Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting
Town of Fayston, Vermont
Tuesday, October 8th, 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(s): Madi Vasseur
Minutes Taker: Eve Silverman (via Zoom)
Guests: Stuart Halstrom (Road Foreman), Matt Campbell (intern), Craig Eilers, Gene Bifano, Doug Mosle

Meeting called to order by Chuck at 6:00 pm

Approve Minutes of September 24th Selectboard Meeting*: Ron moved to approve. Chuck seconded, all in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.*

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Wendy Bridgewater/culvert assistance request will be put on next meeting's agenda

Craig Eilers re: Health Insurance/HRA Enrollment

Craig Eilers reviewed Fayston employee health insurance. Across the board, rate changes for health insurance are significant. However, Fayston had joined a captive, which sets rates based on our employees' claims history. This has helped to control the rate increase. This program will often provide a refund if claims are less than expected.

Craig presented the renewal options for 2025. Overall, there is a +11% rate change in premiums with the same plan.

In order to move forward, Craig needs an acceptance of the formal renewal before October 28th.

Ron moved to accept the renewal of the current Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance policy. Mike seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Chuck signed the renewal acceptance letter.

Public Comments: Gene Bifano, who is running for State Representative, summarized his background, why he is running and why people should vote for him.

Doug Mosle – Reappraisal Update

Doug: We have received two inquiries in response to our RFP for reappraisal. One of them, David Buckley did also submit a proposal last year, which we rejected, as he has an unorthodox approach to reappraisal. His proposal was for $120,000. The other, NEMRC could potentially do the reappraisal in 2029. We haven't received a proposal yet but based on the conversations had so far, it will probably also come in around $120,000. They would be Doug's first choice. We have $200,000 reserved for this

project. The state has already informed us that if we accept a proposal that is five years' out, that's all we have to do.

We also have the option to do the reappraisal in-house; it is a lot of work (equivalent to a full-time job) and requires specific training. We could also do the data collection portion and hire a consultant to do some of the other work. Most towns, unless they have an Assessor on staff, do not do this work themselves.

There is a compliance plan due in a couple of weeks that we can easily complete.

The reappraisal should not affect taxes significantly; it is the budget that affects taxes. If people did renovations their taxes would go up. But if the appraisal doubles and spending stays the same, overall, the town's tax burden would be the same.

Doug will wait to see if he receives the bid from NEMRC and continue to send out the RFP.

RFP for Bridge Design

The board reviewed the draft RFP that was put together for the bridge design. Once this is completed, Mike will provide a list of names of people to send it to.

Stuart: You will need to have hydraulic studies done. Patti: I'll order them.

Other minor edits were noted.

The board decided to get the RFP out by 10/16 and provide a deadline for response of 11/18. Patti: we can put it on the Selectboard agenda for 11/26.

Update on Temporary Bridges- Randell & Airport Roads

Mike Clark, President of Winterset Construction reported through an email that the temporary bridge at Randell Road is progressing well. Abutment footings have been poured; and steel beams have been set, as have portions of the wooden deck. It hopefully will be open by the end of next week.

Regarding the Airport Road bridge, the failed structure has been removed, they have installed stone fill to protect the abutment and will install steel beams soon. This bridge will hopefully be open by the end of the month.

Discussion on when to begin 2025 Budget Session 9.

This discussion is generally outside of the Selectboard meetings.

Chuck: I'd like to start earlier than usual so that Patti can be present before she leaves on November 14th.

The following date was determined: 10/28, at 5 pm. This will be a public meeting.

Brookfield Decision Program #1
The Selectboard chose Option #! from Brookfield Service to maintain the generator at the town office. Option #1 is for one annual major maintenance service call.

Liquor License Renewal(s) & Request to Cater

HAI Hospitality (Hyde Away) for GMVS, 10/26/24. The Board gave Patti the ok to sign the request to cater.

Other Business

Patti: Stuart received a Municipal Service Award for the Road Crew's service during the flooding. This should be posted in the Town Garage!

Stuart/Road Foreman update: There is enough gravel to complete Dunbar Hill. There is a sinkhole on Tucker Hill Road. There is work on the class 4 road off Tucker Hill to upgrade for logging access (they didn't have to request permission of the Town to do this). Before they leave, we must check that everything is put back the way they need to.

Read Mail and Sign Warrant

No mail.

Executive Session

At 7:28 pm, Mike moved to go into executive session, Ron seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
At 7:41 Chuck made a motion to close exec session. Mike seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Action taken:

Chuck made the motion to adopt and add to the employee handbook the family leave plan as outlined in 21 VSA Sec 472. Mike seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Silverman

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Approved: Chuck Martel