

MINUTES FROM SELECTBOARD MEETING

Town of Fayston, Vermont

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 6:00 pm

At Robert Vasseur Town Hall

Attendees:

Select Board Members:

Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck)

Town Clerk/Treasurer/Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis

Minutes Taker: Eve Silverman

Guests: Mad River Valley Television, Rick Rayfield (Town Moderator), Doug Mosle (Lister) (by Zoom), Stuart Halstrom (Road Foreman)

Meeting called to order by Jared

Approve Minutes of January 24th, 2023, Selectboard Meeting. *Chuck moved, Jared seconded, all in favor, none opposed, minutes approved.*

Public Comments

Review Town Meeting Warning with Town Moderator

Rick Rayfield: the articles are stated as questions; do we want them to be stated as motions?

Jared: are we aware of any people listed who don't expect to be nominated? Rick: all the people listed here expect to run again.

Rick: Article 11 and Article 12 are by Australian ballot (read it and remind people to vote). If someone wants to speak to it, they can do so (as long as not on behalf of write in candidate)

Jared: Write in candidates needs to win a minimum of 5% of the voter checklist (will double check the number) to be elected.

Rick: We should ask people if they are aware of anyone interested in the seat/invite write-ins. Jared: if we do not elect a school director by Australian ballot, the Board can appoint from a candidate pool from the Town.

Jared: we will start posting regular announcements by Mail Chimp/Front Porch Forum for possible candidates.

Rick: I'll be moderating the Harwood meeting, can also ask the School Board if anyone interested.

Chuck: So for Articles 11 and 12, the ballots will be available throughout the morning, when articles come up, it's a reminder to vote

Patti: the early voting starts tomorrow. There are three different ballots: Harwood Union District Ballot, Central Vermont Career Center Ballot, our orange ballots with two candidates for directors.

Rick: Article 14 about property tax policy. Question is raised about the date (shall the date remain the same?) Are we asking them to also approve the policy or just the date? Chuck/Patti: It's just about the date. Rick: is it possible that people can move to change the policy during the meeting? If so, shouldn't it be warned? Chuck: no the only question is about the date. Rick: so, we can't change the policy because it's not warned.

Doug Mosle re: Reappraisal Plan

Jared: The Department of Property and Valuation has determined that our CLA is now in the “reappraisal zone”; one of 165 towns in the state in this position. Only 17 of these towns have contracted with an appraiser, no other appraisers are available to undertake ours or other towns in our situation. Doug has put together a request for proposal (RFP) for our reappraisal for the 2025 Grand List. 2025 might be wishful thinking?

Doug: I’m now proposing 2027 possibly 2028. We are required to submit a plan, which involves hiring an appraiser and since there are not enough to handle all the towns in need, we’ll just need to delay it until that is possible. Only 25% of towns have scheduled between now and 2027. Concerned that if we are too aggressive on date, we may not get a high-quality appraiser to perform our appraisal.

Jared/Chuck: Lets plan on 2028.

Doug: after this change is made to the RFP, it will be issued on 3/1/23.

Road Foreman Update

Many areas are now affected by the early mud season; we are currently working on potholes on German Flats Road.

Tucker Hill Road: Tucker Hill Road has seen growth in new houses/increase in rec trails, resulting in increased traffic and significant effect to gravel roads. We are ordering the speed limit signs for Tucker Hill Road. People need to be more disciplined about how often roads are used in the muddy seasons. We met about Tucker Hill and determined that we will try to take on a section of this road this construction season. We have identified the top of Tucker Hill Road with (5) culverts needing replacement. The Town has applied for a grant to cover a portion of this expense.

Other work slated for work this construction season include: large culvert on Randell Road, culverts on Marble Hill, one on Kew Vasseur. We are aware of people’s frustrations. We will do our best with the 3-person road crew we have. Chuck: it is a problem throughout the valley, and it is a fact of life of living here. Jared: We are aware of people’s concerns about emergency access; fire dept is keeping us apprised of difficult areas needing immediate attention, they can also contact Stuart directly.

Excess Weight Permits

Barrett Trucking, Spence Excavating and Construction, Spafford and Sons, Bournes Propane, Kingsbury Construction

Sign Road and Bridge Standards (Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory)

This certifies that we are in compliance with Town Road and Bridge Standards, that these standards meet or exceed the minimum requirements in the State approved template, and that we have an up-to-date highway network inventory. This document, which goes to the Agency of Transportation, is required for us to be eligible for road construction and paving grants etc.

Approve \$1600 for use of new Fire Department van

Fire Department sold its old equipment van; we had agreed with Waitsfield that we would use the proceeds toward the refurbishment of new Fire Department van. Our share of proceeds from the sale is \$1600. \$800 will come out of operating budget, \$800 out of reserve.

Jared moves to use the \$1600 from our share of the sale of the old van toward the new Fire Department van. Chuck seconded; all approve, none opposed. Motion Carries.

Read Mail and Sign Warrant

Other Business

Sign Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways Gives the following mileage estimate to AOT: class 1 roads (0), class 2 (6.18), class 3 (28.24). This is required for support we receive and grant eligibility.

If anyone is interested in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLP) for the Town of Fayston (or other towns) and how it is compiled, including history of sales over the last several years, go to:
tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials

*Chuck made a motion to adjourn, Jared seconded, all in favor, none opposed; **motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.***

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Silverman

Approved: Jared Cadwell