

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

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

**Guests:** Michelle Frennier, Caden Getty, Cory Getty (Zoning Administrator), Jen Getty, Eva Gillilan (EMC), Glen Packard (Road Foreman), Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, Select Board Clerk), Senator Rich Westman

**1) Call to Order**

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

**2) Regular Board Business**

A) Tara Sweet

- brought a draft of a newsletter, including a survey, to send out jointly to the Town. She hopes that she will get approval by the school board on October 10th
- Jon agreed to write up a one-half page summary if the School Board agrees to go forward.
- Michelle Frennier asked whether we could solicit and act on preferences of receiving the newsletter by mail or email. We will ask the Town Clerk about feasibility.

B) Eva Gillilan

- Brought all the paperwork for the Local Emergency Operations Center Grant
  - Amended to extend to 9/30
  - Will leave the materials with Aimee

C) Senator Rich Westman

- Jon brought up broadband issues that he discussed with Senator Westman on the phone
- Matt S just want to keep Senator Westman informed on our broadband issues in case he has a chance to weigh in
- Jon – we have received a letter from VCBB that we cannot get funding from them unless we join a CUD
- Senator Westman – the issue of state broadband funding will come back up in the legislature
  - Total funding \$250 M
  - Legislature took \$20M of that for flood relief
  - So broadband funding will come back up in the legislature
- Senator Westman asked for clarification of Fletcher’s current broadband situation
  - Jon said that about \$700K was already spent
  - We would like to install broadband in the whole town, but
  - We may only be able to afford doing Fletcher 1, which requires about \$30K above NRBC grant and VEDA loan

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

- Rich B brought up that we have been told by NRBC that we cannot use ARPA funding for broadband
- Senator Westman asked why that is the case
  - Jon we started out with a 50:50 match – that became unworkable – eventually NBRC agreed to and signed a match waiver. The waiver was given to us because the project schedule required materials purchases before labor expenses, and with NBRC paying for the materials and also requiring the match, here was no way to fund the project without the match. The match waiver appears to be the reason we cannot use ARPA funding. However, that may be no longer the case.
  - Senator Westman offered that he can find out whether we can use ARPA funding from the State Agency of Administration
- Senator Westman asked is there any other place to go for \$\$?
- Matt S – mentioned there were other pots of funding – he has looked at them and they predated 2021. We asked Rich W to let us know if he can find other sources of funding
- Jon was told by VCBB that due to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grant – federal money cannot be used to compete with federal money This means that Fletcher cannot get federal grants for our project at the same time that Consolidated is building out fiber in Fletcher. This would mean that we cannot use any federal funding until Consolidated Communications completes their build out of broadband in Fletcher.

- D) Jen Getty - wants the Selectboard to allow All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on Town roads
- Jen provided the following benefits
    - Would give town authority to know who is riding on town roads
    - Would be small source of town revenue, (for example Bakersfield charges \$10/ATV/year)
  - Jon asked if they could be required to have turn signals
    - Jen said some do and some ATV drivers use hand signals
    - Jen said you could require that the vehicles are registered and insured
  - Jon asked the board “Do we want ATVs on the road?”
    - Rich – no not rated for highways
    - Bruce – no,
    - Matt S – okay with allowing them
    - Matt G – safer than a bicycle
    - Jon – no
  - Rich B stated that most ATV owners want to ride in woods but go on the roads to get to the trails
  - Jen stated that to use trails without driving on public roads, people need trailers and places to park. The former is expensive and the latter is scarce.
  - Bruce is concerned about safety due to the death of a teenager on Kinsley Road near the Fletcher/Cambridge Town Line

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

- Eva asked about state organizations for ATV riders
  - Jen showed a map of ATV trails that she found online that lists local organizations who are responsible for trails in specific areas
  - Jen recommended that we should look at the Bakersfield ordinance.
    - Matt G asked Jen to reach out to about Bakersfield issue
    - Jen agreed to reach out to them and will email info to board
  - Caden Getty
    - His side-by-side has a roll bar
    - State of Vermont requires a DOT Helmet
    - It is an easy fix to add turn signals
- E) Radar/speed limit sign
- Jon stated that we want feature that blinks “too fast” over a set speed and the board wants assurance that this is what we are getting
  - Glen Packard will check with them before he orders one
  - Board agreed with authorizing Glen to purchase if roughly \$4200 and that sign will be on the southbound side of the road, north of the school, where the 25 MPH zone begins
  - Tara will check with the school board to ask them whether there is interest in paying for a second speed limit sign for the other side of the road
- F) Broadband
- Jon reminded the board that the board authorized hiring an attorney to review broadband documents and correspondence, and stated that he has signed the attorney’s contract. He met with the attorney last week to go over the documents.
  - He expects the attorney to deliver a path for the future sometime in the next week or so
  - Rich asked to have MCF come to November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
    - Jon will invite them to that meeting
- G) Glen Packard
- talked about a young man who approached him asking about employment on the road crew. Glen wants to try to have a road crew consisting of a range of ages, so that the crew can avoid having dramatic changes over the next few years as the older road crew members decide it is time to retire.
  - Jon pointed out general approach to hiring is:
    - Step 1 - do we have a need?
    - Step 2 – fund the position within the budget
    - Step 3 – try to find someone for the position
  - Glen explained that it was rare to have an appropriately trained person approach the town, and that we might want to take advantage of this situation
  - Jon recommended that the Road Commissioner should sit down with Road Crew and plan for the future

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

- H) Other questions for Glen
  - Rich asked – how are we going to keep track of gas use now that we have a new gas pump?
    - Matt G recommended weekly sheets to track gas use
    - Rich stated that it would be good if we can get into the habit for all trucks, including diesel
    - Glen will reach out to the pump company and ask about putting a meter on the gas pump.
    - Glen will borrow fuel tracking form from Fairfax that we can revise as needed
  
- I) Rich asked about the grader –
  - Glen stated it is now working fine
  - Glen said that the town used neighboring towns’ grader while ours was down and we exchanged use of chloride application while Cambridge graded our roads
  
- J) Road Crew Foreman Personnel Policy and Job Description
  - Jon reviewed documents circulated last week
  - Selectboard edited this together.
  - Matt S noted revisions and will send revised version to the road crew
  - We hope to have a new version available at the next meeting and then share with all road crew members for comments before approval
  
- K) Aimee:
  - Reported that the Town has signed the contract for lister services with Spencer Potter
  - Asked if we need to keep insurance on 2003 Mack ? Matt G said yes
  - Reported that the Town’s ARPA fund has \$254K unspoken for
  - Reported on FEMA grants – Kinsley & Boozan Hill funding \$443K spent reimbursed for 90% therefore \$400K remains to be received from FEMA
    - We have a line of credit to cover this as needed
    - We may need to borrow \$150,000 from that line of credit
  - Reported that we received MERP grant which includes no money. but will be getting this building and town garage assessed for energy efficiency
  - VT Electric Cooperative – looking for one municipal official for their emergency contact list – Matt S stated that we should give them Glen, Ed, Norm and Matt G in that order
  - Aimee provided Bruce and Matt G some Road Discontinuance examples last week and asked if we need anything else.
    - Bruce & Matt G both have received them and will review examples and get back to Aimee if more information is needed
  
- L) Bruce mentioned that he is meeting with State of Vermont Wetlands and Shoreland Protection staff for a field visit on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

- Cory Getty asked to also attend
- Bruce will provide details to Cory

M) Road Report by Matt G:

- Bob Lesnikoski did the road repairs on North Road
- Winter sand pile is done
- Radio upgrade is underway
- Currently the Road Crew cannot communicate with school buses by radio, but school can switch to the Town radio channel and call the Road Crew
- Grader invoice has been received and is roughly \$60K
  - Matt G will go to John Deere dealer (United) in Williston to negotiate a reduction
- 2003 Mack – a few offers for \$5K – \$6K
- Board authorized Matt to sell the 2003 truck for the best price he can get

N) Matt S will not be here for November selectboard meetings due to being out of state.

**3) Adjourn**

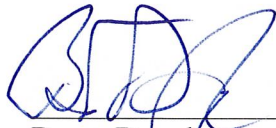
Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:55 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Bondy, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Gillilan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rich Bidwell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Swartz

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Douglas