

Town of Fletcher Select Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Location: Fletcher Town Office
Meeting Date: 03/20/2023

Selectboard Members Present: Jon Bondy (chair), Rich Bidwell, and Bruce Douglas (recorded minutes)

Town Officials Present (as needed): Aimee Tinker, Assistant Town Clerk

Guests Present: Dave Clark, Jennifer Getty (both Fletcher residents)

1. Opened meeting at 7:00 PM
2. Election of Selectboard Officers
 - a. Chair – Bruce Nominated Jon Bondy; seconded Rich; passed unanimously
 - b. Secretary – postponed
 - c. Road Commissioner – Jon nominated Matt G; seconded by Rich; passed unanimously.
3. Town of Fletcher's Representative on the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District's Board of Supervisors – Dave Clark is the current representative and reported the following:
 - a. The vote for the bond passed by roughly 3800 to 1800
 - b. Jennifer heard Dave's plea for Solid Waste District Representative at Town Meeting
 - c. Dave stated that his term expires at the end of March 2023.
 - d. Dave stated that he willing to resign and recommended that the Selectboard appoint Jennifer Getty, whose three-year term would begin when appointed to end of March 2026
 - e. Dave would like to continue to represent Fletcher until after the next NWSWD meeting and is willing to stay involved if the NWSWD invites him to do so.
4. Jennifer Getty (of North Road) stated that she has been employed at the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) for 16 years and is currently an Accounting Specialist in CSWD's finance department.
 - a. Jennifer stated that she is willing to be appointed as Town of Fletcher's Representative on the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District's Board of Supervisors
 - b. The board voted unanimously to be willing to appoint Jennifer to be the Town of Fletcher's Representative on the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District's Board of Supervisors upon Dave Clark's resignation date in April
5. Green Up Day - Dave reported:
 - a. He is the Town of Fletcher's Green Up Day Coordinator. Dave can coordinate ahead of time with the Road Foreman, however he is not available on Green Up Day (May 6, 2023)
 - b. Dave will reach out to Glen Packard and recommend that the Town Crew hold off on picking up Green Up Day bags until Monday – and typically use one ton dump to pick up bags.
 - c. Jennifer stated that she will help Dave coordinate Green Up Day this year.

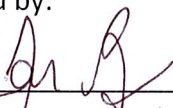
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6. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – Dave stated the following, as a member of the Town of Fletcher’s School Board regarding for school:
 - a. Dave and James Bell met with Matt Gillilan (Road Commissioner) last week – one of the problems that everyone has is parking for events held at the school
 - b. Black River design did a study for needs and identified need for more parking
 - c. Since the school is only facility in town where public events can be held – it would be a good thing to share ARPA funding to extend parking lot between basketball court and baseball for another 20 cars.
 - d. This proposed parking area would be gravel only, and they would put a gate across it so gravel portion would be closed off when not needed.
 - e. Matt Gillilan came up with back of the envelope figure of \$25,000. Dave is representing the school board and building committee of school board.
 - f. Dave left at 7:34 pm
7. Town Office Phone System – Jon will follow up with Karrie.
8. Road Issues
 - a. Jon pointed out that Alan Cary stated at Town meeting that the road crew has not been doing enough brush cutting to keep up with the need; and that there needs to be a plan for adequate resurfacing of gravel roads over time.
 - b. Jon heard that Matt Gillilan would like to continue as Road Commissioner, but would prefer to be off the Selectboard.
9. Rich asked Jennifer if she would be willing to be on the Selectboard.
 - a. Jennifer replied that she would be willing if someone stepped down or chose not to run for re-election.
10. Town communications connectivity for emergency vehicles (that Jeremy Ayotte brought up at Town Meeting)
 - a. Bruce stated that Brad Holden (Cambridge Rescue Squad Chief) has sparked discussion of this issue with Cambridge Fire Dept). It is a complex issue with no quick answer but it appears that the county sheriff departments may have a role in siting of radio communication towers
 - b. Bruce will reach out to Kathy Joachim (Fairfax Rescue Squad Chief) and ask her if FRS has any communication issues in Fletcher, and then he will reach out to the Franklin County Sheriff’s office to see if they have any information.
 - c. Bruce proposed that we could consider using ARPA funds (if available) for a study of communication needs.
11. Broadband Project – Jon shared update on the project status and his communications with Mansfield Community Fiber.
 - a. Jon reported that he had a phone call with Consolidated Communications. They told him that they are planning on building out most of Fletcher, but not along Rt 108. They would not hesitate to compete with another provider, but will have to have an inhouse discussion as to whether they would compete with a municipal broadband network.
 - b. The Town is waiting on a definitive current project budget from MCF

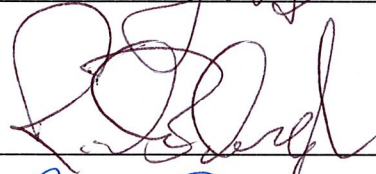
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- c. Jon will have a meeting with Kathy Lavoie and Aimee to go over finances.
 - d. NBRC says that the federal govt has interest in materials and the Town cannot sell excess materials
 - e. Important to get Fletcher 1 done
12. ARPA ideas – Jon asked for a review of the following ideas where discussed:
- a. Elementary school parking
 - b. Replacement of the road crew's one-ton truck
 - c. Use \$40K for one payment on the 2023 truck when it is delivered
 - d. Funding for Fletcher 1 or Fletcher 2 broadband service areas, if needed
 - e. BD Study to characterize emergency radio communication gaps in town
13. Cambridge Rescue Squad (CRS) – Bruce reported the following:
- a. Rob Holden told Bruce that CRS would be willing to provide a quarterly report to the Fletcher selectboard
 - b. Bruce will attend Cambridge Selectboard meeting tomorrow evening, when CRS is on the agenda.
14. Metcalf Pond
- a. No news about whether they have formed an organization to maintain the beaver baffles that were installed by the Town Road Crew last year.
15. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm


Minutes approved by:



Jon Bondy, Chair



Rich Bidwell



Bruce Douglas