

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board  
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office  
January 8, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

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

**Guests:** Jen Getty, Karrie Sweet (Town Clerk & Treasurer), Tara Sweet, Aimee Tinker (Ass’t Town Clerk/Treasurer; Board Clerk)

**1) Call to Order**

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

**2) Correspondence**

The Board received a letter (Attachment #1) from Darcy & Fred Fletcher Jr. regarding ATVs on town roads. Per their request, a copy has been given to the ATV committee as well.

**3) Regular Board Business**

Personnel Policy & Job Descriptions

Jon made a motion to approve the personnel policy and road foreman/crew job descriptions. Matt G. seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Aimee will format the final drafts for printing and signing by the Board.

Generator

The discussion will be tabled until the next meeting when we will have quotes to review. The Board may put a line item in the new budget for an “up to” amount.

Budget

Jon suggested adding a new line item for law enforcement (sheriff or VSP) as it’s been brought up often in the recent ATV discussion. Using Fairfax’s budget as a guide, (they allocate approximately \$200K from a \$3M budget) Jon proposed adding \$60K to our budget for this.

Karrie will work to get all the necessary numbers for her section of the budget as well as soliciting the Listers’ information. Matt G. will work on completing the roads section. The Board can approve the budget draft on the 22nd, but Karrie will not be in the office that evening.

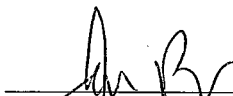
Tara Sweet gave a brief update from the School Board.

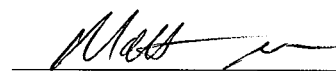
Karrie advised there was a new required State payroll tax (0.44 percent) for childcare (VT Legislative Act 76 of 2023) which will be added to each employee’s payroll, like FICA and Medicare. The Board agreed to fund the entire amount from the budget rather than splitting it with the employees.

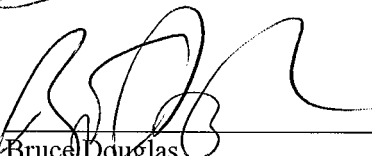
There was a brief discussion of when to give raises. Historically, they have been given at the start of the FY, but the Board would like to change it to the start of the calendar year.


**4) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

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

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

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

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

# Correspondence presented at Select Board Meeting 01/08/2024

Fred and Darcey Fletcher  
Waterville, VT 05492

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been asked by Fred Fletcher, Sr. of Fletcher to write about our experiences regarding ATV usage on our town road. We are residents and tax payers in Waterville for thirty-two years. During this time we have seen a marked down grade in the quality of our town roads due to ATV usage. Our road is full of potholes, washboards, and ruts.

When we first moved to our home, a common sight were kids on bikes, horses, and neighbors enjoying walks. Now, we as a neighborhood, have to be careful, especially on weekends, when the ATV travel is highest. We personally have been walking and have had ATVs go past without slowing down, kicking up rocks and dust. In conversations with our neighbors, we have heard many times how unsafe it feels to walk on roads.

Another detriment of note is the amount of garbage that is left on the sides of the road. Our road clean up doesn't just occur on Green Up Day. Most of our neighbors carry bags during their walks to pick up the refuse on the sides of the road. Beer cans and bottles, along with convenience food packages mar our scenic walks. We pick up the garbage and now the cost of disposal is on us.

Starting in the spring up to late fall, we have ATVs continually riding up and down our road. Even though the road is posted as 25 mph for ATVs, they do not respect the speed limit. Instead they drive fairly fast, fish tale, and go sideways around corners. We have had groups of ATVs turn around at the end of our driveway and make huge marks with their tires. Beyond our road travel, they access a watering hole on Streeter Brook and Lamoille north branch river. Not only are they washing the dirt and mud off, they are adding gas and oil to the stream. They drive through and destroy the vernal pools which are essential for fish and amphibians and destroying our natural resources.

Economically, they do not add anything to our town. Waterville and Belvidere do not have any gas stations and only one store between them. So the argument for our town that they bring in money is false. They actually add to the expense of maintaining the roads, which again, they bring in no money to our town, instead the burden is on the taxpayers. We also can share that there is damage to personal property, driving through fields and driveways. Road crews spend large amounts of time and money to maintain our roads and they ATVS drive on them and destroy them.

There are too many people in our town, who don't live on roads affected by ATVs that vote to keep them traveling our roads. We wished that someone would have told us the negative aspects when the original decision to allow them access. It was a bad decision.

Sincerely,  
Fred and Darcey Fletcher