Selectboard Budget Meeting
Town of Fayston, Vermont
December 4th, 2024, 6:30 pm
At Robert Vasseur Town Hall

Select Board (SB) Attending: Chuck Martel (Chuck), Mike Jordan (Mike) and Ron Graves (Ron)
Sarah Stavraky (Sarah –Treasurer) and Madison Vasseur (Madi – Town Clerk and Select Board Assistant)
Guests: Brian Litmans (Brian), Andrea Henderson (Andrea) from the Fayston Conservation Committee (FCC).

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

SB and FCC discussed the ARPA funds. All ARPA funds have to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026. Andrea and Brain discussed the collaboration the FCC is taking apart of with neighboring towns Conservation Committees regarding safeguarding wildlife crossing. They ensured the Board the allocated $8,000 ARPA funds would be spent by 2026 as the move forward with Arrowwood. The FCC has used all the ARPA funds that were allocated to the knotweed management project.

The rest of the ARPA funds allocated for FCC will be used for new picnic tables at the McCullough Barn, and to match funds from the grant received for Boyce Hill.

Andrea read aloud the proposed budget request to the SB explaining each line item and what the funds will be used for. The FCC benefited from ARPA Funds in the past few years and were able to get a tackle on knotweed in Fayston, but going forward they see knotweed and invasives species being a large expense.

	2021 Budget	2022 Request	2022 Budget	2023 Request	2023 Budget	2024 Request	2024 Budget	2025 Request
FCC	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
MRV Bear Initiative	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	500	500	600	600
Bldg				300	300	300	300	400
Cons Rsv Fund	3,500	5,000	3,500	5,000	3,500	8,000	3,500	4,000
Invasive Rsv Fund	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000	0	0
Town Forest Rsv Fund	9,000	13,330	16,000	5,600	5,600	18,700	12,000	19,410
Total	13,500	18,330	19,500	12,400	10,900	33,500	17,300	28,310

Above are the proposed FCC budget requests from the years 2021 through 2025.

Brian explained they have only received one bid regarding updating the management plan for Chase Brook Forest. Birdseye Consulting did just complete Moretown's plan and the FCC is confident in their work and hoping to move forward.

The SB moved on to approve the ARPA funds that had been allocated to the FCC, and began discussing the budget requests for 2025. The SB hopes to have finalized numbers by the end of the month.

Next the SB discussed the Capital Reserve Accounts-

Acct # 8001 Road Retreatment-	$	80,000.00
Acct # 8004 Fire Equipment-	$	75,000.00
Acct # 8011 Conservation Reserve-	$	3,500.00
Acct # 8015 Municipal Bldg.-	$	1,000.00
Acct # 8016 Town Forest Reserve-	$	12,000.00

SB discussed if the Town Forest Reserve was the appropriate line item for the FCCs operating budget, since it is for capital reserves. Will level fund the line item for this year, but the FCC should spend down the Town Forest Reserve money , and we should establish an operating budget line item for the FCC in 2026.

The SB will have a Public Hearing on December 30,2024 at 6:00pm. to approve the Capital Budget for the year 2025.

The next budget meeting will be on Wednesday December 11, 2024 at 5:30 to discuss employee Salaries.

6:50pm. Chuck made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Seconded, all in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Madison Vasseur

CH Martel Jr

Chuck Martel, Selectboard Chair