

## Town of Fayston

### POLICY AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE FAYSTON SELECTBOARD

#### A. PURPOSE.

The Fayston Selectboard is required by law to conduct its meetings in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. 1 V.S.A. § 310-314. Meetings of the Fayston Selectboard must be opened to the public at all times, except as provided in 1 V.S.A. § 313.

#### B. APPLICATION.

This policy, setting forth rules of procedure, shall apply to the Fayston Selectboard, which is referred to below as "the body". These rules shall apply to all regular, special and emergency meetings of the body.

#### C. ORGANIZATION.

1. This body shall annually elect a chair who shall preside over all meetings. If the Chair is absent, a member of the body, selected by the body, shall act as chair for that meeting.
2. The chair shall preserve order in the meeting and shall regulate its proceedings by applying these rules and making determinations about all questions of order or procedure.
3. The majority of the members of the body shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum of the members of the body is not present at a meeting, no meeting shall take place.
4. No single member of the body shall have authority to represent or act on behalf of the body unless, by majority vote, the body has delegated such authority for a specific matter at a duly-noticed meeting and such delegation is recorded in the meeting minutes.
5. Motions made by members of the body require a second. The chair of the body may make motions and may vote on all questions before the body. A motion will only pass if it receives the votes of a majority of the total membership of the body.
6. There is no limit to the number of times a member of the body may speak to a question. A member may speak or make a motion without being recognized by the chair. Motions to close or limit debate will be entertained.
7. Any member of the body may request a roll call vote.
8. Meetings may be recessed to a time and place certain.
9. The rules may be amended by majority vote of the body.

#### D. AGENDAS.

1. Each regular and special meeting of the body shall have an agenda. Those who wish to be added to the meeting agenda shall contact the Selectboard Assistant to request inclusion. The chair shall determine the final content of the agenda.
2. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be posted at the Fayston Municipal Building as well as on the Fayston website ([faystonvt.com](http://faystonvt.com)). The agenda must also be made available to any person who request it prior to the meeting.
3. All business shall be conducted in the same order as it appears on the noticed agenda, except that any addition or deletion from the noticed agenda may be made as the first act

of business at the meeting. No additions to or deletions from the agenda shall be considered once the first act of business at the meeting has commenced. Any other adjustment to the noticed agenda, for example, changing the order of business, postponing or tabling actions, may be made by majority vote of the body.

#### E. MEETINGS.

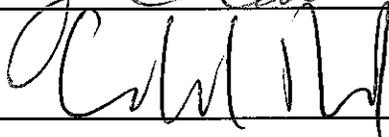
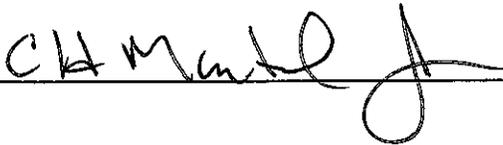
1. Regular meetings shall take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Fayston Municipal Building.
2. Special meetings shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours in advance by giving notice to all members of the body, unless previously waived; to an editor, publisher or news director, or radio station serving the area; and to any person who has requested notice of such meetings. In addition, notices shall be posted at the Fayston Municipal Building, the Fayston Town Garage and the Fayston Elementary School.
3. Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices, and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.
4. A member of the body may attend a regular, special, or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location, so long as the member identifies him or herself when the meeting is convened, and is able to hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Whenever one or more members attend electronically, voting must be done by roll call. If a quorum or more of the body attend a meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the following requirements shall be met:
  - a. At least 24 hours prior to the meeting, or as soon as practicable prior to an emergency meeting, the body shall publicly announce the meeting and post notice of the meeting in or near the Fayston Municipal Building, Town Garage, and Fayston Elementary School.
  - b. The public announcement and posted notice of the meeting shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the body, or at least one staff or designee of the body, shall be physically present at each of the designated meeting locations.

#### F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

1. All meetings of the body are meetings **in** the public, not **of** the public. Members of the public shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to express opinions about matters considered by the body, so long as order is maintained according to these rules.
2. At the beginning of the agenda item(s) for which members of the public wish to be heard, but before any action is taken by the body at each meeting, there may be 10 minutes afforded for open public comment. By majority vote, the body may increase the time for open public comment and its place on the agenda.
3. Comment by the public or members of the body must be addressed to the chair or to the body as a whole, and not to any individual member of the body or public.
4. Members of the public must be acknowledged by the chair before speaking.

5. If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, he or she may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.
6. Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.
7. Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the chair or other presiding member of the body. The chair should adhere to the following process to restore order and decorum of a meeting, but may bypass any or all steps when he or she determines in his or her sole discretion that the deviation from the process is warranted:
  - a. Call the meeting to order and remind the members of the applicable rules of procedure.
  - b. Declare a recess or table an issue.
  - c. Adjourn the meeting until a time and date certain.
  - d. Order the constable to remove disorderly person(s) from the meeting.

ADOPTED:

  
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4.11.16

Date