

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
06/20/2022

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

Attendees: Brenden Blair, Martha Manning, Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk), and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:01pm
2. Board Business:
 - a. Metcalf Pond: Rich pointed out that the culvert on South Shore Road is crushed and there is a ditch where the water level is about an inch from the Road. Matt Gillilan will check it out. Jon recommends that the Select Board meet with Ed and Glen at Metcalf Pond. Matt Gillilan will see if Ed and Glen are available on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 8am.
 - b. Matt Gillilan sent Bruce the pond levels; Bruce will put the data into a spreadsheet, and he will see if he can add the rainfall amounts as well. The Select Board discussed different ways to monitor the water level to determine if there might be a new beaver dam.

Matt Swartz joined the meeting

Martha joined the meeting

3. Cambridge Rescue: Jon explained that the Select Board sent a letter to the Cambridge Select Board and Cambridge Rescue explaining the proposed payment terms: The Fletcher Select Board would like to pay quarterly, half the quarterly amount at the beginning of the quarter and the other half at the end of the quarter upon receipt of the data requested. Martha wanted to know where the list of data came from and if Fairfax Rescue will be asked to do the same thing. Jon explained that when the Select Board asked Fairfax Rescue for the data, they provided it within two weeks. Martha said she doesn't think Fairfax would provide the information to Fletcher regularly because the mileage isn't always recorded. Martha mentioned that they can add a field to their report that says "was this call in the town of Fletcher" to help differentiate Fletch calls from other calls. Jon explained that the Select Board is trying to determine how many calls Cambridge Rescue takes in Fletcher – Martha said that this is possible and Brenden added that they can do their best as long as the field described above is completed. Martha said that they cannot provide the cost per run. Jon explained that Fairfax was able to provide that information. Martha said that they cannot get all the information the Select Board requested. Jon said that the Select Board based it on the data that Fairfax provided and assumed that if one rescue provided the information another could as well. Brenden mentioned that they can't provide the data for a quarter when there is only one call because of HIPAA. Martha said that Cambridge Rescue can provide Fletcher with the same data they provide to Cambridge. Jon said that Fletcher would like the information requested. Martha said they can't get the mileage or payroll data. Brenden explained that the reimbursement information would be off because of when the insurance reimbursements actually come through. Matt Swartz asked, based on the information they have, can they estimate the amount of money Cambridge spent on Fletcher. Brenden said no, because some years they could have 5 calls in Fletcher and some years there could be 20 calls. Martha mentioned that the radio reception is not good in Fletcher. Jon recommended that Cambridge Rescue take a map of Fletcher and mark the places where the reception is not good.



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Matt Gillilan mentioned it would be a good exercise for Fairfax as well. Jon mentioned that this is a safety issue. Martha said she does not think the Cambridge Rescue Board is going to accept Fletcher Select Board's proposal. Jon was wondering when to expect an invoice from Cambridge Rescue if the payments are quarterly. Martha said that can be negotiated. Bruce asked if Cambridge Rescue could provide their budget for 2022 Calendar Year. Jon mentioned that Cambridge Rescue already sent that to the Select Board. The Select Board, Martha and Brenden discussed how Cambridge Rescue can provide the data requested. Martha mentioned that the Town of Cambridge pays for their ambulances and fuel, but Cambridge rescue pays for other equipment, medicines, and repairs/maintenance on vehicles. Matt Gillilan asked if Fairfax still solicits subscriptions to everyone in Fletcher. Is there a way to ensure Fairfax Rescue only is able to solicit to the population that they are serving?

Aimee joined the meeting

Aimee said currently the town provides all the addresses when requested. Aimee said that if Bruce has the residence data, she can use it to create a list that breaks down the area Cambridge rescue serves and the area Fairfax rescue serves. Jon mentioned that it would have to be updated annually and he will reach out to Fairfax Rescue to see if they are sending solicitations to the entire list. Martha mentioned that Medicare subscribers should not pay for a subscription. Martha also mentioned that they have seen an increase in calls for mental health. Jon asked if there is anything the town could be doing to help and to let the Select Board know if there is something that can be done. Bruce asked how many non-rescue representatives are on the Cambridge Rescue Board. Brenden said there are two. Bruce suggested that it would be helpful to have a Fletcher resident (not on the rescue) on the Cambridge Rescue Board. Bruce said he was grateful for the meeting last month, and for Martha and Brenden coming to tonight's meeting. Martha asked if the Select Board could summarize what Cambridge Rescue should expect next? Jon said that the Select Board will need to discuss. Jon expressed his appreciation that Martha and Brenden attended tonight's meeting and provided such helpful information.

Martha and Brenden left the meeting

- a. Aimee asked if Cambridge Rescue wanted the labels for solicitations soon. Bruce and Aimee will work together to gather the information. Aimee asked Bruce if he has both addresses (if someone lives somewhere else and has a residence in Fletcher); Bruce does not, but he and Aimee will work together.
4. Board Business Continued:
 - a. Grants and Aid FY 2023 letter: The town received the estimated amount the town would receive of \$25,000 with a \$6,250 match. The form is asking for a primary and secondary contact. Matt Gillilan will be the primary contact and Aimee will be the second.
 - b. Jon signed the renewal of the municipal roads general permit.
 - c. Chad has been working on researching the transfer of land on the old town garage site. He is trying to find the original deed.



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- d. Broadband: Aimee put in for reimbursement from NBRC and VEDA last week and Leslie emailed Aimee with a last minute change, but Aimee wasn't able to since she already sent it.
- e. Raises: Aimee mentioned that the Select Board noted that the raises for Karrie and the Road Crew were based on inflation and the VLCT salary list; Aimee asked if other town employees will receive similar raises. Jon thanked Aimee for pointing this out. Aimee asked if the raises were based on merit or inflation. Jon explained that it wasn't based on either. Matt Swartz is going to look through the VLCT salary book and look at average wages for nearby comparable towns. The Select Board discussed that the raises in the 6/3/2022 minutes were based on seniority and job responsibilities.

Aimee left the meeting

5. Cambridge Rescue Continued:

- a. The Select Board discussed that Cambridge Rescue provided good reason why providing quarterly data may be more confusing than helpful. Rich said that it seems like Cambridge Rescue has less expenses than Fairfax Rescue, but their cost is double of what Fairfax Rescue costs. Jon suggested that the Select Board reach out to Fairfax about serving the entire town, not sign anything, but just start the conversation. Rich said that it is important to understand how long the response time would be for the East side of town. Bruce said that Cambridge Rescue would support providing the same data to Fletcher that they provide to Cambridge town and to be paid conditionally. Matt Gillilan said he is concerned about the size of Bakersfield's Rescue in addition to their response time (the East side of Fletcher would be served by Bakersfield rescue if Fairfax Rescue served the entire town). Bruce explained that the town is paying less than the average to Fairfax and more than the average to Cambridge. Rich expressed concern that if the town agrees to pay Cambridge Rescue, that next year, Cambridge Rescue will increase the charges to the town. Jon thinks the Select Board should accept the cost for 6 months, get a proposal from Fairfax Rescue, hold a special meeting or in town meeting discuss with the town and see the reaction from the town. Bruce recommended that the town pay the fee for the year and have Cambridge Rescue provide the information for Fletcher that they do for Cambridge (but only for Fletcher residents). Jon laid out the next steps:
 - i. Get the proposal from Fairfax Rescue (including response times)
 - ii. Decide if the town is going to continue with Cambridge Rescue for 6 months or 1 year.
 - iii. Decide if the information Cambridge Rescue provides to Cambridge Town is sufficient to provide to Fletcher.
- b. Rich suggests sticking with quarterly payments with half of the payment contingent on receiving the data. The Select Board discussed how to present this to the town and how to involve the town in a decision. Bruce explained that if you combine Fairfax cost and Cambridge Rescue cost, it puts the average per capita at less than what Fairfax charges



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their residents. Jon proposed that the town go through with Cambridge Rescue for the next year (starting in July), with split quarterly payments and data, get the proposal from Fairfax (including response times) and bring everything up at town meeting.

- i. Discussion: The Select Board discussed how to get accurate response times. Jon suggests asking each group to explain response times. Bruce would like to compare apples to apples – get the same information from Fairfax as we would from Cambridge.
 - c. Jon is going to write another letter to Cambridge Rescue explaining that the town is going to pay for their services for the next year (starting in July), with split quarterly payments and data. He is going to explain that they are going to get the proposal from Fairfax (including response times) and will bring everything up at town meeting. Bruce is going to let Cambridge Rescue know that Fletcher has decided to follow through with their format of data before their board meeting.
 - i. The Select Board is in agreement with the above proposal.
6. Other Board Business:
- a. Jon had a conversation with Matt Gillilan that there are some policies that are not written down and encouraged Matt to think about if these policies should be written down.
 - b. Next meeting is July 4th, the Select Board agreed to meeting on July 6th instead.
 - c. Ash tree inventory: Matt Gillilan will send the link for the Ash tree inventory to Ed.
 - d. Handicap access at Metcalf Pond: The concerned residents haven't gotten back to Jon yet.
 - e. The rope needs to be fixed at Metcalf pond. Rich suggests putting epoxy on the knots to prevent them from being untied.
7. Adjournment: 9: 51pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Rich Bidwell

Bruce Douglas

Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz

