

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office
July 10, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Members: Rich Bidwell, Jon Bondy, Bruce Douglas, Matt Gillilan, Matt Swartz

Guests: Jennifer Getty, Eva Gillilan, Glen Packard, Greg Tatro, Aimee Tinker

1) Call to Order

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2) Regular Board Business

G.W. Tatro’s Request

Greg Tatro (G.W. Tatro Construction, Inc.) brought in a letter, requesting the Select Board authorize use of Sweet’s stone pit during State of Emergency for repairs necessary from this storm’s damage. He said the State of Vermont would allow this while the State of Emergency was in effect. The Select Board unanimously agreed and Jon signed the letter.

Planning Commission’s Request

The Planning Commission requests the Select Board’s approval of their wish to appoint Cory Getty as the new Zoning Administrator. He has been training under Maurice Rathbun (current ZA) for some time. The Board agreed. He will be compensated at the same rate as Maurice, going forward and retroactively to when he started training.

Eva Gillilan (EMC)

Eva asked if there was any damage to roads from this storm. Glen said the road crew had surveyed town roads and there was no damage to report.

There was a discussion about the phone situation at the Town Office as there is only one line and people cannot leave messages when that line is in use. A second line would be helpful for people to leave messages if the main line is busy. It would also be beneficial during an emergency where the Town Office would be the operations center. Karrie/Aimee will reach out to Consolidated to set up voicemail service for calls that come in when the main line is busy, and will also look into options for a second line to be used in emergencies as needed.

Eva would like to hold a training session for the VT Alert system. Bruce and Matt S. offered to help and will take the training. Additional board members and office staff can take training as well. It would likely be a Zoom session.

The whiteboard and defibrillator which the Town purchased through the State grant have arrived. Eva and the Board discussed where to install them at the Town Office. Eva said there was about \$800 still available to reallocate within this grant. Eva suggested getting a 2nd laptop for her to use at home as EMC. The Board questioned if that was necessary, perhaps a tablet to be used as a mobile option during emergencies? Glen said the base radio is not yet installed (or

programmed) at the garage. A new antenna is also needed. The Board feels this will exhaust the remaining grants funds.

Bruce asked about the final Emergency Management plan. Eva will email it to the Board and Karrie/Aimee.

Roads Report

Matt S. asked how the grader's new scarifying bits were working out. Glen said they are much better at pothole repair as they can target the holes, making the process much more efficient and yielding better results. Matt S. also noted the recent brush cutting, saying he can see the improvements around town. He asked if the road crew would be weed-whacking guardrail sections. Glen said they've been working on this.

Lesley Combs submitted his invoice for roadside mowing. Glen said he missed King Road and Karrie got a call from a resident whose driveway he also mowed a certain distance. Matt G. asked Glen to speak to Lesley about this and have him mow King Road when he does the second pass through town.

Jon asked about plans for crack repair/pavement sealing. Matt G and Glen have been chatting with a vendor over the phone but do not have a firm cost yet. They would like to have the vendor come and assess our roads in person.

The Board discussed replacement of the one-ton truck (98 Chevy). Since the Town was outbid on the truck that Enosburg had available, Norm has been searching online and getting pricing. Jon asked if the current truck would go through another winter. Glen said it's not currently inspectable. The Board advised the road crew to keep looking for a suitable replacement.

Glen has been looking at vendors for possible installation of a gas tank at Town Garage. The Road Crew typically gets gasoline at the Fletcher Store (for portable generator, chainsaws, weedwhackers, etc.) but the store has not had a consistent supply lately, so they've been driving to Cambridge or Fairfax. Glen would also like to seek out other diesel suppliers as they've been having problems with our current vendor (Roberts Energy, who took over from Abba). Rich suggested getting a tank and pump installed by FW Webb (wholesale cost) rather than a fuel vendor as it would be cheaper. They will look into this.

The Board discussed installing guardrail sections on King Road (by Boneyard Farm) and also on Fairfield Road (by Sunset Drive). Matt G. said the guardrails vendor will soon be installing a small section on Fairfield Road and he will chat with them about these two additional locations.

Matt S. asked Glen about the road crew hauling our own sand and if he felt it was a good use of their time rather than using an outside hauler. Glen feels they are able to manage their time and their regular projects are not falling behind. Jon asked about pulling limbs and other debris out of ditches. Glen said they have been doing some of this, focusing on areas where Grants-in-Aid work will be occurring this summer.

Former "License Plate Garage" Site

Karrie asked about possible clean up of Lee Meunier's lot (formerly the "license plate garage") which contains hazardous materials and is so close to a stream. She wondered if there were State grants available for clean up in order to prevent contamination of that water source. Would this be something the Health Officer could assist with?

Matt S wondered about what exactly the Town could do in this situation – perhaps it was a Zoning issue? Bruce asked if the Town could put a lien on the property to be able to recoup any

funds spent on clean up. He will reach out to Regional Planning to look into possibility of a brownfields designation would could assist in the Town pursuing clean up.

Jen Getty said there may be funds available through our solid waste district, as they have a community fund which may be used for clean up such as this. She will try to find out more and report back to the Board.

Tax Rates/Reappraisal

There were 2 issues:

- 1) Current Use info wasn't factored in. This now has been addressed and those with changes will receive a letter for grievance CU valuations.
- 2) Errors & Omissions (22 parcels had errors) totaling \$213,200 of property value. The Board can accept changes as E&O this year or wait to correct them next year. If we wait until next year, tax bills will proceed as normal. If we process as E&O, the tax bills will be a bit delayed – we can set municipal tax rate, but would have to wait for educational tax rate info from state, causing bills to be printed/mailed out later than normal.

After some discussion, the Board felt moving forward with the E&O now showed transparency to the residents. They signed the necessary form for Karrie to send to the State.

BCA Appeals

Currently, only 4 residents have requested a BCA Hearing. These will occur the final week of July.

School Speed Sign – tabled until next meeting.

Marshall Road

Matt G and Bruce will be meeting with State officials and the affected resident later this week. They will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

03 Mack

Since no bids were received, Matt G will work with Aimee to put it back out to bid and post in online additional forums.

FY23 Report – tabled until next meeting.

Access Permit and Culvert Policy

Matt G will work with Aimee to draft something to bring to the Board at a future meeting.

Broadband

NBRC has responded to the Town. We've tried to schedule a meeting between all parties in early July, but holiday/vacations caused delay. A meeting is now scheduled for this Tuesday.

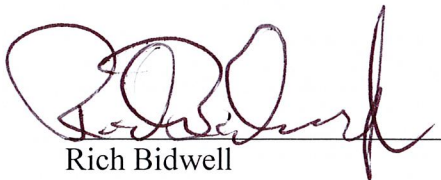
3) Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Jon Bondy, Chair



Rich Bidwell



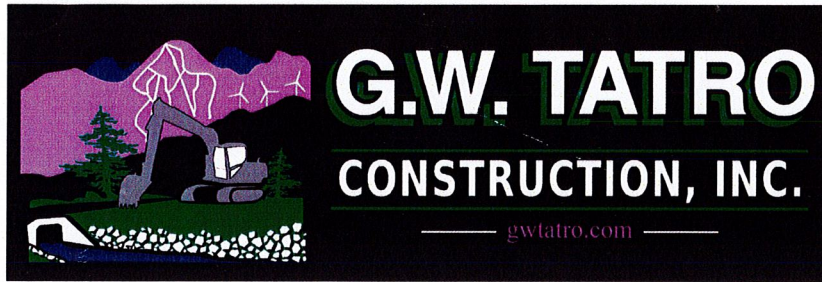
Bruce Douglas

Matt Gillilan



Matt Swartz

Submitted by Greg Tatro
at S.B. meeting 7/10/23



Selectboard of Fletcher

Town of Fletcher

Fletcher, Vermont 05444

Subject: Request for Permission to Extract Rock from Sweet's Quarry under Emergency Order

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to you regarding an critical matter related to the recent emergency flooding declaration issued by Governor Scott.

As you may be aware, Governor Scott's emergency flooding declaration has necessitated immediate action to mitigate potential hazards caused by the current flooding situation. I have been informed by the Vermont Natural Resources Commissioner that, under this emergency order, it is possible to extract rock from Sweet's Quarry to aid in flood prevention efforts.

Given the urgency and importance of the situation, I kindly request the permission of the Town of Fletcher, as represented by the Selectboard, to proceed with rock extraction from Sweet's Quarry until the emergency order is lifted.

This rock would be utilized solely for the purpose of stabilizing damaged areas, and restoring affected infrastructure in the aftermath of the flooding we will be experiencing.

I understand that this request deviates from the usual protocols and regulations, but I believe that authorizing this rock extraction is crucial for the timely and effective recovery of our community. By granting permission for the extraction, the Town of Fletcher would play a vital role in supporting the cleanup efforts and ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents across the region.

I recognize the importance of involving the Selectboard in this decision, and am grateful for

your ability to provide a rapid response to this request. I am available at your convenience to provide any additional information or address any concerns you may have regarding the post-flood cleanup efforts and the rock extraction process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering my request. I am confident that, by working together, we can effectively help restore our communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you require any further information.

Gratefully,

 7/10/2023

Greg Tatro, CEO of GW Tatro Construction