

**Town of Fletcher – Select Board
Fletcher Town Clerk's Office
February 19, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Present:

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

Guests: Kelly Cummings, Keith Donahue, Pam Farmer, Jen Getty, Pam Jedlicka, Sandy Mayotte, Tara Sweet, Aimee Tinker (Ass't Town Clerk/Treasurer; Select Board Admin.), Mike Wells

1) Call to Order

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2) Public Comment:

Tara Sweet spoke on behalf of the School Board regarding child care at Town Meeting. The School Board was still working on finding an adult chaperone but they felt they would be able to find one, perhaps a para. Tara asked if the Select Board would be willing to split the cost with the school. The Select Board unanimously approved to pay half, up to \$250 per adult chaperone. Jon feels that not providing childcare could disenfranchise people from coming.

2) Regular Board Business

ATV Committee Update

At the most recent committee meeting, there was confusion amongst the committee members as to their charge from the Select Board. Jon said it was to research facts on the issue and come up with a proposal on which to vote. Some committee members understood that the Board would be creating a proposal after receiving information from the committee.

Jon feels the committee should draft a proposal as they will have been more well-versed in the topic. Jen Getty agreed that would make more sense.

Sandy Mayotte said the outline document which the Kinsley Road residents group gave the Board contradicts what Jon is saying.

Mike Wells feels it's important for the committee to remain neutral in their research which is relatively easy to do, but it will be hard to maintain that when they begin to draft a proposal which will then be voted on.

Bruce thought the committee was supposed to do the research, agree to a listing of facts, and bring that to the Board. A proposal would then be drafted afterwards.

Rich thinks the committee should look at proposals and/or ordinances from other towns that allow ATVs on their roads and use them as a guide. He feels the committee should be creating a proposal and not the Board.

Mike said the committee has already received lots of questions and concerns to address and this will be a long process. Jen agreed.

Mike also feels that it will be difficult for the committee to agree on drafting a proposal as there are committee members on both sides of the issue. How can those opposed to ATVs on town roads agree on a proposal when they will vote against it? He doesn't foresee the committee being able to come to an agreement.

Jon suggested that the process occur in phases:

- 1) Compile questions and concerns
- 2) Try to answer/address them
- 3) Bring that data to Select Board
- 4) Board can then move forward with having the committee draft a proposal

Kelly Cummings brought a flow chart she created, suggesting how the committee's work could progress. (*attached)

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Jon said the Board has always made a habit of not acting on something immediately after receiving it, such as this handout. He suggested the ATV committee review it and give feedback to the Board.

Sandy said she is just one member of six on the committee. She joined it without any predetermined opinion and is open to all thoughts and opinions on the issue. She feels there may be more of a grey area than Kelly's handout states.

Pam Farmer feels the committee has been working well together and will be able to complete the fact-finding and present that information to the Board and the public.

Rich asked if Jen and Mike (and rest of the committee) were now clear on what the Board has asked of them. Mike and Jen said yes – the committee will gather the facts and answer the questions and concerns that have been submitted and bring their findings back to the Select Board.

Mike said they are currently working through understanding the State Statutes on ATVs and then will move to address the questions and concerns.

Rich asked if the committee had reached out to any other towns. Jen said not yet, but they will be later in the process.

Matt S thinks the committee has to utilize the submitted questions and concerns, organizing them and separating opinions from facts. He won't address Kelly's handout at this time as he needs time to read it thoroughly. He also wants to respect the process. He feels research of State Statutes and facts need to happen before any public informational meeting and certainly before any vote.

Jen shared that when the ATV email address was set up, it included an automatic reply, thanking the individual for contacting the committee and stating they will not be responding to individual emails. Jen respectfully asked that the Board members not respond to any email they receive directly about ATVs, or to those which they may have been cc'd. She feels it's important that the Board stay neutral and let the committee do their job. The Board agreed.

Generators

The new generator at the Town Garage will be installed on a cement pad with gravel around it. Aimee will work with Shawn Bishop and the road crew to schedule the work.

The generator at the Town Office also needs gravel around it so mowing won't be as much of an issue. A short fence can be also installed around it to prevent grass clippings and debris from clogging the air vent. Aimee and Rich will work with Brenda Trenholm (who mows our lawn) to accomplish this work in the spring.

Bench at Town Office

Matt Swartz noticed last fall that the bench by the Town Office had deteriorated. He will work on refurbishing it this spring.

Town Meeting Presentation

The Board discussed and edited the slideshow to be presented at Town Meeting.

Personnel Policy

After the policy was signed, Craig had shared some comments and concerns with the Board. He had also spoken with Karrie Sweet who shared some of Craig's concerns. Jon went over these issues:

- Health Insurance: Payout too high? Board feels it should be kept as is.
- Holiday list: Follows State list. Craig is ok with it, but Karrie wondered about Town Meeting Day as it's a default work day for her and Aimee.
- Working on holiday by choice: Could float the day to future day off? Jon will speak to Karrie about addressing this at a future meeting.

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- PTO vs Vacation time: Verbiage in current policy does not sync. Craig suggested using straight CTO as a remedy.
- Amount of time off for new employee: Could withhold one week of payroll to allow for review. Would allow us to have at least one paycheck held if an employee quits.
- Vacation leave for PT employees: Prorated?

The Board will discuss the above items at a future meeting when both Craig and Karrie can be present.

Listers' Extension Letter

The Listers needed authorization from the Select Board to request an extension to file the final Grand List in order to correct a current use issue for two properties. Jon signed the request on behalf of the Board.

Broadband


Jon gave an update on the broadband project. There was a Zoom meeting a few weeks ago with all parties, led by NBRC, outlining their expectations going forward. Another meeting will occur tomorrow with Jon, Aimee, Kathy (NRPC), Leslie (MCF), and our attorney to discuss final budget and the plan forward.

Other

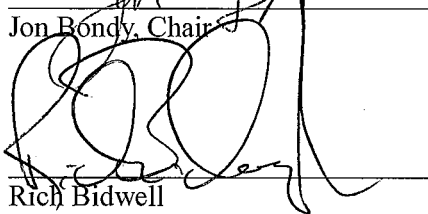
Rich asked about installing snow fence on Fairfax Road by Lynda Sweet's fields. This had been discussed a year ago but was never acted upon. Jon said that Rugg Road has similar issues as do other spots in Town. Rich will speak to Craig about reaching out to the landowners.

3) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.



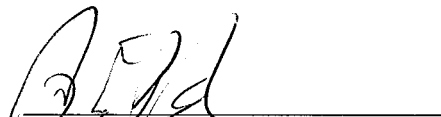
Jon Bondy, Chair



Rich Bidwell

Matt Gillilan

Matt Swartz



Bruce Douglas

Submitted by Kelly Cummings at 02/19/2024 SB Meeting

