

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
09/07/2022

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

Attendees: Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:02pm
2. Road Report:
 - a. Buck Hollow Road was paved, and the shoulder work is planned for next week because material just became available.
 - b. The used truck that we hope to purchase for \$125,000 will be available in early October. Once it becomes available the Road Crew will have to inspect the truck.
 - c. The new truck ordered to replace the single axel may not be ready for Winter.

Matt Swartz joined the meeting

- d. Culverts and ditching were done on Howrigan Road.
- e. Grants in Aid is signed and ready to go, but the work will not happen until next Summer.
- f. The 6-inch pipes have been installed at the Metcalf Pond. The Select Board discussed that the Road Crew didn't involve Rich in the installation even though they were asked to involve him. Rich talked to Glen about getting the pipe lower and Glen thinks it may not be possible without equipment because of the dam is old and dense. Matt Swartz thinks the water level at the pond might be the new normal. Jon disagrees because the water flowing from the pond to the outlet has decreased. Rich explained the pond pictures the Town has to Matt Swartz and showed him that at one point there were rocks you could walk on to get to one island. Jon explained that there is a 10" difference in the water level between 2005 and now. Jon explained that the water level on the outlet side of the culvert is higher than it should be. Bruce pulled up a graph that shows the annual rainfall in Vermont is trending up. Bruce said he looked at aerial photographs over the years and the pond water level frequently varies. Bruce said that the Select Board has done a lot to try and mitigate the water level rise. Jon said it might be time for the Select Board to pass the project onto someone else (like a pond committee). Jon suggested that Rich go to the pond with the Road Crew before the next Select Board meeting. Rich will set up time with Matt Swartz and someone from the Road Crew to look at the beaver dams and pipes together. Matt Swartz said the Select Board has put a lot of work into the pond and has tried numerous things to solve the problem. Jon explained that without a high-resolution GPS to measure levels, everyone is just visually assessing the pond level. Jon said it would be interesting if someone had a high-resolution GPS the town could borrow.
- g. Box culvert easements are not completed yet. Matt Gillilan believes the easements will be signed soon. He contacted the engineer to ask if the culverts are ready, but he hasn't heard back yet. Matt Gillilan said they have a 1 month extension on the grant if needed.
- h. Rich mentioned that Glen should get more time in the grader.
- i. Sand pits the town uses are B&T Black Creek Farms and Wrights.
- j. Norman called Jon and let him know that the ash tree inventory was completed, but no one can find the inventory in the Town Clerk's Office. Ed told Matt Gillian that there

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were about 50 ash trees on the inventory and out of those, 6 trees are defoliated. Ed marked the 6 trees with paint, and he suggested that the town wait until next year before taking them down (to reassess their condition). Ed also said that none of the trees are a fall risk right now, but if they need to be taken down, then the road crew can do it themselves.

- k. Rich spoke with Glen about maybe getting a MIG welder to replace the stick welder.
3. Broadband:
- a. Jon explained there has been a lot of frustration with how the payments are made. Aimee has been trying to get the invoices paid as fast as possible. MC Fiber is having trouble because the invoices have been coming in two pieces and they said they do not want the invoices processed until the invoice can be paid in full (this will avoid invoices being paid in two pieces).
 - b. The Select board approved using ARPA money at a previous Select Board meeting for the broadband overages. Jon explained that they can't use the ARPA money until the contingency part of the broadband budget is used. Leslie said that fiber is going up by 60%, but they have purchased all but 4 miles at a lower price.
 - c. Karrie is going to come to the next Select Board meeting to speak to the Select Board about using ARPA money for Broadband.
 - d. Jon told Leslie that the Select Board already approved the \$26,000 of ARPA money, but that it isn't a guarantee that if MC Fiber asks for more money, it will be provided.
 - e. Matt Gillilan mentioned that the Select Board should be clear with residents that the 10% of profits the town could receive from MC Fiber would not be received immediately, since MC Fiber will not turn a profit for a number of years. Jon wondered if the town could receive money from MC Fiber; since the town cannot spend tax payer money on broadband infrastructure, can the town receive money from broadband infrastructure?
4. Board Business:
- a. Rich said Aimee suggested adjusting future agendas to say that there is an item about executive session if needed. Jon will check with The Vermont League of Cities and Towns.
 - b. Matt Gillilan said we received an email from the state asking if the town has locked in prices for salt yet. Matt Gillilan explained that the town hasn't received cost from their vendor yet.
 - c. Estimate cost for hauling sand: Jon explained that the maintenance cost is difficult to estimate. Estimated cost per yard is \$12 if the Road Crew trucks it and \$18 if they contract out to haul sand. Jon thinks this is a good exercise to do once or twice each year. Jon asked if there is anything the Road Crew should be doing that isn't getting done because they are hauling sand. Rich mentioned culvert maintenance and cleaning. Matt Gillilan said that this year the identification of what needs to be worked on has gotten better. Last year the Road Crew hauled 60-70% of the sand. Jon explained that if

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the Select Board wanted to pay an external company to haul sand, then the budget will need to be revisited. Jon reviewed the method behind the hauling sand estimate.

- d. The Select Board reviewed the snow plowing objectives document and Matt Gillilan will give it to the Road Crew to review and ensure that the document makes sense.
 - e. Budget: Jon explained that Karrie needs to revise the budget format and she will need to send a new version out to the Select Board. There is confusion on how to represent the \$67,000 that was applied to reduce taxes in the budget. Currently, the way it is represented in the budget makes it look like there is a deficit. Jon is going to speak with NMRC to discuss how they can help resolve the misrepresentation in the budget. Jon will send a new version of the budget to the Select Board. Jon will not go over the budget with the Select Board until everyone on the Select Board reviews the budget.
 - f. Hauling sand continued: Matt Gillilan said that this would be a good year to hire an outside company to haul sand because the town doesn't need as much sand.
 - g. MC Fiber trucks in road: The Select Board discussed the issue that there were MC Fiber trucks parked in the road without signs or flaggers. Jon spoke with Brian at MC Fiber and Brian said he will make sure they use safer practices going forward. Jon suggested that if anyone sees unsafe practices by MC Fiber, they should safely take videos of trucks.
 - h. No temporary Select Board Secretary replacement has been found yet.
5. Adjournment: 8:50pm

Jon Bondy, Chair

Matt Gillilan

Rich Bidwell

Matt Swartz

Bruce Douglas