

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
07/18/2022**

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

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

1. Call to Order: 7:12pm

Karrie Sweet and Maurice Rathbun joined the meeting

2. License plate Barn:

- a. Jon had a conversation with Chad. Chad recommended the Town sue the owner each year taxes aren't paid (the end goal being to collect the outstanding taxes). Jon said this solution is not great and asked Chad to provide a list of options for the Town.
- b. There is someone interested in purchasing the parcel. Since the parcel was an old garage with oil tanks that were buried, the state considers the soil contaminated. However, Chad thought the parcel was not contaminated. The owner was told by the state that the parcel is contaminated. Online, the parcel is named incorrectly as the "town garage," which is why it appears that it is not contaminated. Bruce will reach out to the state and let them know that the parcel is labeled incorrectly online.

Maurice left the meeting

3. Reappraisal:

- a. Courtney emailed the Select Board stating that due to errors that were made by the Listers, she will only address grievances on parcels that she personally appraised.
- b. The Select Board discussed the work the Listers are tasked to do and what work is getting done. There is a system transition that needs to happen, but none of the Listers are trained to use the new system. The Select Board also discussed the possibility of transferring the Lister duties to an outside firm. This would have to be discussed and voted on (or approved) at Town Meeting.
- c. Courtney, Jon and Rich are meeting a week from tomorrow to discuss the issues with the reappraisals and will report back to the Select Board meeting that follows.
- d. Jon will research the process for transitioning to an outside assessor.
- e. The Select Board discussed how important it will be for the Listers to correctly communicate the changes to property values once the reassessment is complete, emphasizing the impact on taxes rather than the impact on property values.

4. Board Business:

- a. Phone line in Town Office: Currently there is one phone line. Jon recommended that the Town use the phone company for voicemail, because if someone calls and the phone is busy, then it would go to voicemail.
- b. As long as everything works out, Karrie will be able to bring the budget to the next Select Board meeting.

Karrie left the meeting



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- c. Cambridge Rescue: The Select Board received an email from a resident encouraging the Select Board to push back on Cambridge Rescue's invoice. Jon sent a narrative regarding the history of the experiences with Cambridge Rescue to the Select Board to review and he asked that the Select Board review it before the next meeting.
- d. Town Meeting: The Select Board discussed the different topics that will need to be addressed at Town Meeting and how they can best prepare.
- e. ARPA: Bruce stated that he would like to see the Town spend the ARPA money on something out of the ordinary. Jon said that every dollar spent on something out of the ordinary is a dollar that is not spent to reduce taxes. Jon recommended that Bruce bring examples of "out of the ordinary" spending to the Select Board. Bruce mentioned that the Historical Society items and a park would be examples of "out of the ordinary" spending.
- f. Ash Tree inventory: Matt believes Ed has the blank map to fill in for the Ash tree inventory. Matt said he would like to see it complete before the leaves fall. Jon agrees that is a good goal.
- g. Roadside mowing: Rich mentioned that North Road was not mowed. Matt said that they are coming back to finish mowing. Jon said that we need to figure out how to pay or trade with Fairfax.
- h. Brush cutting: Rich asked what Town is planning to do for brush cutting and the Select Board discussed different options.

Aimee Tinker joined the meeting

Matt said he can look into what it would cost to buy the equipment to do the brush cutting and potentially trading that work for the roadside mowing with Fairfax.

- i. Speed Limit Ordinance: Aimee reminded the Select Board that the ordinance is in effect. Jon mentioned that the speed limit signs need to go up.


Aimee left the meeting

- j. Raises: The Select Board compared surrounding town wages with Fletcher's wages to see if Fletcher's wages are comparable. The Select Board agreed to update the following wages:
 - i. Zoning Administrator: \$30/hr
 - ii. Auditor: \$20/hr
 - iii. Listers: \$20/hr
- k. Metcalf Pond: At the last meeting, the Select Board decided to put in 12, 6" diameter pipes at the beaver dams. Jon would like to see the pipes installed soon enough to be able to see if they are working or not. Rich mentioned he would like to be there when they install the pipes. Bruce said he will donate 40' of pipe to the town. Bruce recommended that the Road Crew use the pipe he donated before cutting the other pipe. The Select Board discussed how the Road Crew can install the pipes.

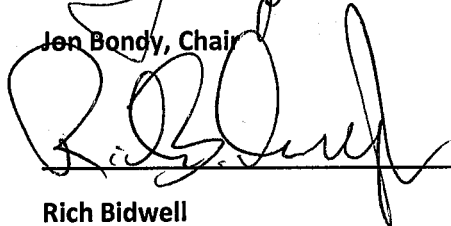


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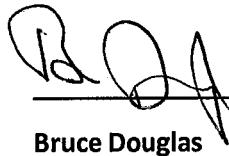
- l. Unwritten policies: Jon recommended that unwritten policies be written so that that they are enforced equally (for example, if someone puts in a new driveway and buys one culvert, the town the town will replace that culvert when it fails, on an ongoing basis). The Select Board discussed other unwritten policies that should be written.
 - m. Other policies: The Select Board discussed creating a road clearance policy. Jon mentioned that when this was discussed at a previous meeting, other Select Board members were hesitant to put a road clearance policy in place in case it risks the town being liable if circumstances do not allow the Road Crew to adhere to the policy. The Select Board discussed if there are enough members of the Road Crew to manage a blizzard. Jon mentioned that the policy would state a goal, not what the Town guarantees. The Select Board discussed what times would be feasible to say the roads will be cleared. Rich recommended to ask the Road Crew what schedule would work for them.
 - n. Matt is working on the dedication for Bob Sweet.
 - o. Metcalf Pond grants and aid is complete.
 - p. Buckhollow Road work will start on Wednesday.
5. Adjournment: 9:05pm



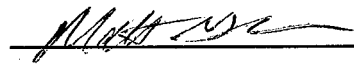
Jon Bondy, Chair



Rich Bidwell



Bruce Douglas



Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz

