Town of Fayston, Vermont
Tuesday, May 14th, 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
Guests: Stuart Halstrom (Road Foreman), Seneca Whittingham (MRVTV), Misha Golfman (Executive Director, Mad River Path), Sarah Stavraky David Koeppel

Meeting called to order by Chuck at 6:00 pm.

Approve Minutes of April 22nd, 2024, Selectboard Meeting: *Chuck moved to approve. Ron seconded, all in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.*

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Fire Department extractor, (2) requests to cater, Number Nine Hill reconstruction, furnace replacement update.

Public Comments: None

Mad River Path Request for Funds:

Misha Golfman: To help achieve its vision of creating an alternate transportation corridor throughout the Valley from Warren to Moretown, the Mad River Path applied for and was awarded a $67,000 grant from the Agency for Transportation for a scoping study. This grant requires a 20% local match. Three towns have committed $4,000 each, there is still a need for $4,800 to meet the match amount. The Path is asking Fayston to contribute the same as the other towns (the remaining balance would be raised in other ways by the Path). Though Fayston doesn't have road frontage on Rte. 100, its residents would greatly benefit from a path that links the towns' schools, businesses, and town centers.

In addition, the Path would like to form a committee consisting of representatives from each town to be updated on the progress of this project, which is likely to take several years.

Chuck: The money for the study would come out of next year's budget (FY 2025), but a commitment is needed sooner than that? Misha: Correct, to sign the grant, we need to show proof of the matching funds; we have letters of commitment from Warren, Waitsfield and Moretown, and would need one from Fayston as well.

Mike: I think we could build the funds into the budget. However, the project doesn't incorporate any land in Fayston.

Chuck: I am assuming there are many people in Fayston who use the Path. Ron: It's part of the Valley economy, as many people who come to visit the Valley use it.

Mike: There is currently a lot of federal money out there for alternative transportation paths. This environment would need to still be out there after the study is completed, so that we can draw the money for the construction of the project.

Misha: This project aligns with the State priorities to make Rte. 100 an alternative transportation corridor. But the biggest requirement is that the Towns are on board. Fayston might not physically be on the proposed corridor, but the people of Fayston would use it. Funding from Fayston would signal the support from all the Valley towns, which is very important.

Chuck: How is the Path funded in general? Misha: Waitsfield funds limited mowing, and we apply for a Rec district grant for out-of-pocket expenses. There are no longer membership dues. We have done well with fundraising. We have some new income streams: triathlon, new summer camps, adventure programs for adults. We are working toward become more self-sustaining in the long run.

Chuck moved that the Selectboard sign a letter of support, and budget in 2025 for the $4000 contribution toward the study. Mike seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Misha will send a template for the letter that the Selectboard can use to draft it.

Cemetery Commission

David Koeppel: We are trying to improve the appearance of the cemeteries. The driveway to the North Fayston cemetery is not in good condition; we could use several truckloads of soil there. Also, we took the fence down there; can the town possibly pull the fence posts out for us? Chuck/Stuart: Both should be possible.

David: There are also a few trees that need cutting at the North Fayston cemetery. Chuck: the tree warden will be coming in in a couple of weeks, so if there's other tree cutting activities, we could incorporate it in that plan; unfortunately, at the moment it doesn't look like there will be.

Ratify Emergency Management Plan

Chuck moved to ratify the local emergency management plan that was approved at the last meeting. Mike seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Childcare Tax Contribution – Employer/Employee Clarification

Patti: We had previously discussed that the town pay 0.44% on wages, $2000 was budgeted for this, more than enough to cover it, with no ask from Town employees. I just want to confirm this is what you want. Chuck: Yes, it is.

Excess Weight Permit(s)

The following were signed:

K&M Trucking, LLC
Mountains Edge Excavation
Veilleux and Sons Trucking

Liquor License Renewal(s)

HAI Hospitality (Hyde Away at GMVS): (2) dates; Selectboard gave Patti permission to approve. (Note this was the request to cater that was previously added to Other Business).

Other Business

Number Nine Hill Road

Stuart: Cars are bottoming out on Number Nine Hill Road. This has been an issue for three years but this year it has worsened substantially. A temporary fix will be to grind the edges and shim, a more permanent fix will need to be addressed in future. J.A. McDoncalt has been contacted and will try to get to it in a couple of weeks. They have not provided a cost estimate.

Chuck: This is a safety hazard, and we need to do something; do we want to move forward though we don't know what the cost will be? Also, we would normally go out to bid for a project like this but based on the availability of the contractor so soon, and the safety hazard that currently exists, we should probably move forward with S T Paving.

Mike: Could we just make it one lane? Stuart: We'd have to put up lights as visibility there is not good. Or we could close the road off completely. We could put up the one lane signs to slow people down in the interim. The paving company is very busy and doesn't have time to provide an estimate, but I will call again to try to get an order of magnitude on the cost. The last time we did something similar, the cost was $6,000 - $8,000. Stuart will try to get a ballpark estimate from ST Paving.

Grader

Stuart: The grader should be here within the next week or two. The cost was about $385,000.

Furnace Replacement Update

Patti: They started work today. The old furnace is out; the new one has begun to be installed. This will be moving to gas from oil.

Fire Department Extractor Installation

The bid needs to be reevaluated as the bids were way off in amount; what exactly did the installation include (the other, higher bid was more specific). This topic will be addressed more at the next meeting after the Town of Waitsfield has a chance to get back to us.

There was also a discussion about a possible FEMA grant application. Patti has started looking into it. There are many potential uses for these funds. Patti said there is a little time still, the application is due in July. Stuart said that the most important project in his mind is the school culvert because it affects homes. All agreed to proceed with the grant application for the Fayston School culvert replacement.

Read Mail and Sign Warrant (warrant signed, no mail)

Executive Session

6:46 p.m. Chuck made a motion to go into executive session for personnel and legal matters. Ron seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

7:04 p.m. Ron made a motion to come out of executive session. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

ACTION TAKEN: *Chuck made a motion to authorize Delinquent Tax Collector to proceed to tax sale for two properties. Mike seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.*

7:05 p.m. Ron made a motion to go back into executive session for the personnel matter. Mike seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

7:12 p.m. Ron made a motion to close executive session. Mike seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

ACTION TAKEN: None

Motion to Adjourn

7:13 p.m. Mike made a motion t adjourn Selectboard Meeting. Ron seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Silverman

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Approved: Chuck Martel