

MINUTES FOR SELECTBOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Attendees

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

Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis

Minutes Taker: Betsy Carter

Guests: Tony Italiano (MRVTV), Craig Eilers (Eilers Financial)

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6pm.**
- 2. Approve Selectboard Minutes of September 27, 2022.**
 - a. *Motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of September 27, 2022 by Chuck, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.*
- 3. Public Comments**
 - a. No public comment.
- 4. Craig Eilers – Review of medical plan renewals for Town staff.**
 - a. Deadline of October 27 for finalizing and renewing for 2023.
 - b. Craig provided comparison of current plan versus Blue Cross/Blue Shield under the exchange.
 - c. Last year a non-Vermont Health Connect product from BCBS. It made sense to sign up for from a financial standpoint. Prior plan was MVP.
 - d. Product is through a BCBS established “captive” that rewards good health history.
 - e. Chuck: If the Town does change the plan, would we still be eligible for any refunds for the captive? Craig: If the Town stays with BCBS, you may receive the refund next year.
 - f. Patti: Has the out of pocket doubled? On page 2? Craig: Page 2 is a different plan design.
 - g. Craig: From a plan standpoint, the plan itself increased the max out of pocket for prescription coverage, but ultimately the total out of pocket does not change. This based on IRS guidelines for out-of-pocket prescription expenses.
 - h. Craig: 16.2% change projected based on current claim rate and plan coverage.
 - i. Chuck: So any claim refund just gets credited to the budget line item? Patti: Yes, but we have to budget fully as if there is no refund. Chuck: So this increase amounts to about \$17,000 annually in the Town budget.
 - j. Craig: Staying with the captive does make sense for 2023. Part of it boils down to the Green Mountain Care Board allowed for increased hospital budgets and that translates to higher insurance costs. Going back to the exchange doesn’t make sense as it loses any refund potential.
 - k. Craig: Page 2 presents more traditional deductible plans available (MVP) on the Exchange. It brings the increase from 21% down to 15%, but there is no opportunity for refunds. I don’t think it should be a consideration for any of the options on page 2. Staying where you are is the best option with potential for money back.
 - l. Jared: Mike, Chuck, do you feel prepared to move tonight on the Blue Edge

- Business One plan that Craig has presented? Mike: I am. Chuck: I agree.
- m. *Motion to approve the Blue Edge Business One plan by Chuck, seconded by Jared. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.*
 - n. *Motion to approve the plan membership fee of \$250 by Chuck, seconded by Jared. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.*
 - o. Jared: Craig, thank you for your analysis and recommendation.
 - p. Patti: With the HRA there was a notice regarding a reimbursement check fee? Craig: Right, but they should have provided an ACH option? Patti: Yes, but some of us opted not to do that. Craig: It is more efficient to provide payment through ACH than to send a paper check.
 - q. Jared: You did provide an update for disability, but I don't feel like tonight is the time to tackle that; we will work it into the budget. Craig: You work through VLTC and that quote was not factoring in the full salary of the staff. The rate looks beneficial, but the payout would not be at the full salary. One option is to look at higher benefit limit so that the full benefit can be received.

5. Town Fair Recap

- a. Jared participated in the annual VLCT Town Fair on behalf of the Town of Fayston. It was the first in-person event since Covid. Participation was enthusiastic and a good program. Jared would like one or two more of us to attend next year if it follows the same format. He felt it a good use of the Town's time. Specifically, he learned a lot about gravel pit and gravel analysis. He's cautiously optimistic that we can get more help for local roads from the District 5 garage. Jared asked regarding the remaining usable life of the gravel pit and if VTrans could assist. VTrans representative said they should be able to do the core sampling and sample analysis.
- b. Many towns in the State are dealing with the cost of storm water management and there was much discussion regarding roads/development on steep slopes.
- c. There were towns represented that were comparable to our Town's size that have made traction regarding housing.
- d. Jared was particularly impressed with the Executive Director of VLCT, Ted Brady. The real thrust of the league in Montpelier is for the localities to make decisions on their own and not be reliant on the State tax system.

6. ARPA Funds

- a. Updated spreadsheet provided by Patti 10/11.
- b. Mad River Seniors to present at the next. Selectboard meeting.
- c. Patti requested an updated proposal from Patty Pasley regarding if the request is for an annual allocation in addition to ARPA.

7. Boyce Hill Update

- a. There was a steering committee meeting on October 10. They agreed to come and present at the November 9 Selectboard meeting.
- b. Updated mowing maps have been provided; Mike to forward to Sugarbush. Some edges have been done along the road and around the pond with the side arm mower.
- c. The October 10 meeting included further refinement of the map for preservation and mowing areas for the long-term plan.

- d. Mike: One thing that is interesting is the restrictions on mowing areas that aren't entirely accurate (endangered plants, etc). I question if the restrictions are valid?
 - e. Jared: Chuck, can you send to us the documentation from the Vermont Land Trust regarding what we're responsible for? I'm wondering how much of it is prescriptive and would like us to be as grounded as possible in the assumptions that we have made in the stewardship of this land. I think it should be important for us to reset the purpose of us being responsible for this property. Chuck: I think that will be very important because I think in some areas that is not happening. This has gone beyond the basic principles from the Vermont Land Trust and the committee has really been charged with what is the best use of the land. The committee did look at recreational and preservation aspects of the land. I've been pushing to get this meeting with the committee so that it doesn't go so far down a path beyond what is needed. Jared: We do need to air out and facilitate the public discussion of what is going on with the property.
- 8. Read Mail and Sign Warrant**
- a. Jared reads letter from Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association regarding award received by Patti.
 - b. Letter from Vermont Tax Department regarding outstanding listing processes that need to be completed. Doug Mosle is on it.
 - c. Letter from Candace Porter of Waitsfield thanking for the removal of trees in the South Fayston Cemetery.
- 9. Other Business**
- a. Review of Budget Meeting
 - i. Tuesday, October 25 prior to the Selectboard meeting; beginning at 4pm.
 - ii. Subsequent meetings to be scheduled at October 25 meeting.
- 10. Motion to adjourn at 7:05 by Chuck, seconded by Mike. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Carter

Approved: Jared Cadwell