NOTES FOR SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Webinar Meeting ID 832 5099 9241
Password 492597
Toll Free #888-788-0099

Attendees
Select Board Members: Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), Michael Jordan (Mike)
Select Board Assistant: Patti Lewis (Patti)
Minute Taker: Betsy Carter (Betsy)
Guests: Rachel Wylie, Sandy Rousse, Lisa Koitzsch, Corrie Miller, Tripp Johnson, Craig Snell, Mark Giometti, Karl Klein, Liza Walker, John Stokes, Rick Rayfield, Lisa Loomis, JBewlay, Don Simonini, Rick Swanson, Kari Dolan, Rebecca Roebuck, Kaziah Haviland, Carol Pierce, Al Hobart, Annika Holtan, Betty McCaffrey, Bob (NLN), Brad Cook, Char & Chuck Clarke, Colin Lindberg, Darlene McCormick, Wood Dugan, Dave Viveiros, David (NLN), David Mackie, Dick Ryan, Gene Scaperotta & Eve Silverman, Grega (NLN), Haven Nichols, Holliday (NLN), J Bewlay, Jeff Jaffarian, Jennifer Hammond, Joan (NLN), Karen Ludlow, Karen Sauther, Kathy Caldwell, Martha Bisbee, MRVTV, Paul Sipple, Red (NLN), Ruth (NLN), Sally Dwyer, Sara Stavraky, Shane Mullen, Steve Bick, Tim Jones, Tisa Rennau, Wendy Bridgewater

1. **Informational Town Meeting in Lieu of Town Meeting Day**
   a. **Open Meeting – Jared Cadwell**
      i. Informational meeting for presentations over items contained within budget & town report.
      ii. Moment of silence for Fayston residents who passed away in 2020.
   b. **Meeting Administrator Instructions - Rachel Wylie**
      i. General Zoom tips, muting, and asking questions.
   c. **CVHH&H – Sandy Rousse**
      i. Letter in town report page 36 for reference.
      ii. Support approx. 28 patients in 2020 (385 visits) to Fayston residents; increase seen in home health and hospice visits.
      iii. Review of COVID response, testing, and exposure reduction
      iv. Why CVHH&H needs town funds: reach vulnerable individuals for COVID, provide healthcare options for Vermonters in our region, and provide essential healthcare for residents at home.
      v. Question: Have Medicare requirements increased need for volunteers? Due to COVID, many volunteers pulled back. Volunteers are brought back in or reduced with outbreak levels within the community. There is always a need for hospice and administrative volunteers.
   d. **Select Board Report – Jared Cadwell**
      i. Reference page 18 of town report for detailed information.
      ii. Thank you, Patti & staff, for responses and management during this time of COVID
      iii. Thank you to road crew for ongoing construction and winter conditions.
         1. Highlight of road construction projects:
            a. Boyce Hill road extension & parking area establishment.
            b. Town springs on N. Fayston & Sharpshooters roads; road crew dug up & cleaned up this past spring
            c. Extensive resurfacing upcoming in 2021 of N. Fayston Road and culvert replacements(15). Paving will be going out to bid; town road crew will replace culverts. This work contingent on AOT grant.
            d. Town gravel pit: SB committed to invest resources into determining its lifespan.
      iv. Real estate boom in the Valley and across Vermont during COVID. Anticipate CLA will drop which impacts education tax rate (p. 54).
         1. Carol Pierce: What is the CLA? Jared: Common Level of Appraisal. Not entirely sure of how it's calculated. Chuck: Explanation on page 19 of town report.
   e. **Budget Presentation – Mike Jordan**
      i. Reference pp 25-28 of town report.

ii. Revenue: majority of income from town taxes. Some funding from state aid highway.
iii. Expense: Largest share of expenses go to our transfer/reserve funds. We do this so the town doesn't have to borrow money to buy new equipment, trucks, etc. This is getting the money in the bank to use when we need to purchase things.
iv. Review of prior budgets and tracking change over time to enable future budget forecasts. Key focus areas of change were discussed. Overall 2.71% increase in income. Fund balance from prior year of $66.9k.
v. Review of highlights in 2021 town budget.
1. Note: MRVAS request for $15k is on the March 2 Australian ballot and thus not included in the budget.
vi. Questions:
1. JBewlay: Hi and thank you for hosting this session. I have questions regarding Article 12. My concern is that the town may be putting too difficult a burden on taxpayers by moving the delinquent date closer to the date that tax bills are generated. First - when are tax bills typically generated? Second, when are they usually mailed? Third, I see that the town collected almost $25,000 in penalties and fees in 2020. What impact will moving the delinquent date from November 1 to 30 days of mailing have on the residents' ability to pay on time? Perhaps this is not the year to shorten the time residents have to pay their tax bill. Thank you for your time.
a. Patti: Article 12 is not suggesting we shorten the date. The vote is for keeping the delinquency date as November 1. If vote no, then the date becomes 30 days from mailing.
b. Chuck: This is usually discussed every year and the town can adjust as needed. A yes vote keeps everything the same as prior years.
2. Rick Rayfield: Line 5095 Diesel used only half of $40,000 budgeted. Did diesel cost drop? Did crew use half as much fuel?
a. Mike: we had a delivery at the end of 2020 that pulled the expense into 2021. We really are running very efficiently.
3. Jared: Seminars and training for SB members and staff. This is limited this year however as the VT League of Towns webinars have been held and are helpful and far less expensive. The Fayston budget has been adjusted accordingly.
4. Donations/Contributions: this is in page 32 of report so that residents can track how much the town is donating to various organizations. These are reviewed in public SB meetings. The contribution for the MRV Planning District is contained in the town report (p. 42). The Rec District will be presenting tonight, and we will be able to see where funding is used (p. 45 of town report).
5. Lisa Loomis: Why are payroll taxes up so much?
a. Patti: payroll taxes are a direct percentage based on salaries and the town increased salaries this year.
6. JBewlay: Why are penalties up so much this year?
a. Patti: There really isn't a significant difference between prior year and 2020 – only about $5k.
7. Don Simonini: I would request we start to have a charge for sand and place these accumulated funds into a reserve fund so the future when the "sand pit" is depleted we can smooth the budget and not have sticker shock when sand usage is priced at market prices
a. Jared: we'll know more about this after a professional evaluation of the pit.
b. Mike: Which is why we wanted to undertake this work now so that we are prepared when we need the transfers in the future.
8. Pete Ludlow: For categories such as 5714, 5930, 5935, and article 15, it would be helpful to see breakout of spending of past and future. These categories are accumulating to 7% of the budget and warrant insight for the taxpayers.
a. Jared: I think I responded to the question in the reference in the discussion of the rec district, planning district, and that's a very helpful comment and we can ask for more detail on the budget requests both in the town report as well as having them present at the town meeting. With both the rec and planning districts, we have town representatives on the steering committees, and they provide the fiscal responsibility that funding is spent wisely, and budgets are watched.

f. Fayston Conservation Commission – Lisa Koitzsch & Corrie Miller

i. Currently seeking new members to join the commission.

ii. Commission summary on page 24 of the town report. High-level key projects:
    1. Coordinated Green Up day for the town for the first time in 2020. 2021 is May 1.
    2. Expanded Japanese Knotweed removal efforts in 2020 and will continue into 2021.
    3. Blocked culvert on Randell Road due to beaver pond complex; a beaver baffle was installed to protect the culvert and prevent the beavers from further construction.
    4. Chase Brook town forest on German Flats Road: completed walking trail for people and dogs.
iii. Large project for 2020 and into 2021: Boyce Hill Town Forest
    1. 93 acre property donated in 2019 with VT Land Trust easement in place.
    2. Management plan was drafted and long-term plan underway.
    3. Steering committee formed and meeting 2x monthly.
    4. New parking lot in place and road improvements made for access.
    5. Working on special use permit process
iv. More funding requested to support inclusive management planning process; two outside donations of $1k each have come in and are appreciated. Committee is also working on grant applications.
v. Questions:
    1. Karen: What is prompting the special use permit for the Boyce Hill Town Forest? Lisa: We had a request for use for a yoga class this past summer up by the pond where participants would be charged (commercial use). This prompted the need for a special use permit.

g. Fire Department – Tripp Johnson & Craig Snell

i. Fire department report can be found on page 51 of town report.
ii. Capital budget has been developed in 2020 to determine needs for coming years; large expenditure items:
    1. Trucks
    2. Compressor
    3. Thermal imaging cameras
    4. Air packs
iii. Applied for FEMA grant to replace aging van($80k),gear extractor($7.5k), and PPE ($18k) and was submitted 2 weeks ago.
iv. Questions:
    1. Jared: Roster of fire fighters always helpful to know town member constituencies. Tripp: 6 from Fayston out of 23 active members.
    2. Jared: How many mutual aid calls have there been? Tripp: about 11 from MRVFD to other towns. MRV has called in about 7 times. Relationships with towns have been close this year.

h. Mad River Ambulance Service – Mark Giometti

i. Article 14 for voting on town meeting day.
ii. The request is for $15k and is for replacement of MRV2 (ambulance), a $300k expenditure.
iii. Support from Valley businesses, residents, and visitors will support the self-funded service going forward.
iv. Presentation available on https://www.mrvas.org/. Also featured in town report on page 37.
v. Questions:
    1. Jared: what is the volunteer size? Mark: about 60 across all functions.

i. Mad River Housing Coalition – Karl Klein

i. Article 15 on ballot; housing coalition featured on page 40 of the town report.
ii. In 2020 thanks to the community fund, the Coalition was able to hire a staff member to enable the Coalition to move forward professionally.
iii. Accessory Dwelling Units created for affordable housing at different levels. This created housing for people that may not otherwise get it.
iv. Request from each of towns is $4k to continue funding for staff member.
v. Questions:
    1. Rebecca Roebuck: I'd like to add an ADU above my garage. Is there a clear zoning or permitting process? Karl: yes. The state and towns have very clear processes. The Housing Coalition has a team to help assess and walk you through what it will take to complete an ADU.
    2. Rick Rayfield: With the Valley RE market so tight, would the Housing Coalition consider extending the Mad

River Valley to include affordable housing in Duxbury or Moretown? Karl: We look at the MRV being the watershed and Moretown and Duxbury.

j. **Mad River Recreation District – Liza Walker & John Stokes**
   i. In 2020, a staff member was hired to support needs of the organization.
   ii. The MRV Recreation District is featured on page 45 of the town report.
   iii. The recreation needs of the Valley are tracked and supported by the MRVRD; grants are made to support recreation organizations' needs.
   iv. Questions:
      1. Jared: It sounds like there are candidates to take the place of a person that left the organization. Is a replacement going to be named or will a member at large be added? Currently only set up to have 2 members that are appointed.
      2. Jared: So, your intention year in and year out is to spend down the contribution from the 3 towns? Liza: Yes, our goal is to distribute the funds to organizations that request the funds. We do make an allocation to Mad River Park. This year we will complete the ADA ramp railing.
      3. Sarah S: The report notes that the funding from the towns is $45k; with 3 towns contributing $30k each last year, that seems low. Liza: Each town contributes $30k each. We separated out the money for the staffing vs. the grants. There is an error in the report.
      4. Rick Rayfield: I see no funding for the old folks in the MRV Bocce League. Is that ageism??? I'm curious regarding the ages supported? Liza: Bocce didn't request a grant. We are excited for an exercise program for seniors at the Warren Library. We are more than ever supportive of all ages of organizations across the Valley. We do need to complete a needs assessment to understand what the Valley population needs.

2. **Approve Select Board Minutes of February 9, 2021**
   a. *Motion to approve by Chuck, Mike seconded. All in favor, motion approved.*
3. **North Fayston Road Paving/Culvert Project**
4. **Read Mail and Sign Warrant**
   a. No Mail.
   b. Warrant has been reviewed; issued 2/23.
      i. *Motion to approve warrant by Jared, seconded by Chuck. All in favor, motion approved.*
5. **Other Business:**
   a. All ballots that were requested have been mailed to date. Town members can also make an appointment to vote in person prior to 3/2 or come vote in person on 3/2.
   b. Excess weight permits.
      i. Limoge Equipment
      ii. RK Miles
      iii. Essex Rental & Sales Center
6. ***Move to adjorn at 7:45pm.***

Dates of Interest:
March 2, 2021 – Town Meeting Day for Casting Ballots

The next Select Board meeting is on March 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Carter

Approved: Jared Cadwell