**Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting**
**Town of Fayston, Vermont**
**Tuesday, April 8th, 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 (by Zoom recording)
**Guests**: Josh Livingston (Road Foreman), Howard Wynne, Sam Robinson (MRVPD), MRVTV

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

**1. Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes – March 25th, 2025**

*Mike moved to approve the minutes. Ron seconded; all in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.*

**2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

*None*

**3. Public Comments**

Howard Wynne commented that the road crew has done an excellent job. Tucker Hill Road is still very bad at times, and people have had to park at the bottom of the road and walk. His wife recently had a stroke and due to the conditions of the road they unfortunately had to miss some doctors' appointments. He asked that the Town reexamine whether it is possible to fix some of the bad spots and commented that there also were logging trucks going up and down the road several times a day for months, which may have contributed to the condition of the road.

Chuck (to Josh): Are we planning to work up there this year? Josh: No. Chuck: We have done extensive work up there recently. Josh: The logging operation was done with their work before winter, and in my opinion, they didn't cause any damage to the road. There was one culvert that failed, but that wasn't due to them.

Howard: I think it needs another look. Josh: I've kept a close eye on it all season. It is passable on all-weather tires and in fact I drive up there frequently in two-wheel drive. Chuck: We have a lot of FEMA work remaining to recover from the flood last year and in fact must hire subcontractors to do some of it as we can't get to everything with our road crew. So, the chance of doing any serious additional work on Tucker Hill this year will be slim. Howard: Can you put it on the list for the following year? Chuck/Josh: We will look into it.

Chuck: Josh will make a note of it and inspect it, but we can't make any guarantees of if or when any work will be scheduled.

**4. Mad River Valley Planning District – Sam Robinson**

Sam Robinson: The MRV Planning district is a tri-town planning entity. We work with the towns of Fayston, Warren and Waitsfield on a variety of different planning projects and initiatives.

One area that we are engaged in on an annual basis (that's outlined in our memorandum of understanding with our member towns and Sugarbush) is data collection. Each year we collect, analyze and share information**, r**anging from population demographics to transportation data for the Mad River Valley region.

Sam presented the findings from the data report; the report is available in its entirety on the website, MRVPD.org.

Chuck: The demographics showing population decline during COVID seems counter intuitive to me. Ron: People who lived here may have been selling. Sam: Some of that may also be due to margin of error.

**5. Mad River Valley Ambulance Service – MOU**

Chuck: I spoke with Sheila Ware, and we discussed that our Board will review the attorney-recommended changes to the MOU; the Board won't sign the MOU at this meeting but will submit our recommended changes for inclusion in a final MOU which all towns will sign.

**Ron:** Is this MOU a 10-year term or open ended? I am concerned that it is open ended, plus we don't have a vote on their budget, so it would mean we have no fiscal control. Chuck: The attorney's recommended wording is: "Each year the Ambulance service will review its capital funding needs based on the approved 10 Year Plan, and if necessary, will request a donation from each valley town to close any gaps in that capital expenditure funding. Any such requests will be made in a timely manner so that the towns and Selectboards can incorporate the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service appropriation request as a line item in the town budget or present the appropriation as a separately warned article for voter approval." This doesn't get us out of it but gives us two options to fund it.
**Chuck:** I told Sheila that it was a concern that we didn't have a voice at the table like we do for the Fire Department. Sheila said that they didn't want to put a non-ambulance service representative as a voting member on the board because they want board members to understand their medical needs.
**Mike:** We need to have language in there that gives us a way to impact their budget, if we are giving them money.
**Ron:** And there should be a Term limit on the MOU. I'd almost prefer at this point to go back to the concept of no MOU and have them come to us every year with a monetary request. I don't mind paying the money, but our obligation could double, triple, quadruple and we would have no say, unlike how we do with the Fire Department.
**Chuck:** How about saying something like that, "any such requests will be made in a timely manner so the towns and Selectboards can decide whether to incorporate the donation request as a line in the budget"? Ron: I prefer to go back to a commitment for a fixed amount every year for ten years. We want to be able to reserve for it.
**Chuck:** My other question is…is this a rolling 10 years? Mike: It was 10 years before, now it is a rolling ten years. Ron: They were supposed to have been fully funded after ten years.
**Chuck:** As of now, the other three towns are on board with the MOU, do we want to hold out until we get more answers to this? Ron: I don't think we should vote for something just because everyone else is.
**Chuck:** If we change the wording to give us an out here that says something like that, they will submit their proposal to us, we get a chance to review it and vote on it and if our town doesn't like it, then they have to come back to us with a different proposal. Ron: Yes, I think each town should have that option. We might not be on their board, voting on their budget, but we can decide if we approve our portion.
**Mike/Ron**: Of course we support the Ambulance Service, we just want to ensure that we have some controls on the funding we are obligated to.

Madi will provide the suggested change to the Town attorney, Chuck will go back to Sheila to let her know what is happening.

**6. Road Foreman Update**

The Board discussed the bids received on German Flats and Mt Ellen Road. Madi will send over the final proposals with the goal of approving them by the next meeting. Josh: There are a few culverts that would need to be repaired to prep for the work and put some base down in those locations. This is a separate expense. Chuck: if we wait until the next meeting to approve this, will that give them enough time to

schedule the work? Mike: I don't think things will be scheduled that quickly. Chuck: Let's wait until the next meeting, to give us time to review this.

Josh: I'm hoping to meet with Mike later this week up in the pit and figure out a plan up there -- how much gravel we want to try to crush, depending on what we find. I have two trucks hauling gravel from Graniteville for North Fayston Road.

Josh: I received another quote for a truck body to change the body on the 2017 Dodge (truck itself in good shape, but body is rotten), the quote is for $8,877. Waitsfield just went through this company, and the price is better than anywhere else.

Josh: Barton Road is all cleaned up. Now I'm going to start cleaning up Dunbar Hill (after it's a bit drier) and then bring crushed gravel from our pit to button up a few roads for FEMA. The list keeps getting longer. I'm trying to do them in in order of priority. This year I'm finding that the north-facing areas overall did well.

Chuck: Any response to the ad for temporary summer help? Josh: No. Chuck: What are we doing about roadside mowing? Would we do it ourselves? Josh: Yes. Ron: Waitsfield is looking for someone now. Madi: The job posting is advertised in VR, Indeed, Waterbury Roundabout. MRVTV: Noone looks for summer jobs in Valley Reporter. Maybe also try Linked in and Seven Days. Ron: Maybe also Facebook. Josh: If we have someone with a lot of experience but they are only interested in full time, what do we do? Others: I think we wouldn't pass on someone who is well qualified.

Josh: We received a hydraulic study on a culvert that crosses North Fayston Road by Boyce Hill. Madi: Tyler from Eastern Engineering might be able to help us with the hydraulic study since the State is significantly backed up; they are giving us major changes – the culvert we had already done might have to be re-done. Josh: They are requesting that the 4' culvert we just put in last fall be upsized to five feet with gravel for fish habitat. Madi: Tyler might redo this hydraulic study.

Madi: As of right now, the work done last Fall is considered by FEMA to be temporary work. We would have to complete the work to state standards to be reimbursed. Ron: So, we have to wait until it's completed to get paid but they will pay us for both the new and temporary work, right? Madi: Yes. Ron: So, we could contract that work out.

Chuck: Thank you to Josh and Madi for pulling together the work list, it is very helpful.

**7. Fire Truck Update**

Chuck: Madi received a note from the Waitsfield Town Administrator. There is a significant ($20,000) discount available if we vote on ordering the truck before April 10th. The Waitsfield Selectboard has already voted to move forward with this. No money will change hands until we receive the truck, which might take two or three years. The total price is $570,749, Fayston's part is $228,299.60.

*Mike moved to allow the fire department to move forward with placing the order on the truck, Ron seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**8. Town Garage Discussion**

Chuck: The new chair of the Waitsfield Selectboard asked me if there was any thinking about possibly combining efforts and sharing in the build/use of a new Town Garage. I told him we had discussed this previously and there wasn't any such interest. He asked if there was anything we could do together to perhaps save money, like ordering things together. Josh: We are all on different rotations with ordering

equipment, so I don't think we could save anything there. For some things, if we communicate as to when items are needed, we might be able to get some savings, for example hydro seed.

Chuck: Is there anything we should think about buying now to avoid tariffs? Josh: No, not right now; we have no immediate equipment purchase needs.

Chuck: Do we have enough room for everything in the current garage? Josh: Yes, after some reorganizing, everything fits. Ron: The bones of the building are pretty good; we are missing windows. We could make it bigger easily (Josh: you could go back 20'). We can shore it up. Building new is very expensive. Josh: The next step would be to make it more efficient. Ron: We should remove the fiberglass insulation and add spray foam and fire retardant. The cleanup that has been done has helped a lot. Josh: We might want to consider just covering the windows; it needs new lighting downstairs anyway. Ron: It won't take much to make it tight.

Chuck: Should we pull the committee together or go about it on our own? Ron/Mike: Let's just take care of it.

**9. SB Meeting: May 14, 2025**
The meeting will go forward as scheduled on May 13th, Chuck has a conflict and will have to miss it.

**10. Approval of Excess Weight Permits**
Stuart Halstrom
Barrett Trucking Company, Inc.
Iron Box, LLC
N Pizzale Trucking
Sun Common
Christopher Viens
Bethel Mills

*Chuck signed the permits.*

**11. Other Business**
**12. Read Mail and Sign Warrant**
**13. Executive Session – Employee Review**
*At 7:40pm, Ron made a motion to go into the Executive Session. Mike seconded. All in favor, meeting moved into Executive Session.*

**No decisions were made.**
**14. Adjourn**
*At 7:58 pm, Mike motioned to end the Executive session, Ron seconded, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned.*

Submitted by,
Eve Silverman

Approved: Chuck Martel Date: