

**Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting  
Fletcher Town Offices  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
09/19/2022**

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

**Attendees:** Karrie Sweet, Aimee Tinker, and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:05pm
2. Board Business:
  - a. Fletcher Rough Riders: The Select Board approved the Fletcher Rough Riders Snow Mobile Club to use Boozan Hill Road, the class 4 section of Mayotte Rd, Howrigan Rd, and Wright Rd in the Winter.
  - b. Budget: Jon moved to have the Town Treasurer make a prior year journal entry to our general ledger that will illustrate the use of \$67,000.00 as surplus revenue and reduce our fund balance by the same amount. The Select Board Approved.
  - c. The Select Board reviewed and approved the documents Chad prepared for the agreement between the Town and the Historical Society. The agreement will allow the Historical Society to use the old Town Garage lot probably as a parking area. This document will be published and eventually executed.

*Matt Gillilan joined the meeting via phone*

- d. Snow plowing objectives: Matt Gillilan will follow up with the Road Crew about the snow plowing objectives.
  - e. History of the Cambridge Rescue Squad (CRS) second draft: The Select Board agrees with the second draft of the CRS history document. Jon will send the document to CRS for their feedback.
  - f. Sand Hauling: The calculation shows that it is cheaper for the Road Crew to haul sand but hauling sand does prevent the Road Crew from working on the roads. Jon recommends that the Select Board makes a statement to authorize the Road Crew to haul a percentage of the sand, so that the Road Crew can spend more time working on the roads. The Select Board discussed what percentage of sand the Road Crew should haul. Matt Gillilan said that currently the Road Crew is probably hauling two-thirds of the sand. Matt Gillilan also mentioned that they are hauling sand during a time when other road maintenance tasks can't be done. Jon said that his general feeling is that there is always something that can be done that is more valuable/productive than hauling sand.
  - g. Draft letter to Metcalf Pond Residents: The Select Board discussed the draft letter, and they provided feedback (Rich provided his feedback via email which was discussed in today's meeting). Jon will work to incorporate the Select Board's feedback into the letter, and they will review it once more before sending it out.
3. Budget:
    - a. Jon explained that the exercise he would like the Select Board to do is to mark any line items in the budget that might need additional explanation to residents. Jon can then include this information in the budget report. They discussed the following:
      - i. Fairfax Fire: A 14,000 invoice from the previous fiscal year was received late.
      - ii. Gravel overage: The Spring of 2022 was a difficult mud season.

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*Karrie joined the meeting*

4. ARPA money approved to use for the Broadband buildout: Karrie said it is her understanding that when the town voted on Broadband, it wouldn't cost the town money. Karrie believes that if (for example) \$100,000 of ARPA money were used for Broadband, essentially it is costing the town money because the ARPA money could be used for something that reduced taxes. Jon explained that he sees both sides of the argument. Jon explained that if ARPA money isn't used for Broadband, it could delay certain residents from being able to connect to MC Fiber Broadband. Jon wanted to ensure that Karrie had a voice on the subject. Jon said that the Select Board doesn't have to get voter approval for ARPA money allocation, but he thinks the Select Board should give residents an opportunity to give input. Jon clarified that the Select Board has not been asked for or authorized \$100,000 of ARPA money for Broadband. The Select Board has agreed to use \$26,000 of ARPA money for broadband and \$125,000 of ARPA money for a used truck purchase. The Select Board will commit to putting any ARPA money expenditures in the minutes and out on social media so that people can provide feedback before the Select Board approves of the spending of the ARPA money. This will give residents the opportunity to provide feedback or express concerns. Karrie agreed that this is a good process. Jon asked Karrie to hold the Select Board accountable for this. Bruce thanked Karrie for bringing this to the Select Board.

*Aimee joined the meeting*

The Select Board discussed that not everyone in town will be able to afford to get MC Fiber installed. Matt Swartz mentioned that there are different grants residents can apply for to help with installation costs and his neighborhood received grant money to bring fiber up their road. Matt Swartz will contact the state to get a list of all the grants that are available so that the Select Board can provide the information to residents.

5. Listers: Aimee explained that her understanding is that there is a new online platform that the state is using for listers and assessors to provide information to the state. The Listers have not been completing all of their tasks for the state. The Select Board was contacted about this oversight because it could impact the funding the town receives from the state and the tax rate. Jon explained that the Select Board does not have the authority to tell the Listers what to do because they are elected officials. Karrie explained that the new software and rules are complex. The Select Board discussed hiring an external firm with oversight from a Lister. Jon said he is concerned that if the voters approved hiring an external firm, the timing needs to be well thought out so that the Listers are present after the reappraisal letters go out. The Select Board discussed the importance of the wording in the reappraisal letters and that the Town needs to be prepared to respond to residents who have questions about their taxes. Jon said that there should be a way to know what residents will be most effected by the reappraisal. The Select Board discussed that a plan is needed to set the Town up for success. Karrie and Aimee will speak to Benton when he is in the office on Monday.

*Aimee and Karrie left the meeting*

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**6. Budget continued:**

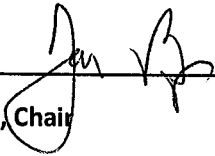
- a. The Select Board continued the discussion regarding budget line items that would need clarification to residents:
  - i. Equipment maintenance: Quite a few vehicles are over budget for maintenance
    - 1. 2003 MACK End of life (this truck is being replaced)
    - 2. Loader: 17 years old and had two large repairs
    - 3. Grader Blades: Doubled in price last year
  - ii. Attorney's Fees (DRB)
  - iii. Listers are underspent
  - iv. Diesel costs were up
  - v. Road signs unspent
  - vi. Building maintenance was unspent
  - vii. Paving reduction: Reduced paving to have money for box culverts
  - viii. \$11,000 grant where there is no revenue listed: Matt Gillilan will determine whether the corresponding revenue occurred in a previous FY or will appear in the next FY.
- b. Jon asked Matt Gillilan to figure out which grants we received money for in the FY and which grants we haven't received money for yet. Jon can complete a preliminary write up of the budget report for the previous fiscal year.


**7. Board Business Continued:**


- a. Ash Tree Inventory: The inventory can't be found. The Road Crew said they brought it to the Town Office, but the Town Office can't find it.
- b. NRPC said that they will provide a map showing the boundaries of the rescue coverage areas which is cleaner and with less clutter.
- c. Select Board Secretary: Bruce will post on the Fletcher Folk Facebook page regarding the need for a Select Board Secretary.
- d. Open Meeting Law and group emails: Matt Swartz found a presentation on open meeting law. He explained that he is not a lawyer and many of the items in the presentation have not been tested. Matt explained that the presentation shows that business should not be conducted, and decisions should not be made via group email. Matt Swartz said the presentation mentioned that editing documents online is okay as long as the comments are discussed in an open meeting and no decisions are made outside of the warned meeting. Matt did mention that there were some cautions in the presentation about social media. Matt Gillilan asked if it makes sense to add "Public Comment" on the agenda. Bruce thinks this is a good idea because it shows that there is always space for public comment on the agenda. Jon can try and add this to the agenda, but there are rarely attendees present at the Select Board meetings.

**8. Adjournment: 9:05pm**

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Jon Bondy, Chair

  
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Matt Gillilan

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Rich Bidwell  
  
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Bruce Douglas

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Matt Swartz