

Select Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Select Board (SB) Members: Jared Cadwell (Jared) and Chuck Martel (Chuck)

Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis (Patti)

Road Foreman: Stuart Hallstrom (Stuart)

Minutes Recorder: Lisa Koitzsch (Lisa)

Guests: Craig Eilers, Eilers Financial (Craig); Jeremiah Rutledge (Jeremiah); Matt Lillard (Matt); Natalie Vasseur (Natalie)

1. Budget Meeting with Craig Eilers regarding Health Insurance:

Jared called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Craig reported on a new product by Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2020 but he does not feel he can recommend it to the Town at this time. Patti said the 2019 MVP insurance has worked well for most of the employees with only a few minor issues. Craig discussed some of these issues with the Board. Craig talked to the SB about the MVP health care plans available for the Town in 2020. The same plan has had an increase of 11.5%. Craig presented numbers from two other MVP plans and one Blue Cross Blue Shield plan that could be comparable, although all were more expensive than the current plan the Town has. Jared said the SB will work with the numbers from the MVP Gold HDHP Plan for the purposes of the 2020 budget and will conduct a meeting with staff to go over these details. Patti suggested Monday the 18th at 8:00 a.m. The decision on the Town's health care plan will be an agenda item on the 11/26/2019 SB meeting.

The SB discussed several additional line items in the 2020 budget including Elections, Town Report, Legal, Audit, Fire Warden, Public Safety, Solid Waste Alliance, Contingency, Municipal Building including Cleaning, Electricity, Heat, Maintenance and Telephone. Several items will have to be discussed at a future budget meeting when more cost information is available.

The budget portion of the meeting ended at 4:57 p.m. The next meeting is on 11/26 but Chuck suggested setting another budget meeting before this date. Patti suggested Monday the 18th at 9:00 am after the Health Plan Meeting. All agreed.

2. Regularly Scheduled Select Board Meeting: Jared called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
3. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2019. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.
4. Fayston Elementary School Matter: The HUUSD School Board (School Board) intends to meet tomorrow evening at 6pm to discuss planning and budgeting moving forward. The SB has concerns about what actions will be taken. In anticipation, the SB asked the Town Attorney to review the articles of agreement and comment on any motion that may be presented regarding planning for the Fayston school closure. Jim Barlow, Town Attorney, reported the articles do allow the School Board to pass a motion to plan for a school closure but not a motion to close a school. Jared mentioned that semantics were important and said the SB was going to pay very

close attention to how the School Board proceeds. Chuck pointed out that the Valley Reporter had also published an opinion by local attorney Lauren Kolitch. Jared said Jim Barlow's letter is public record and copies are available to the public at the Town Office. Matt said the School Board has sought legal review on three different occasions with similar conclusions and requested that no more legal opinions be sought at taxpayer expense. Jared said it is incumbent on the School Board to take a good look at the status quo delivery of education vs. the school closure evaluation of cost and benefit. The SB is responsible for the town property that taxpayers have equity in, such as the Fayston Elementary School, and the Town needs to be smart about what is being delivered. Jared has spoken to the School Board chair and told her to include the Fayston SB in any conversation regarding the school building and the analysis of any future use. Chuck asked at what point in time does the Town know when to be concerned about the building and stated the issue is very confusing. Jared stated the SB would wait to take any action until they hear the outcome of tomorrow's vote. Natalie asked about the school bond and whether the School Board would ask for a vote for closure at Town Meeting. Jared reiterated the SB will take no further action until they know what the School Board's intentions are. He added that no school closure can take place prior to 2021 unless Fayston voters vote to close sooner.

5. Road Foreman Update:
 - a. The crew was out plowing in the recent snowstorm.
 - b. Two trucks had minor mechanical issues but the repairs can be done in the Town garage.
 - c. The culvert on Stagecoach Road was plugged with leaves. There was a suggestion that perhaps Alan Solomon could move his fence back so the ditch could be improved properly.
 - d. The Town does have water rights to the gravel pit spring. Stuart is trying to reach Steve Lindsay to discuss the issue with him.
6. Dog Ordinance Review: Jared explained the SB was reviewing the Fayston Dog Ordinance because of language needed in the Boyce Road Town Forest Interim Plan. Chuck reported that he had edited the current Ordinance and found several areas that could be clarified and improved. Jeremiah, the Town's Animal Control Officer, stated that much of the language in the Ordinance was dependent upon the good judgement of people. The Ordinance is for the Town's protection and all agreed to continue to review and refine the document.
7. Interim Management Boyce Hill Town Forest Plan Review/Acceptance: December 10th is currently the date for closing on this gift of land. Jared made a motion to approve the Boyce Hill Town Forest Interim Management Plan with proposed edits to the language referring to dogs and to winter parking and to allow the SB to sign the plan outside of a SB meeting. Chuck seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.
8. No Appeal or Suit Pending Certificate: Jared and Chuck signed the certificate for 2019 as presented by the Fayston Listers.
9. Email System Policy: A policy was drafted for the Town's Email Information System based on the original letter sent to all Fayston taxpayers. There are 398 people who have signed up to receive periodic information from the Town. Patti reported that this method of communication has been working well and is a useful way to engage with taxpayers. Chuck made a motion to approve the policy with a small typographical correction and to allow the Policy to be signed outside of a SB meeting. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.

10. Select Board Approval to Bid at Tax Sale: Tax sale on three properties is at 11:00am tomorrow and the SB agreed to bid on any/all properties if there is no other interested party doing so. Chuck will represent the Town at the tax sale.
11. Reschedule 12/24/19 SB Meeting: The Select Board meeting originally scheduled for Christmas Eve was rescheduled for December 17th, 2019.
12. The SB read mail & signed orders.
13. Other Business: None.

At 5:58 p.m. Jared made a motion to adjourn the SB meeting. Chuck seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

The next SB meeting is **November 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Robert Vasseur Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa O. Koitzsch

Approved: Jared Cadwell