

MINUTES FOR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 6:00 pm

Robert Vasseur Town Hall, Zoom

Select Board Attendees: Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), Michael Jordan (Mike)

Town Clerk/SB Assistant: Patti Lewis

Minutes Taker: Betsy Carter

Guests: Tony Italiano (MRVTV), Don Simonini, John Malter, Lisa Loomis,

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.**
- 2. Approve Select board Minutes of December 28, 2021**
 - a. *Motion to approve select board meeting minutes from December 28, 2021 by Chuck, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.*
- 3. Approve Budget Minutes of December 16 and 28, 2021**
 - a. *Motion to approve the budget meeting minutes from December 16 and 28 by Chuck, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.*
- 4. Road Department Update: Radios**
 - a. Don Simonini has reached out to Burlington Communications to test out new radios for plow trucks/road crew.
 - b. One portable and one plug in; according to road crew they work marvelously throughout the Town.
 - c. Burlington Communication has towers all over Vermont to enable coverage all in the state.
 - d. The VHF signal is spotty throughout the Town; UHF is newer, more sophisticated technology that the police use.
 - e. Don recommends 6 radios; road crew would like more to cover grader and bucket loader.
 - f. This budget (\$14,000) could be covered by ARPA if radios are used for COVID reasons (road clearance for MRVAS access).
 - g. Various budgets provided by Don. \$7,300 covers 4 radios. Number of radios and budget will need to be discussed with Stuart.
 - h. Both Waitsfield and Fire Department are investigating moving to UHF system. Common (mutual aid) frequency can be created as well as separate town frequencies.
 - i. \$18/month per radio is the only ongoing user fee through Burlington Telecom. No additional licensing fee (\$600-800) as previously stated.
 - j. Next step is to coordinate with various interested groups within the Valley for a meeting with Burlington Communications.
- 5. Mad River Resource Management Alliance Update**
 - a. The Hazardous waste collection event had 31% participation from Fayston (only one event held in 2021). Second event was unable to be held due to contractor resource availability.
 - b. RFQ resulted in one bid with 40% cost increase.
 - c. April 2 and August 20 will be new dates for waste collection. Commercial waste will have to be separated from household waste and collected separately; additional public education will be required.

- d. Other items:
 - i. 800+ tons of food wasted collected via commercial collection services.
 - ii. 239 tires collected during Green Up Day.
 - iii. Textile recycling company has set up bins at Earthwise Transfer Station and will accept clean & odorless clothes at drop box; almost 7 tons of textiles collected in 6 months.
 - iv. 28 compost bins a 3 green cones and ongoing composting workshops.
- e. 2022 Assessment will stay at \$7; \$77 increase for the Town of Fayston based on 11 person increase in population from 2020 census data.
- f. MRRMAS requesting approval for the budge and continued representation from Fayston.
- g. Jared: How often is an outside audit done? John: Central Vermont Planning Commission completed one about 7 years ago. We are going back to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be covering.
- h. Chuck: John has been doing an exceptional job holding this together during COVID. I believe the \$7 per capita is ok for this year, but this will be hard to maintain going forward.
- i. Jared: Do you anticipate ARPA funds helping something like the Alliance? John: No. We've looked into it but per the EPA, it was not considered part of the available funding. It could change.
- j. *Motion to accept the financial report, the \$7/capita charge (\$9,548 total), and appointment of Chuck Martel as Fayston's representative for another year by Chuck, seconded by Jared. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.*

6. Decision on Town Meeting Day Processes

- a. Due to the current pandemic status in the state and Valley and in the interest of public safety, the the Town meeting information session(s) will be remote with Australian ballots for voting on Town Meeting Day.
- b. Ballots will be mailed as requested by voters.
- c. *Motion to conduct the Town of Fayston Town meeting by Australian ballot for all elections and articles with at least one(1) remote informational session within 10 days prior to town meeting day by Jared, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed.*
- d. Information meeting date TBD.
- e. Jared: How early can absentee ballots be requested? Patti to confirm if ballots have to be made available 20 days prior to town meeting day.
- f. Patti: Should we mail out notification postcards in addition to MailChimp? It's about \$500-600 cost. Chuck: Can we consider this part of the ARPA funds since we're doing this because of COVID? Jared: We'll have to check but mailing a postcard should be done.
- g. Warning will need to be approved at January 25 meeting.

7. Discuss Vacation Time Policy

- a. Sometimes town employees do not use all their paid vacation days in each calendar year. The question is if the Town should adopt a carry forward/rollover policy to the next year, or issue a credit to the employee for paid days not used.
- b. Mike: I think we need to have a policy that encourages people to take time off. I recommend they could carry over a maximum amount of time and pay out or lose any balance.

- c. Chuck: We haven't had very many cases of lost vacation time this provides people the ability to carry over that maximum. Jared: Should we follow up with Jill at VLCT to see what she's written up? Patti will do so.

8. Highway Mileage Certificate

- a. Yearly certification for the Town eligibility for AOT funding based on verification of highway mileage. 6.1 miles of class 2, 28.4 miles of class 3 roads, 5.7 miles of class 4.
- b. AOT requires signature by Town select board.

9. Rapid Test Disbursement Policy

- a. Several towns are ordering rapid tests in bulk to have on site, but question remains on who these tests are for?
- b. Patti: We've ordered 90 tests, the cost should fall under ARPA fund, and are intended for employees. We need to determine when and under what circumstances are these used?
- c. Mike: For people coming in, they shouldn't be coming in if they are symptomatic. These should be used for in-office symptomatic.
- d. Patti: We will make them available upon request.
- e. Mike: The tests should be to ensure Town business can function and employees be present. They shouldn't be for people's personal use to visit families or non-town related events.
- f. Jared: Should we have a specific policy or is this conversation specific direction enough.
- g. Lisa: Are these for Town employees, office staff and road crew? Jared: Specifically for the paid employees and staff of the Town. Lisa: So not the volunteers for the planning or conservation commission? Answer no nor for the Selectboard. Mike noted that volunteer board have the choice to be remote and are not required in the office.

10. Personnel Policy Amendment re: Overtime

- a. In the employee handbook, under the overtime section Jared read the overtime policy to clarify that overtime is calculated on holiday and sick hours but not on vacation hours.
- b. *Motion to accept revised language as stated by Jared, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.*

11. Wild Turkey Lane Town Owned Parcel

- a. 7.5 acre parcel off of Henry's Way (Old Mansfield Road area).
- b. Abutters have expressed interest in purchasing the property for conservation. About 10 years ago a similar query was made and no agreement was reached on that sale.
- c. Is there any interest in the Town selling and would the SB want to pursue a conversation with this abutter?
- d. Mike: How would we sell this, via auction? We have to provide public opportunity to purchase.
- e. Patti: The Town had previously put all the town parcels up for sale and it was listed at \$90,000. The latest assessment was \$78,000. I think we'd need Doug to go up there and assess. The sale would have to be publicized somewhere.
- f. Chuck: Do we know how we acquired that property? Jared: It may have been a tax sale.
- g. Jared: Why don't we have Doug go look at it and help determine what the value may

be as a first step?

12. Read Mail and Sign Warrant

13. Other Business:

- a. Liquor license for White Horse Inn requires signature.
 - i. *Motion to approve the liquor license for the White Horse Inn by Chuck, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.*
- b. Planning commission (Don) questioned the cannabis opt in articles and how will the Town residents be educated on what to vote on.
- c. Don: Can various meeting agendas be sent via the MailChimp email list? Topic to be added to January 25th meeting agenda.
- d. Next budget meeting scheduled for January 14 at 9am.

14. *Motion to adjourn by Mike, seconded by Chuck. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm*

Dates of Interest:

January 25, 2022 Next Selectboard Meeting 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Carter

Approved: Jared Cadwell