

**Select Board Budget Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2019**

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

Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis (Patti)

Minutes Recorder: Patti Lewis (Patti) for the Budget Portion and John Weir (John) for the Regular SB Meeting

Guests: Lisa Koitzsch

1. Budget Meeting: Jared called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Items Reviewed:

Fire Department Reserve and 2019 Invoice. Question was asked if the overage in the fire department operating line item could be taken from the reserve account for the purchase of equipment (generator and radios). Patti will ask the accountants for their opinion.

SB reviewed the capital budget and program spreadsheets and reconciled with the budget work sheets.

SB reviewed and made decisions on all the requests for donations. For those that did make the cut, or had reduced allocations, letters will be sent to them now for their information and to allow them time to petition if they so desire.

SB asked that Patti follow up with the telephone company to get a clearer understanding of what a new system might cost. The current system is antiquated and some functions do not work due to the most recent lightning strike.

SB set their next budget meeting on 1/6/20 at 10:30 a.m.

SB decided to hold employee reviews on 1/8/19 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Chuck made a motion to adjourn the budget meeting. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

2. Regularly Scheduled Selectboard Meeting: Jared called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
3. Minutes: Chuck made a motion to approve Selectboard (SB) minutes of December 10, 2019 as well as the joint Fayston-Waitsfield Selectboard minutes of December 11, 2019. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.
4. Road Foreman update: Stuart Hallstrom (Stuart) was not present for a road foreman update.
5. Road Expense Spreadsheet (Originally #6 on the agenda): The SB reviewed the road expense spreadsheet as prepared by Patti subsequent to the joint meeting with the Waitsfield SB on December 11, 2019. Jared stated that Patti and Trevor Lashua (Trevor) of the Town of Waitsfield were attempting to use the same variables to calculate mileage for the respective

towns. Each year Waitsfield pays to the Town of Fayston a calculated amount for the 1.5 miles of road plowed by the Fayston road crew. That 1.5 miles consists of the Waitsfield sides of North Fayston Road, Center Fayston Road and Bragg Hill Road. Waitsfield, in turn, plows .5 miles of the Fayston sides of Airport Road and Carroll Road. Patti came up with the cost per mile based on salaries, health insurance, dental, retirement, diesel fuel, sand, uniforms, liability insurance, FICA, equipment costs at a FEMA rate, repairs, and oil. That total cost per mile is \$11, 656.21. This also includes the salt used by Fayston on the Waitsfield portions of North Fayston and Bragg Hill Roads. Waitsfield maintains unpaved sections for the Town of Fayston which would not include salt costs. The SB is waiting for the Waitsfield number before a final decision on what Waitsfield's contribution might be for 2020.

6. Other Business (Originally #8 on the agenda): The SB discussed the audit engagement letter from Fothergill, Segale & Valley (FSV). Per the SB decision, FSV will perform a full audit for 2019 for the amount of \$13,500. They have outlined a contract for the Town. Chuck made a motion to approve the contract. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carried. Jared signed the contract on behalf of the Town. The audit is scheduled for January 14, 2020 and January 16, 2020.

Jared asked John about the fireworks in the Bragg Hill/Moulton Road area. Two residents have complained about fireworks late at night, sometimes in the early morning. Fireworks were heard at 1:00 a.m. the prior Friday, as well as around midnight on Sunday. John is actively engaged in stopping any more displays causing nuisance to neighboring properties.

The SB must set a date for the capitol budget. Whereas the regional planning commission presented it to the Town before, it is now done all in-house. There must be a 15-day notice period before the public hearing. Warning should be published in the Valley Reporter next week. The SB agreed to set the public hearing for January 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

7. The SB read the mail and signed the orders.
8. Boyce Hill Town Forest (Originally #5 on the agenda): The SB wanted to discuss the request made by George Schenk (George) to remove 32 yards of field stone from the Boyce Town Forest in return for a certain sum of money. The stone would be used for small outbuildings at Lareau Farm. Jared stated that the SB did get an opinion on the matter from the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) which holds the conservation easement for the property. VLT made clear that the Town is pretty restricted in matters such as this. Lisa (Fayston Conservation Commission - FCC) stated that she got an immediate response from Caitlin Belcher (Caitlin) of the VLT which pointed to the easement itself and saying that no stone, gravel, topsoil, or anything can be removed from the property. It is the opinion of the FCC that the Town should adhere to this language. Given that there has yet to be public participation via public hearing on a final management plan, there may be room for discussion on this and other topics related to the property in the future. At this stage, given an interim management plan in effect, it is recommended to follow a restrictive course. Lisa believes there may wiggle room in the easement itself which would allow for the Town to possibly use the stone for a rock wall etc., rather than use by an outside party. Jared believes the SB should say no to George in this instance given the interim management plan stage. Jared believes it would be useful to have a separate conversation with VLT to discuss these types of situations and interpretations of the easement. This will go a long

way to aid in drafting of the final management plan. Chuck, on behalf of the SB, will notify George.

The SB asked Lisa about the signage for the Boyce Hill Town Forest, given the invoices received from Wood & Wood. Lisa presented Wood & Wood with what she wanted the signs to say, and they are working on the design. There will be one sign at the gate and three signs at various trails which come onto the property. The trail signs will relay to the public that you are now leaving public property and entering private property. Lisa already put the stakes in the ground. Once the signs are complete, Ned Kelley (Ned) will attach them to the stakes already set. Jared wanted to let Ned know he should also do the Town of Fayston signs for the historic district. Lisa also ordered generic signs advising warning of the cellar hole, no public parking and a no parking sign for the snow plow turnaround. Lisa will be reimbursed for these aluminum signs.

Lisa met and walked the property with the county forester. He provided a good deal of information and various options as to the property's plant species going forward.

At 5:29 p.m. Chuck made a motion to adjourn the SB meeting. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

The next SB meeting is **January 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Robert Vasseur Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

J.B. Weir

Approved: Jared Cadwell