Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting
Town of Fayston, Vermont
Tuesday, June 24th, 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: Sarah Stavraky, Treasurer; Josh Livingston, Road Foreman; MRVTV; Tyler Billingsley, East Engineering

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

1. **Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes – June 10th, 2025**

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

2. **Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes – Employee Reviews (June 11th, 2025)**

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

3. **Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes – Site Visit June 18th, 2025**

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

4. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** None

5. **Public Comments**: None

6. **East Engineering – Tyler Billingsley – Bridge Design**

Tyler Billingsley presented the plans for both permanent bridges. He stated that both site surveys and hydraulics have been completed. The temporary bridges were installed well.

The Randell Road Bridge is planned with a 55' span and is raised up a bit versus the previous bridge. The cost is estimated to be approximately $1MM. This would be just over the threshold for FEMA's "large projects", which means that they will pay on the actual cost, not just the estimate.

The Airport Road Bridge is estimated to cost $685,000. This would be considered a FEMA "small project" which means they will pay on the estimate. Winterset said they would sell the Town the temporary bridge that is currently there, at a cost of $250,000. Tyler stated that he would want to upgrade some aspects of this bridge, including solidifying the abutment and raising the height of the bridge. The Town will have to decide between this option and a new bridge built from the ground up which would cost over $1MM.

A new bridge could be estimated to last 75-100 years. The upgraded temporary bridge could be expected to last 50 years.

Once the Town decides on whether to purchase the temporary or rebuild the Airport Road bridge, Tyler will revise plans as needed and send them through for permitting (estimated to take 4-5 months). Then he will assist in the bid phase including evaluating the bids. Tyler will handle all paperwork, site inspections, and testing through to the completion of the project.

Ron stated that he thinks the Town should build a new bridge versus upgrading the temporary, as the Town's share would be covered by the reserves. Chuck and Mike agreed. Tyler stated that since the 2024 FEMA expenses for all Towns may add exceed a certain threshold, resulting in a lower share for the Town to pay. The Board gave Tyler the authorization to move forward with designs on two new bridges.

Sarah Stavraky asked if these designs will exceed State standards, i.e. if they include hazard mitigation. Tyler confirmed that they did not.

With a target installation date in 2026, Tyler recommended that the Town begin to work now to get easements from landowners in place.

7. Setting 2025 Tax Rate with Treasurer Sarah Stavraky

Sarah Stavraky said that the Town tax rate is essentially the same as last year, with an increase of only +0.02%. The Board can decide if they want the rate to be expressed to four decimal points. The Board decided to stay with the four decimal places.

Chuck moved to accept the tax rate of 0.4101. Ron seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

8. Culvert Replacement Request Tucker Hill Road – Lauren Kolitch

Chuck: Lauren was at the last meeting and stated that she purchased a culvert which she wants the Town to install. The Board went on a site visit on June 18th. At the Board's request, Lauren sent an email identifying the dates of the events that impacted her property. These included: Hurricane Irene in 2011; Memorial Day weekend in 2013 (culvert was upsized); July 2023 flooding event; December 2023 flooding event; July 2024 flooding event; 2 storms in May 2025.

Chuck moved to close the hearing on the Lauren Kolitch culvert request and to take no further testimony. Mike seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Mike stated that changing the regulation, which states property owners are responsible for maintenance on their own property, for one person is not the correct thing to do. The Town currently does not have a system for assessing the culvert sizes of private property owners, and perhaps this should be considered.

Ron agreed with Mike and stated that we could take the helpful advice she has provided for rebuilding the road, such as realigning the culverts. He did not think the Town should assess privately owned culverts.

Chuck agreed and stated that he felt badly that her driveway was affected by the weather events; these were all abnormal events and not the Town's fault. However, the Town did not do anything wrong in

the maintenance of the road – it was ditched, and culverts were installed appropriately based on the circumstances of the time.

Chuck moved to deny Lauren's request to install the culvert she has purchased. Mike seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

9. Road Foreman Update

Josh Livingston: Culverts have been delivered, and many have been installed on Tucker Hill Road. We are trying to complete this as quickly as possible. We are then moving on to Sharpshooters to do debris cleanup (due per FEMA on 7/11). Paving on German Flats is expected to begin end of this week. Dunbar Hill is complete and looks good.

10. Other Business: None

11. Read Mail and Sign Warrant

12. Adjourn

At 7:06, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Eve Silverman

C M Martel — July 8, 2025

Approved: Chuck Martel — Date: