

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting
Fletcher Town Offices
Select Board Meeting Minutes
10/17/2022

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

Attendees: James Gregoire, Aimee Tinker, and Rachael Wilson (Secretary).

1. Call to Order: 7:04pm
2. Board Business:
 - a. Broadband grants for homeowners: Matt Swartz is researching grants for homeowners for broadband.

James joined the meeting

- b. James Gregoire: James is the current Representative for Bakersfield, Fairfield and Fletcher. James let the Select Board know if they need anything he can be available. He works on priorities for the communities. James mentioned that he is always looking at roads and infrastructure. One thing he always fights for is more funds for resiliency so that towns can spend money now to repair infrastructure, so that the infrastructure can withstand storms like the Halloween storm. James said he is pretty moderate. James believes government should be effective and efficient. James sits on the Human Services Committee. Currently he is working with a group on childcare and early childhood education. Rich asked what the Select Board would call James for and James said roads or if the town has a problem navigating an agency, James can help push things along. Jon explained the Metcalf Pond water level issue and the action the town has taken. Jon said the Select Board is struggling with whether it is the town's responsibility, the landowner's responsibility, or the state's responsibility to manage the water level of the pond. The dams are on private property and the state own's the pond. James explained that if the town gets to an impasse at some point along the way, they can loop James in for assistance. Matt Swartz mentioned that even though the town is working with Mansfield Community Fiber to make broadband accessible to residents, there are residents in town who will need to spend a lot of money to get connected. Matt explained that he is trying to research if there are any grants. James asked Matt to email him at JGregoire@leg.state.vt.us. The Select Board and James discussed the challenges for getting broadband to residents. James reiterated that he is always available.

James left the meeting

- c. Ash Tree Inventory: Jon and Bruce are going to work on creating a map for the grant.
 - d. Listers: Courtney is motivated to get the reappraisal done and done right. There is a lot of data entry that has to happen. The Listers need to complete half of the data entry. Jon is concerned that they will run out of time. Jon explained that when Underhill sent their reappraisals to residents, they used a pamphlet with a spreadsheet that showed information. Jon shared his opinion on the reappraisal communication that will go out to residents. Courtney is working on a document that will help the town put together an RFP for hiring an outside firm to help the Listers.
 - e. Metcalf Pond Water Levels: Jon explained that when the pond was at its lowest level this summer (15") the Select Board was told by pond residents it needs to go down 7 more inches. The water level was up to 26" this past weekend. When it was at 15" there was no flow through the culvert, when it was 26" there was a good flow through the culvert, and today (3 days later) when it was at 24" there was still a flow. The Select

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Board discussed different potential reasons why the water level is remaining so high. Bruce reached out to the beaver mitigation expert at the state today. The Select Board discussed that if someone were to kayak to the dam and place a water level gauge on each side of the dam to see what the difference is, that might be helpful information. Jon said the Select Board needs to decide if the town is responsible the water level of the pond. Rich said that they could put it to a vote at Town Meeting. Jon explained that if they brought it to voters, they would need to have a plan and a budget to present. Jon said that they could ask the voters to vote on whether they would want the Road Crew to go once every two weeks to rip out the beaver dams.

Matt Gillilan joined the meeting

Aimee joined the meeting

- f. Aimee explained that the town received the bill from CRS for \$2,000 with no report. The Select Board said this is expected and can be paid. If they receive another bill for the quarter, then it would need to have a report.

Aimee left the meeting

Jon moved that the Select Board go into executive session to discuss succession planning. The Select Board unanimously agreed to enter executive session

The Select Board left executive session

No action will be taken as a result of the executive session

3. Roads:

- a. Salt supplier: The Select Board received information from two companies for salt: Compass (\$89.38/ton) and Cargill (\$91/ton). Matt Gillilan said that Cargill is the better option.
- b. Used truck for ARPA Funding: Matt Gillilan said there should be something to sign for the \$125,000 used truck discussed over the past 6 months by the next meeting.

4. Board Business Continued:

- a. Select Board budget report: Bruce provided some feedback on the report. Jon asked that the Select Board read the report one more time and provide feedback again.
- b. ARPA: Jon thinks that there should be a page in the Town Report about ARPA spending and that the Select Board should come up with a list of recommendations. The Select Board discussed different ideas. Matt Gillilan mentioned that the current salt shed is an issue. Jon encouraged Matt Gillilan to speak with the Road Crew about pulling together a proposal for an improved salt shed. Jon is going to write something up on ARPA for the Town Report. The Select Board discussed the equipment replacement fund and they will add the \$50,000 truck to the list of possible ARPA expenses.

5. Roads continued:

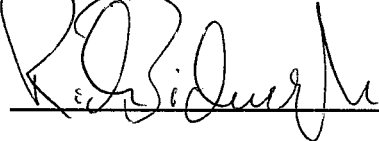
- a. Wrights Excavating has been hauling sand, but should be finished now.
- b. Box culvert and easements/right of ways: Matt Gillilan will look into the status of the easements tomorrow. The culverts aren't ready. Matt Gillilan said that there is some pre-staging on Boozan Hill Road. Goodhue and Cemcast have to honor their price even if the culverts are not ready for this year. Aimee is going to send an email for a project extension.

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- c. FEMA reimbursement: The town has received some reimbursements from FEMA for the Halloween storm.
 - d. Paving: Once the paving loan is gone (in approximately 3 years), the town should be able to topcoat everything on a schedule. Matt Gillilan has been keeping an eye on the paved road conditions to monitor what needs to be done.
 - e. Ash Trees: The Select Board discussed budgeting for removing 50 ash trees each year. Matt Gillilan will talk to Ed about how much time it would take to cut 50 trees per year and then what it would cost to hire someone. Bruce pointed out that it is recommended to chip the ash trees because the ash borer can't spawn in the chipped wood. Bruce mentioned the idea of planting trees in place of the ash trees. Matt Gillilan will speak to the Road Crew about planting trees in the right of way and if that causes any concerns.
 - f. A resident has been parking their vehicle on River Road in the town's right of way; it would need to be moved before plowing. Matt Gillilan is going to ask the Town Clerk to send a letter to the owner of the vehicle.
6. Other Board Business:
- a. The Select Board discussed the budget format and how it is confusing because all the tax revenue for the school and town are in one budget item. Matt Gillilan mentioned that Fairfax uses NEMRC as well and they might be able to explain how they format things.
 - b. Select Board Secretary: Bruce is going to put a posting on the website that he can link on Facebook.
7. Adjournment: 9:15pm



Jon Bondy, Chair



Rich Bidwell



Bruce Douglas



Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz