land is gravel and that she believes the problem is that the culvert isn't draining. Sue would like the town to do something to make it drain. Sue had Bob Sweet dig out the ditch awhile back and Sue thinks that the culvert is too high. Jon said the ditch is too deep and needs to be filled. Jon moved that the town does not take action on the culvert. Sue said she remembers Matt Gillilan said that town was going to do something on the other side of the road and Matt confirmed that rip rap has been planned for a while. Jon asked if anyone on the Select Board believes that action should be taken by the town. There was no comment from the Select Board. Jon explained that the Select Board made the decision once not to take any action and met with Sue at her property for a second discussion and site visit and decided no again. Sue said okay.

Sue left the meeting

3. Board Business:
 - a. Speed Limit Ordinance: The Select Board reviewed the speed limit ordinance and made a few revisions. The Select Board signed the speed limit ordinance later in the meeting.
 - b. Purchase order policy: The Select Board reviewed and discussed the purchase order policy.

Karrie and Aimee joined the meeting

The Select Board made revisions to the policy and Aimee will type up the revisions.

- c. Audit: Karrie got a quote for a full audit for \$18,000. Jon explained that typically an audit starts with the audit performed the previous year, so having single, isolated audits may not be helpful.
- d. Aimee brought back the revised Speed Limit Ordinance. The Select Board signed the speed limit ordinance. Aimee will put the ordinance in the St. Alban's Messenger.

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4. ARPA Money:
 - a. Historical Society ARPA money: A committee was formed by the Historical Society to put together information on what the Historical Society needs.
 - b. ARPA Survey: The Select Board reviewed the survey Bruce created. Bruce suggested another option of having a one question survey asking how residents would like to use the money. Jon suggested having a special meeting with a discussion on how to spend the money; this would give an opportunity for residents to ask questions. Jon said he would like to see the money used to reduce town taxes.
 - c. Matt Gillilan was wondering if the money can be used for federal grant matching. Aimee will check on it. Matt thinks the survey is too long and will lose people.
 - d. Jon is concerned that, because there are restrictions for how the money can be spent, a survey may have a negative impact. If a suggestion is made that cannot be done due to ARPA money restrictions, residents may be frustrated that their ideas weren't used even if the restrictions prevented it.
 - e. Karrie thinks that the Select Board should present a baseline of what the Select Board is thinking to use the money for, and then ask residents their ideas.
 - f. Rich agrees that the information Bruce has pulled together is good, but if it could be condensed to one page it would be more readable. Rich wondered if the ARPA money could be used to fix the floors in the town office, the posts and rope at Metcalf Pond, or to get fiber at the Town Garage.
5. Other Board Business:
 - a. Budget: Karrie explained that the surplus being used to reduce taxes, which used to be at the very top of the budget in the Town Report, will now appear under Miscellaneous Income in future budgets. Jon asked for clarification on some line items in the budget. Karrie explained the C fund, money that has been sent out and the town expects to get back (for example, from FEMA). Karrie added a separate page for ARPA money. Neither of these items are a part of the operating budget.

Karrie and Aimee left the meeting

Jon explained that the budget status report currently shows, incorrectly, that revenue is up because the Town still needs to allocate money to the school. The Select Board went over the budget and reviewed the deficit and surplus. Jon mentioned that since there are still two months of expenses that the town's budget could likely have a deficit. Though this could change if some grant money comes in.

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6. Road Report:

- a. Matt Gillilan found a used 2020 International truck for \$125,000. Currently, this truck would be available in August.
- b. Glen's licensing: Glen was granted an exception for his CDL (due to his experience) so his class will only be 10 hours and cost \$1000. Then, he will be licensed. Glen is taking care of the cost of his license. The Select Board will pay for Glen's time.
- c. Grants: The town is tentatively approved for the Buckhollow Road paving grant. 3,000 feet of paving will be covered by the grant and then 4,400 feet will be resurfaced under the town's budget.
- d. Rich was wondering about filling in pavement cracks with tar. Matt reached out to Jim Cota a few years ago and Jim advised it would be a waste of money. Matt will reach out again and see if anything has changed. Jon suggests that if we decide to do it, that we do a small section at first and see how long it lasts.

Aimee joined the meeting

7. Budget Continued: Aimee explained the detailed budget items Jon asked for.
8. Port-o-let at pond: There were no issues reported last year. Matt Gillilan recommends getting a port-o-let before Memorial Day weekend (week of May 16th) and keep it until after Labor Day. Aimee said she can call tomorrow.

Aimee left the meeting

9. Road Report Continued:

- a. Posts and rope went in at Metcalf Pond. The other gauge hasn't gone in yet. Bruce explained to Matt where to put the gauge. Ed has been looking at the gauge regularly and keeping a list on a dry erase board. Matt will send Bruce a picture and Bruce will type it up into a table.
 - b. The Select Board discussed discontinuing Marshall Road. Jon recommends making a list of similar roads might be worth discontinuing. Matt mentioned that the town would likely get less money from the state if they discontinue roads.
10. Cambridge Rescue: Bruce looked up emergency medical costs in the county by reviewing town reports. Jon would like Bruce's data to be validated as much as possible and then share with Cambridge Select Board.
11. Adjournment: 9:17pm

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Jon Bondy, Chair

Matt Gillilan

Rich Bidwell

Matt Swartz

Bruce Douglas