Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting
Town of Fayston, Vermont
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:00 pm
At Robert Vasseur Town Hall

Attendees:
Select Board Members: Chuck Martel (Chuck), Ron Graves (Ron), Michael Jordan (Mike)
Town Clerk /Selectboard Assistant: Madi Vasseur
Minutes Taker: Eve Silverman
Guests: MRVTV (Maddy), Andrea Henderson (FCC), Amy Dalton (FCC), Brian Litmans (FCC)

Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1, Approve Selectboard minutes – January 14, 2025
Mike moved to approve. Ron seconded, all in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
Delete Road Foreman Update and Liquor License.

3. Public Comments
None

4. Review of Budget with Fayston Conservation Commission
Chuck stated that the Forest Reserve line item in the Conservation Commission budget contains a lot of operating expenses. The capital reserve budget is intended to build if not spent. If the expenses in there are operating expenses, this will be detrimental to the taxpayer. The recommendation of the Board would be to draw down that account over time and put the operating expenses in the correct place. This doesn't change anything for this year, it's for 2026 and moving forward. Mike: There should be line items that correspond to what you're using in the year.

Also, under the Conservation Reserve fund, the Commission asked for $4,000 but the number that is being proposed as part of the budget is $3500. That fund would be used if there is an opportunity to purchase land.

Brian Litmans: Do you think there could be some kind of guideline written to help new folks understand how to plan the budget in the future?

Ron: Reserves are earmarked for specific reasons: e.g., purchasing a fire truck, etc.

Andrea listed a variety of things that funds from the proposed Forest Reserve might be used for.

Chuck: The operating fund would be a line item dedicated to the Conservation Commission for a variety of uses. If you spend less than you get in the budget, it either goes back to the town or is deferred to the next year. It would not automatically remain to build up over time as a Reserve budget would be.

Brian: All maintenance care would go under line #5706? Mike: There should also be sub line items to capture different uses.

Brian: What would go into the Town Forest Reserve. Chuck: Once that money is drawn down, that account would go away. Brian: It does appear most of the expenses currently in there are operational.

Chuck: We need to coordinate with Sarah to ensure that as expenses come in, we know what account it should be coming from. It is important that since we are trying to draw down the Forest Reserve Fund, some bills that come in should be paid out of that Fund.

Brian: I just want to ensure that if there's something that fits the Town Forest Reserve fund category, we wouldn't want to preclude that from being permitted. Chuck: I don't think any of this will hurt the FCC financially, but we want to get everything in line with how we are managing the rest of the budget.

Mike: Are there specific line items you would like to include – to show more specifically how the money is budgeted? This will make things more apparent to the taxpayers. Andrea: We are doing this internally. Brian: We want to think through what these categories would be, also we would like to hear what breakouts would make most sense to the Board and to the public when the budget comes up for a vote. Brian: Would these be sub-accounts under 5706? Chuck: We might restructure it a little.

Andrea: Some of what's in there are capital expenses, such as new stone steps. Mike: That would still go into the operating budge since they'll be done in that year,

Mike: Unlike many other towns, we use our Reserve Funds to pay for things rather than going out to Bond. This system works well for us.

Chuck: Will you come back to us with recommendations after you talk with the Committee? FCC folks: Yes.

5. Discuss Dates for Employee Reviews
Ron: Let's ask Josh to review the Road Crew employees. Let's have this by the time of the Town Meeting. Chuck: Perhaps we do the admin employees (Jason, Doug, Madi and Sarah) before then as well. The Board discussed possible dates and times for the reviews.

6. Update on Washington County Sheriff Department
Ron had a phone conversation with Devin Klein who stated that the Sheriffs approached them about trying to get a Valley wide program. Ron said that he had expressed that Fayston had tried to put this to the Town previously and it wasn't approved (and once it was repealed). They may call this summer to discuss this with the Selectboard. Ron told her that the Board was open to listening. Mike: We could put it as an article to vote on next year. It needs to be voted on. Ron: Could they make a traffic stop in Fayston if we are not paying for them? Madi said that Sarah had told her that that had happened previously but only once or twice.

7. Approval of Town Warning
The Board discussed a few edits to the Town Warning as written. Madi: There will be (4) Australian ballots, for: 1) Harwood budget, 1) Fayston Representative to the School Board, 3) Central VT Career Center, and 4) Mad River Recreation District proposal. It's not an election year, but there will still be ballots!

The location of the meeting will be Fayston Elementary School.
After making the edits, Chuck moved to approve the Town Meeting Warning, Ron seconded. All in favor, the warning was approved.

8. Excess Weight Permits
Newport Sand and Gravel
Bournes Energy
Chuck signed the permits.

9. Other Business
None

10. Read Mail and Sign Warrant

11. Adjourn

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting, Ron seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Silverman

Approved: Chuck Martel