

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting**  
**Fletcher Town Offices**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**07/06/2022**

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

**Attendees:** Brian Davison, Leslie Nulty, Tim Nulty, and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:10pm
2. Mansfield Community Fiber (MCF):
  - a. MCF is estimating an overage of roughly \$30,000 on the make ready line item in the budget.
    - i. Green Mountain Power has not provided an itemized cost (per pole that needs to be replaced) and MCF is trying to get that information. Leslie pointed out that the reason MCF wants the itemized cost is because it may be cheaper to go underground and revoke the pole permit request.
    - ii. MCF said they can foot the overage cost and allot it for a different buildout project. In other words, they can refund the budget for all the poles that are outside of the town line. Jon mentioned that it is possible that ARPA funds could be used for broadband.
    - iii. Brian shared an image of the town line between Fletcher and Fairfield. There is a 1/8 mile gap in Fairfield between poles, where poles would need to be placed in Fairfield to be able to run fiber to Fletcher. Brian explained that there are other instances where the Fletcher buildout will also connect residences outside of Fletcher. If needed, some of these costs could be cut from the Fletcher project and charged to a different project.
    - iv. Brian explained that MCF has almost all of the fiber and a contractor standing by. They are just waiting for the make ready (poles). Brian said that it is very likely that the project will be complete by the end of next Summer. Jon said that he thinks the town should put aside \$100,000 of ARPA money just in case there are other overages in the future.
  - b. MCF and the Select Board discussed that running fiber underground to homes/neighborhoods gets very expensive very quickly. Jon and Matt both mentioned that in the ARPA meeting residents were clear that they do not want ARPA money spent on something that will only benefit a small number of residents.
  - c. Jon said that he doesn't see a reason for the cost of the poles outside of Fletcher to be in the budget for the Fletcher project. Tim said that it is possible that there will be other overages bigger than the one on make ready, and it makes sense to put the ARPA money aside for other items.
3. Metcalf Pond:
  - a. 4 members of the Select Board met at the pond on 6/26/2022 to inspect the water level issues. No decisions were made on 6/26/2022 but it was an unwarned meeting. Jon would like to report everything that occurred in a public meeting. The level was 18.5" on 6/26/2022. Residents told Rich that the level was 12" last year. It seems that there is one beaver dam between the outlet culvert and the ledges (the ledges is the 2<sup>nd</sup> dam). Last year two 4" diameter pipes were put under each dam. The Select Board discussed the need for 6, 20' long, 6" diameter pipes under each of the dams (for a total of 12).

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Jon moves to approve putting 12 6" pipes over the dams. The pipes would be perforated. The Select Board discussed that they do not know the cost yet. The Select Board approves the purchase and installation of the 12 pipes.

*The Select Board went into executive session at 7:45pm*

*The Select Board left executive session at 7:52pm*

**4. Roads:**

- a. Rich spoke with Tim at Fairfax Garage, and he said as soon as Fletcher calls Tim they can mow. Jon asked if there is an agreement in place with Fairfax. Rich said that at a past Select Board meeting it was discussed that they would either trade or pay for mowing. Jon asked Rich to speak with Tim about what he thinks the reimbursement deal is for mowing. The Select Board discussed that roadside mowing is a priority. There is \$5,000 budgeted for roadside mowing. Jon also recommended that Rich have a conversation with Tim about asking Fletcher when Fairfax could use the Town's help. Jon asked if Rich could help offload some Road tasks from Matt Gillilan; Rich said yes. Rich to ask Tim to keep track of time and fuel when they do mow.

**5. Cambridge Rescue:**

- a. Jon wrote up a history of the Cambridge Rescue situation and will send it to the Select Board. This is in preparation for educating residents on what occurred. Jon said he tried to write the document in a way that represents each Select Board member's view and asked that the Select Board review the document and let Jon know if something is missing or misrepresented.
- b. The Select Board discussed response time/travel time for the different rescues. Bruce will ask the Regional Planning Commission if they can provide the travel times for each of the rescues to all of the addresses in Fletcher. Bruce asked if the town could change the boundary between Fairfax Rescue Service and Cambridge Rescue Service response areas. Jon said that if the analysis shows that the response times would be shorter if the boundary was changed, then it would be worth presenting to fire and rescue.

**6. MCF:**

- a. Jon will ask Aimee to reach out to VLTC to ask if the ARPA money could be used to pay for cost overages on the Broadband project.
- b. The Select Board discussed the fiber that was run outside of town as part of the Fletcher project. If the cost would be part of the Fletcher project, then so would the revenue from those poles.

**7. ARPA:**

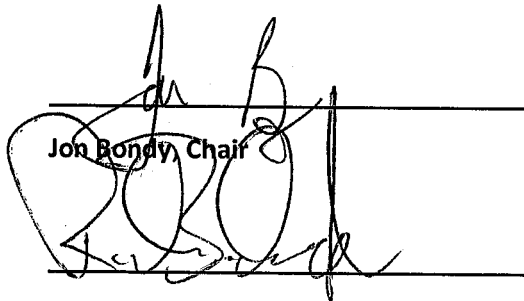
- a. Jon mentioned that the Select Board needs to make a decision about the truck so that they can start planning for all of the ARPA money.
- b. Bruce mentioned that the Historical Society still needs to provide a budget. Jon said that the Select Board needs to discuss if that is a good use of ARPA money. Matt mentioned that there could also be other grant opportunities for the Historical Society since it is an emergency shelter.

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- c. Rich mentioned that the Fletcher General Store said they would be interested in working with the Town to create a park next to the store. Jon said that is something that would need to be decided at a Town Meeting. Rich pointed out that there would be ongoing costs to having a park.
- 8. The license plate garage:
  - a. Chad and Jon spoke about the situation and Chad will come to a Select Board meeting once he receives one additional piece of information.
  - b. Rich mentioned that there may be someone interested in the property. Rich said there was confusion between Maurice and the person interested in the property and he will reach out and see if he can clear up the confusion.

*Jon left the meeting*

- c. Bruce looked up and saw that the property wasn't listed as a hazardous site.
- 9. Trade with Fairfax: Rich explained that years ago Fletcher did a trade with Fairfax. Matt Swartz said he thinks it would be great, but agrees with Jon that an agreement needs to be in place.
- 10. Adjournment: 8:33pm



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Jon Bondy, Chair

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Matt Gillilan




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Rich Bidwell

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Matt Swartz



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Bruce Douglas