Town of Fayston, Vermont
Wednesday, August 28th, 2024, 6:00 pm
At Robert Vasseur Town Hall

Attendees:

Select Board Members: Chuck Martel (Chuck), Ron Graves (Ron), Michael Jordan (Mike)
Town Clerk/Treasurer/Selectboard Assistant: Patti Lewis
Assistant Town Clerk: Madi Vasseur
Minutes Taker: Eve Silverman
Guests: Josh Livingston, Susan Colgan, Matthew Campbell

Meeting called to order by Chuck at 6:01 pm.

Approve Minutes of August 14th and August 21st (Emergency Selectboard Meeting), 2024, Selectboard Meeting*: Chuck moved to approve. Ron seconded, all in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.*

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Report from Josh, Update on Cemetery Commission

Public Comments: Susan Colgan: Road crew is doing so much work, and we are very grateful

Winterset RFP for Randell and Airport Temporary Bridges

Patti said she asked Michael Clark if he had a sample of an RFP. Mike: There are also examples on Vermont Bidnet.

Ron: Perhaps if we combine the RFPs, we will save more money than submitting them separately. Mike: The numbers will be separate; also, by doing them at the same time, it will streamline the timeline. Josh: we will save on mobilization, engineering studies, etc.

The Board will review sample RFPs, start putting a draft together and review at the next meeting.

Chuck: We will be meeting with the Regional Planning Commission to see what grants we may be eligible for the permanent bridges (we hope FEMA will cover the temporary bridges). The Board also discussed whether there really is a 220-day limit on FEMA projects and whether the permanent bridges might be eligible for support using FEMA funds.

Fayston School Culvert/Grant Information

Patti has sent them information to begin the program, but there are forms that need to be filled out at this stage. This project isn't under FEMA and doesn't qualify for the Friends of Mad River project. The hydraulic study has been completed but no engineering. Ron: Is there a timeline on this?

Josh: In that spot, there is a hole from the storm damage that needs to be repaired and repaved. This project is something that needs to be done at some point and will need to be done before German Flats is repaved. It will be subcontracted so it probably won't affect the road crew. Mike: Its better if we get a grant to do it.

Patti: So, this will be an RFP for engineering costs? Ron: You need someone familiar with this to help you put together a preliminary budget.

Chuck: It probably makes sense to have the grant representative come to meet with us.

Mike: I could ask an engineer that I work with if they know how to complete these types of forms. (Town to hold off contacting the grants rep until we hear back from Mike).

USDA EWP Program

The town would have to be a sponsor of this program (they won't work with individuals). They will only be part of the program if its engineered (they don't have engineers). The Town will be responsible for 25% of the cost (the USDA covers 75%) unless the Town comes to an agreement with the property owner for them to cover. There has to be a repair and maintenance agreement with the landowner; if you don't, they drop you from the program. There will be legal fees as there are agreements to be drawn up.

In addition, if we have a waterway that is infringing on a Town road, the Town can apply for this support.

Patti: Our town policy is to get three RFPs so we would need to do that

Susan: Timing is of the essence as our home is one storm away from going into a brook.

Patti: The program will do cleanup on the land. They will stabilize/mitigate from further damage. Ron: the damage has to be the result of a storm (this was a FEMA declared event).

Ron: If the project is $50,000, the Town is on the hook unless the program kicks in or the property owner pays. Susan: The program rep said they will not reimburse us; the project has to be approved/accepted in advance. Then, the property owner applies with the Town listed as a sponsor.

Chuck: Why is this a USDA program? Ron: The agency of stabilization was to support the farmers initially; this is probably a continuation of that program.

Susan/Josh: Everything is destabilized, trees came down even just recently with a small rainfall.

Chuck: We should send the letter by the deadline; we are not committed at this point but at least it keeps it as an option.

Ron: There is another landowner as well. To Susan: This program may be too slow moving for you. Susan: Yes, we have Kingsbury scheduled. The geologist has been out. But there's a lot more work to be done even after the emergency work is done. The work is to protect an asset. The subsequent work would be to protect surrounding properties as well.

Mike moved to submit the letter of interest participating in this program, Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Excess Weight Permits

Steve Wilder (Wilder Trucking)
Stuart Halstrom

Liquor License and Catering Permit Renewals

North Base Lodge/Mt Ellen

Ron moved to accept, Mike seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Other Business

Josh/Road Update:

Started graveling on Sharpshooter and Dunbar Hill. The gravel is hauled in and then we haul it out right away. Big Basin is back to two lanes. Two sections tomorrow to change out culverts on that road. Next week, we go to Bragg Hill to complete the grant and change a culvert there as well. We are going to get blocks to bring back to complete the Center Fayston culvert. There is a culvert on Sharpshooter Road where the flooding originated (this has happened twice). It is 5' but want to upsize to 8'. Patti: Can that be part of FEMA recovery? Josh: They might not let us go up more than one size. Chuck: I think we don't have a choice but to do it. All board members agreed to authorize Josh to order that culvert.

Josh: Regarding my CDL trailer endorsement, I spoke with Todd Eaton; we must set up to be a training facility with Stuart as a teacher. Todd will have to walk us through what needs to be done. This avoids having to go to school and paying the money.

Josh: There are holes on N Fayston, German Flats then up to Sugarbush/Mt Ellen. Do we patch the holes or put together a RFP? The cost would be between $10k and $50k, not all would be covered under the emergency.

Josh: Excavator will be ready next week, but Stuart is on vacation; I can't get it myself. Patti: Can we hire Moretown to get it and then we can return the rental? Josh: Stuart will check with his nephew about doing it with his tractor trailer. Ron: Does the insurance pay for the rental while ours is being repaired? Patti: I've asked the question, waiting for the answer. Josh: Stuart can take care of it with his nephew next week; he's on vacation but will be hauling for us.

Josh: Do you have the most recent culvert survey map? Patti: I think I have one newer than 2015. Josh: I need to update our system. Patti: Jason can show you how to use the system on the tablet as well. Maybe VT Regional Planning Commission can send us a paper copy.

Chuck/Cemetery Commission:

Chuck: There is a resident in town with terminal cancer who wants to know if they can have a natural burial. This is a natural burial, not a green burial (which is more restrictive). Candace Porter has asked if we would approve this. This doesn't appear to be something that requires Selectboard approval. Patti & I believe this is up to the Cemetery Commission; they will have to have a warned meeting, have this on the agenda, and vote to approve a policy.

Patti/CD:

Should we renew the CD? Mike: We should just renew it. Chuck: Agree.

Patti has signed Fayston up for FEMA reimbursement and Sarah is doing an amazing job keeping track of everything.

Read Mail and Sign Warrant

Hold the Bear in the Bush invoice payment until a more detailed accounting is received.

Motion to Adjourn

Ron moved to adjourn the meeting; Chuck seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Silverman

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Approved: Chuck Martel