

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
08/01/2022

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

Attendees: Chad Bonanni (Town's Attorney), Bill Stygles, Terrance Keating, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk), Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk), and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:00pm
2. Barking Dogs:
 - a. Jon explained that no formal complaint has been lodged and this is not a formal hearing. Jon was hoping that the dog owners would attend the meeting, but they are not present. Terrance explained that he didn't fill out formal complaint because he feels threatened and because the owners came into the Town Office and they declared that they were a farm he thought there was no point in filing a complaint. The Town Ordinance states that if someone owns a farm and their dog is trained to protect their animals, then they allowed to make noise if it is apart of their job. Tianna Sweet (dog owner) emailed the Select Board (attached). Terrance explained that the dogs will bark for an hour at a time and sometimes at 9pm. Terrance and Bill think that the owners have two dogs now. Jon suggested that Terrance keep a log of when the dogs start barking and when they stop barking and then also record the dogs barking, starting the recording by saying the date and time. Jon explained that Terrance will have to file a formal complaint (in writing). Terrance said that he will file a complaint if the barking continues. Terrance said that Bill did speak with the owners the other day and the barking has stopped, but he thinks it will start up again. Bill said he stopped in the other day and told the owners the dogs were barking, while the dogs were barking, and the owners claimed the dogs were not barking when they were. Bill explained the rules to the dog owners. Terrance said he doesn't want trouble and he just wants the dogs to stop barking. Matt Gillilan said that Terrance should file a complaint and email the Select Board if the barking continues.

The Select Board entered executive session at 7:18pm

The Select Board left executive session at 7:57pm

Chad left the meeting

3. Board Business:
 - a. Parcel 1826 School Road: The Lister's lost sight of this parcel and they would like to add it to the grand list. The Select Board approved putting the 4.1-acre lot onto the Grand List.
 - b. On-Site Propane: The Select Board received a letter from On-Site Propane offering a budget contract for propane. The Select Board approved getting on the budget for On-Site Propane.
 - c. Listers: Jon met with the Listers and they agreed that that something has to change. Ted, with the outside firm, suggested that the Town keep the Listers and the current outside firm involved and to have the Listers provide oversight to the outside firm. Jon



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asked that the Listers work with the firm to come up with a plan. Jon will meet with the Listers in one month to hear the plan they proposed. The Select Board discussed the importance of the Listers staying involved when the reappraisal letters are sent. Ted explained that the Town does not know what the property tax credits are for residents, so if someone received a letter saying "this is what your taxes were" and "this is what your new taxes will be," the amounts will not include the tax credits and can cause confusion. Jon stressed how important it will be for the Listers to carefully craft the reappraisal letters.

- d. On 7/25/2022 an anonymous letter (attached)² was submitted to the town saying that there is a homeless person staying at Metcalf pond "staring at the girls". Rich heard that this individual received assistance and they will have housing in the near future. The Select Board discussed that if the person was committing a crime, then the police would be the ones to address it, but there are no laws or ordinances in place against vagrancy. The person has permission to be at the store during business hours and to sleep in the Sweet's meadows.
- e. Snow plowing Objectives: Jon asked the Select Board to review emails and meeting agendas before the Select Board meetings.

4. Road Report:

- a. Buck Hollow has been reclaimed, and the base coat goes on tomorrow.
- b. Dams at the pond: The Road crew went down and said the 4" pipes currently in place are filled with silt. The Road Crew wanted to check with the Select Board if they want to spend the money on the 6" pipe, if there is a possibility it will fill with silt. The Select Board discussed how to move forward. The labor will cost more than the materials (approximately \$1500 for both). The Select Board discussed if it is possible to clean the pipes. Bruce explained that the problem with the silt is that it settles down in quiet water (as the beaver dam builds up, there is going to be more silt). Bruce suggested putting in two 6" pipes and see if it works. Rich thinks the Select Board should go with the original plan and see if it makes a difference in the pond levels. Jon asked if the Select Board would be willing to spend \$2000 each year to prevent flooding at Metcalf Pond. Matt Gillilan pointed out that the Town doesn't own the pond and at what point, if the pond level isn't impacting town infrastructure, does the town stop intervening? Bruce mentioned that Sybil has a rain gauge and that collecting that data could be helpful. Bruce will ask Sybil if she is willing to collect the rainfall data.

5. Board Business Continued:

- a. Broadband: Jon explained that Make Ready is where MCF goes to the pole owners saying they want to use the poles and asking that the owner make the pole ready. In some cases the poles are too short and have to be replaced with taller poles. The prices for this were higher than MCF thought it would be (over by \$20,000). When MCF said they would cover the \$20,000 overage, and contacted Northern Borders to adjust the expenses, Northern Borders interpreted that MCF originally submitted for reimbursement for something outside of the scope of the project. The Town and MCF



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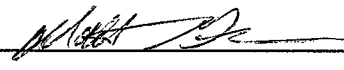
cleared up the confusion, but this means that MCF cannot cover the \$20,000. Aimee mentioned that MCF had said they would contribute \$150,000 to the project. Jon asked MCF about this and MCF said they intending to contribute the \$150,000 in kind to pay for the engineers for the project. Jon wants the Select Board to be prepared to use the ARPA money for overages for the Broadband project if needed.

- b. Ash Tree Inventory: Matt Gillilan will speak with Ed.
- c. Cambridge Rescue: Bruce reached out to the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to see if a drive time study can be done. NWRPC is hoping to get back to Bruce next week.
- d. Budget: Karrie can give the Select Board a budget statement, but it currently shows the applied \$67,000 surplus from FY21 used in FY22 budget as a deficit. We are working with NEMRC to have this not reflect as a deficit in our accounting. There is also an issue with representing the grants and understanding how much of the grant revenue is a surplus. Jon suggested that Matt Gillilan and Aimee meet to put together a spreadsheet that lists each grant.
- e. Cost for hauling sand: The Select Board discussed taking material cost, diesel, time, and mileage into consideration. Jon mentioned that a spreadsheet is needed so that it can be updated annually to update costs, wages, etc. Rich said that he does not think that anyone will haul sand cheaper than the Road Crew. Bruce asked what things aren't getting done because the Road Crew is hauling sand? This is the reasoning behind the analysis for the cost for hauling sand.

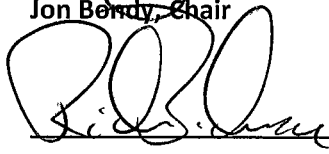
6. Adjournment: 9:05pm




Jon Bondy, Chair



Matt Gillilan



Rich Bidwell



Matt Swartz



Bruce Douglas

Fletcher Town Clerk

From: Tianna Sweet <tiannasweet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Fletcher Town Clerk
Subject: Tonight's meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi!

I hope this is the correct place to send this email, and my apologies if not. I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. (In regards to my neighbor complaining about my dog)

I'm not sure of what would be needed from me, however I just wanted to state a few things that may or may not be helpful.

My dog is a guard dog for our home and livestock, and does bark to alert me of something, or someone, being on my property.

She absolutely does not bark for over 10 minutes at a time, as I am home with my children, and bring her in if her barking continues for over a minute or two. She absolutely does not bark excessively at night (again, she may bark if someone or something is here) but I have young children and would not allow her to bark for any extended period of time in the evening.

I suppose she could bark when I am not home, however she would only be barking if someone was on my property. She is not outside (ever) if I am not home, and I'm not sure what I could do about her barking inside my home.

I hear dogs barking all the time, from all directions, on my road and am unsure of how he thinks it's only my dog barking. Again, unless he is on my property, in which case, she is trained to bark when someone is here, and she will not stop until they leave.

I am aware she is not licensed and is scheduled to get her updated rabies Saturday, and I will license her once that is done.

Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide, or if there is a better contact I should be sending this email to.

Thank you,

Tianna Sweet

Attachment #2

Dropped in Outside Box weekend
of July 23/24

The Fletcher Select Board,
I am a resident and concerned person.
There is a homeless person in our town.
What is the Select Board going to do
about this problem? He sleeps at the
store and there most of the day. If not
there he is seen in Sweets meadows. I
was at Metcalf Pond the other day, and
here HE is sitting at the pond staring at
all the GIRLS. I felt soooooo
uncomfortable that I took my kids and
left. The pond is a family place WE do
not need him there, our kids do not need
to see that!!!! Thank you Fletcher
resident Dated July 2022

