

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
October 16, 2023  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

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

***Guests:*** Michelle Frennier, Cory Getty, Jen Getty, Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, Select Board Clerk)

**1) Call to Order**

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**2) Regular Board Business**

ATV Ordinance

As the entire board wasn’t present at this meeting, a more in-depth discussion will occur at the next meeting when all members will be present. Matt G asked if this would require a special public meeting like we had a few years back when the issue was brought before the Board. Jon said yes, and it’s certainly the right thing to do. Matt S is not able to make the regular November meetings, so a special meeting will be warned for Monday, November 27 at 7:00pm. This will give time for the Board to digest that evening’s discussion prior to the next regular meeting on 12/04.

Bruce will extend an invitation to representatives from Vermont State Police and Vermont Fish & Wildlife as well. As the Board anticipates a large crowd, Aimee will reach out to Fletcher Elementary School and possibly the Historical Society for availability that evening.

Personnel Policy

Tabled until first meeting in December.

Speed Sign

Glen has ordered the new sign, and it should be installed soon.

MTAP Funding

Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) is a state grant program which provides free technical assistance for accessing and applying for project funding sources. Jon filled out the preliminary request for information. Representatives from Regional Planning will attend the next board meeting to brief us on the details of this program.

Grader

Matt G is reaching out to the general manager at United Ag & Turf in Williston to discuss lowering the grader repair invoice. Payment of this invoice is due prior to the next meeting. Matt G is wondering what the Board would like to do. If the Board held out and chose to not pay at this time, we could incur interest charges. If we do pay, we lose leverage in our argument

against the high cost. The Board discussed potentially using ARPA funds for this invoice. Matt will continue to reach out to United. The Board could hold a special meeting to act on invoice payment prior to the due date.

#### Fletcher Roughriders

As in past years, the Fletcher Roughriders (snowmobile club) submitted a letter requesting use of certain Town roads for the winter season. The Board unanimously approved this request. Aimee will send a letter back stating the same.

#### Shaw Road

Jon was asked by Rick Russell where the Class 3 section of Shaw Road ends. Matt G says he believes it is at the driveway to Rick's shop. Matt G and Matt S looked at a Town roads map which shows it being Class 3 all the way until the last house (past Rick's shop). Matt G will look into this and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

#### FY23 Report

The Board discussed Jon's draft report and gave suggested changes. It will be reviewed again at a later meeting.

#### Planning Commission Appointment

The Board signed Jeremy Ayotte's appointment to the Planning Commission at their request.

#### Road Report

Matt G worked with Aimee to correct some mis-coded items in the budget.

The 2003 Mack has been sold to James Vaillancourt for \$6,000. He will be coming in soon to sign paperwork and pick up the truck.

The Board discussed getting a generator at the Town Garage and what items would be a true need during a power outage (water pump, garage doors, fans to circulate propane heat, welder maybe not). Jon feels it's important to be prepared. He looked at Lowe's and Home Depot but found it hard to compare different brands/models. Bruce suggests at least a 10kw propane-fed model. Matt G will ask the road crew to check into options at Exit 18, Johnson Hardware, and Milton Rental.

#### Town Clerk Raise

Matt G said it was brought to his attention that the Board failed to give Karrie a raise this FY. The Board had discussed this earlier in the year and that budget line was increased, but an hourly rate was not discussed. Her current rate is \$25.00/hour. The Board apologizes for the oversight and unanimously agrees to increase her rate to \$27.50/hour retroactively to July 1, 2023.

#### Broadband

The attorney has not yet completed his written assessment as he has been busy with other tasks. He spoke with Sen. Sanders who said that Town was given the option of having someone other than Andrea Smith as our contact at NBRC. Sanders' office has also contacted the Vermont Community Broadband Board regarding funding possibilities. Sanders said the delay was also due to NBRC's audit of the infrastructure.



Leslie Nulty (MCF) will attend the meeting on 11/6 and give a status report. Michelle said she thought the Board would be getting an update sooner as Rich had asked for that at a previous meeting. She doesn't want to be surprised by reports of any delays in getting people connected, especially before winter weather hits. Jon will call Leslie to see if they are on schedule. Jon said the Board had asked for monthly status reports from the beginning, but we haven't gotten them. Michelle feels we are tolerating their lack of follow-through, and we should get regular updates even if they are one paragraph emails. Jon agrees and will call Leslie. Michelle feels that if they are spending their own money (to make up for what was spent out-of-scope) they should be providing updates on how they are spending that money.

#### Meunier Lot

Jen Getty shared she has noticed containers of some sort of oil by the camper. Matt G said Lee had used these to start the previous fires. Jon asked Jen to take photos if possible. Jen has tried to speak to Lee, but he doesn't share much info as to his future plans. Matt G said the Fairfax Fire Chief chatted with Lee after the first fire and told him what local and State ordinances he was violating, but it didn't seem to matter as he had another fire a few weeks later.

Matt S (and Jon) feels we should follow our ordinance. \*\* After looking into it, it was determined the Ordinance adoption process was not fully followed. Aimee will resume the process so it can be adopted as soon as possible.

Jen suggested someone follow up with the State official who sent the initial letter to Lee and ask what next steps are. Bruce read from State regulations regarding using an RV as a residence. Jon wondered about reaching out to Rich Westman and James Gregoire – there may be nothing they can do, but it will add light to the situation.

Jen said the first thing to do is get the site tested, but it was unclear if Lee could afford to have this done. If it's not contaminated, it may be possible to use funds from NWSWD to help with clean up. It's clear he wants to clean it up, he's just employing poor measures to do so. Jen will try to speak to Lee and explain the situation. She will also try to reach out to some of his family and friends.

Jon said even if the site gets cleaned up, the problem of the lack of septic system still exists. Zoning is aware of this.

#### Town Land on Metcalf Pond

Cory Getty and Bruce met with Shoreline Protection and Vermont Wetlands specialists to walk the land. It was concluded it is not a viable spot for an access. The State will write a letter to Kim Werner stating the same. It was said that even if Shoreline Protection allowed this use and the Town wanted to grant access, it could only be for public use and not reserved for only one person.


#### Guardrails

Jen Getty asked about the status of guardrail installation by the Doyle property on Cambridge Road. Aimee will reach out to the company and see when they plan on coming to town.

### **3) Adjourned**


Meeting adjourned at 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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Matt Swartz

  
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Bruce Douglas