

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING
3/3/2020

The legal voters of the Town of Fayston were notified and warned to meet at the Fayston Municipal Building/Robert Vasseur Town Hall on Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. to transact the following business:

9:32 A.M. Rick Rayfield (Rick) opened the meeting, welcomed all, went over Robert's Rules of Order, time allotted and times for voters to speak, procedures for ballot voting if called for, and asked that all registered voters show their yellow cards and asked if there were any non-voters present. There were none.

He then turned the meeting over to Jared Cadwell (Jared). Jared introduced the Selectboard, Moderator and Town Clerk. He then asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Ferris Buck, Jennifer Howard, and Renata Young.

Jared read Article 1.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for the year ensuing. Rick Rayfield's term expires.

Sue Jefferys nominated Rick Rayfield. Brad Cook seconded. All in favor. Jared cast one ballot for the election of Rick Rayfield.

Rick noted a correction on Article 9 that should have said Selectboard member vs. just Selectboard.

He proceeded to Article 2.

Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Freddie Graves nominated Patti Lewis. Al Cocogna seconded. All in favor. Rick cast one ballot for the election of Patti Lewis (Patti).

Article 3. To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2019.

Chuck Martel (Chuck) spoke first congratulating and thanking Jared Cadwell for his 25 years of service and noting that the Town Report was dedicated to him. Chuck spoke of the time and effort that Jared has given to the Town, other committees that Selectboard members participate in, and the graceful way Jared does it all. He joked that the Selectboard has to approve the town report and that a dummy dedication process had to be handled in order to keep it a secret from Jared.

Chuck referred to the Town Clerk Report Patti had written congratulating Sarah Stavraky for receiving the Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurer Association (VMCTA) award of Assistant Treasurer of the Year. He also noted that Patti had received the Treasurer of the Year award from this same organization.

Chuck thanked the road crew for their hard work and mentioned that Mike Quenneville would be coming back as a part-time summer road crew member.

He then asked that all turn to page 15 of the town report as he reviewed: the Bragg Hill project that was completed in 2018 and 2019 with the help of G&N and S.T. Paving, culvert replacements on Airport, Phen, Sharpshooter and Big Basin Roads, ditch work completed on Kew Vasseur, Randell and Harris Hill Roads, work that may be done on Boyce Road to better access the Boyce Hill Town Forest, paving and culvert replacements on N. Fayston Road in 2020 which will cost approximately \$335,000.00 this year and another \$140,000.00 in 2021, the Sassi camp that had been removed from the Town Gravel pit, noted that Karyn Scherer's name had been omitted from the Town Garage Committee, spoke of the completion of the ADA projects at the town hall and thanked David Frank and Karyn Scherer for spearheading that project, the Boyce Hill Town Forest donation of 93 acres, other committees that Selectboard members sit on, thanked Doug, Sarah and Leo for their work as Listers, and promoted the need for volunteers to fill Planning Commission vacancies and the fact the Town could not operate without its volunteers. There is also immediate need for a Green-Up Coordinator.

Chuck thanked Carol Chamberlin for all her work over the years on the Planning Commission and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and a round of applause was given in appreciation. Don Siminoni (Don) also stood to speak and thank Carol for her leadership throughout the Land Use Regulation updates and now the Town Plan.

Don further spoke to the communication network within the Valley citing the bus incident in Moretown and an icy day on Center Fayston Road. Both situations had communication issues in emergency situations. He would like to start a committee to look into better communication not only in Fayston but the Valley as a whole.

Chuck thanked Corrie Miller (Corrie), Liza Walker (VLT) and Lisa Koitzsch for their work on the interim management plan for the Boyce Hill Forest land donation.

Michael Jordan (Mike) then spoke regarding the Town Garage Committee. Over the last year Tom Clark, Ed Read, David Frank, Karyn Scherer, and himself have met and started looking at size and type of building, configuration on the property, heated and unheated areas for equipment, etc. Gunner McCain has surveyed the property and Karyn is working with Stuart on design. He also explained that this would likely be a bond situation vs. a reserve fund which the Town doesn't have.

Rebecca Baruzzi asked about the possibility of collaboration with other towns to build a central shared facility. Mike responded it had been considered and might make sense statistically but that the idea had gained no traction.

Wesley Bell stated that he hoped the plan would consider the needs now and 20 years from now and Mike responded they were and also mentioned that a new garage would need sufficient height and width to work on truck bodies in their raised position.

Shane Mullen asked how many years of gravel are left in our gravel pit. Jared responded it had been predicted as a 75-year life span when opened in the 80s. There has been talk of getting an updated core sample which would help determine that especially now with the Sassi camp area open.

Carol Chamberlin asked if the 2020 N. Fayston Road paving project is being coordinated with the Waitsfield section of that road. No definite answer on what Waitsfield is planning.

Lou Putnam asked if there were plans to do something about Route 17. Answer was yes, the State is planning to work on that road this summer.

Carol Chamberlin did not speak on the Planning Commission report but wanted to tell people that their public hearing on the revised town plan is this coming Monday night at 6:00 p.m. at this town hall.

Rick asked if any other officers wanted to speak to their reports or if there were any questions from the body.

Lister Doug Mosle spoke stating his report is self-explanatory and reviewed the CLA, sales market, and the fact that Fayston is in a good position at present and does not foresee another reappraisal in the near future. He noted Article 10 where they were going to be looking for another lister and explained the role of the third lister.

Kathy Cadwell moved to accept the Officer's reports as presented. Sue Jefferys seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of general revenue and with short term notes fund the Capital Budget.

Carol Chamberlin moved the article. Michael Quenneville seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 5. Shall the Town pay the Selectboard expenses, and if so, how much?

Freddie Graves made a motion to pay Selectboard expenses in the amount of \$750.00. Rebecca Baruzzi seconded. Some discussion followed re: amount of time the Selectboard puts in. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 6. To assess a time of payment of education and municipal taxes. Property taxes are due 30 days from generation of the bills. Taxes not paid by November 1, 2020 (postmarks (not metered mail) accepted), a one-time penalty of 8% and interest of 1% per month for the first three months and 1.5% per month thereafter shall be applied. (November 1, 2020 falls on a Sunday therefore, Treasurer's office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Gussie Graves made a motion to move the article. Reed Henry seconded. Discussion followed re: changing the date if 11/1 if it lands on a weekend, percentage of taxes collected, when the eight percent penalty begins, and the BOA process for late tax payers. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 7. To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Freddie Graves nominated Patti Lewis. Rebecca Baruzzi seconded. No further nominations. Jodi Chamberlain made a motion to cast one ballot for Patti. Shane Mullen seconded. All in favor, Patti elected as Treasurer.

Article 8. To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector for the year ensuing. Patti Lewis' term expires.

Tony Egan nominated Patti. Sue Jefferys seconded. No further nominations. After a

unanimous voice vote Rick cast one ballot to elect Patti. All in favor.

At this point Rick explained that the state representatives were present and if there was no objection they would be allowed to speak. All agreed.

Kari Dolan (Kari) and Maxine Gadd (Maxine) spoke on their work at the State House. See attached summary.

Valerie Welter asked them if there was any talk in the State House for changes to Act 46 and Freddie Graves further asked if either of them were leading a bill that would make some movement to change Act 60 or 46. Answer no but that there were ongoing discussions.

Rebecca Baruzzi asked if there was an education funding caucus. Answer no.

Raymond Schenk asked what the State was doing to prepare for the Covid-19 virus and has the State or Town thought through the potential unemployment, quarantine, food supply, emergency services, etc. Kari said the State is preparing.

All thanked the Representatives for their presence and presentations.

Article 9. To elect a Selectboard for a three-year term. Mike Jordan's term expires.

Casey Murphy nominated Mike Jordan. Reed Henry seconded. No further nominations. After a unanimous voice vote Rick cast one ballot for Mike Jordan. All in favor.

Article 10. To elect a Lister for a three-year term. Leo Crain's term expires.

No nominations for Lister came forth. The position for Lister remains open.

Article 11. To elect a Second Constable for a one-year term. Kevin Vanschaick's term expires.

Patti Martley nominated Kevin Van Schaick. Matt Howes seconded. No further nominations. All in favor. Rick cast one ballot for Kevin Van Schaick.

Article 12. To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term. Zelda LaVanway's term expires.

Jared Cadwell nominated Zelda LaVanway. Gussie Graves seconded. No further nominations. All in favor. Rick cast one ballot for Zelda LaVanway.

Article 13. To elect a Grand Juror for a one-year term. Matt Howes' term expires.

Jared Cadwell nominated Matt Howes. All in favor. Rick cast one ballot for Matt Howes.

Article 14. To elect a Town Agent for a one-year term. Lindsay Browning's term expires.

Shane Mullen nominated Lindsay Browning. All in favor. Rick cast one ballot for Lindsay.

Article 15. Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Town Forest Reserve Fund, to be used for maintenance/care of Town forest lands, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

Rebecca Baruzzi made the motion to move the article. Theresa Membrino seconded.

Discussion followed with Corrie Miller explaining the gift of 93 acres now called the Boyce Hill Town Forest, its history, the interim management plan and the two-year process for a long term management plan. She explained the reserve fund will help maintain the land but they will also be doing private fundraising.

Reed Henry asked why the Town keeps taking land off the grand list and in this case where 3600 usable acres of State land is 2 miles away. He also cited the Bragg Hill and Tenny farm lands that have recently been conserved. He stated it's money out of his pocket and wanted to know the reasoning behind this. Jared replied the very simple answer was that it was donated to the Town and that the Selectboard had considered the \$1325 in lost municipal revenue but felt the recreation value was worth it.

Rebecca Baruzzi replied that she loved the Boyce Hill property but thought Reed had a great point and asked if a mechanism could be put in place that the voters have more input to any future Town land acquisition. Jared replied that was a great idea and does speak to the Town plan that is currently being revised and that more public vetting could be done in the future. Chuck noted that this had been discussed at various Selectboard meetings and they were doing their best to make these decisions in these public forums. Karrie Thomas commented that it was a wonderful parcel and that a lot of people use it and that there is more than one way to attract revenue such as those people's properties next to this land would go up in value. Wendy Bridgewater thanked the Selectboard for taking the parcel. She noted it was going to be given to the State or the Town and glad the Town has control vs. the State. Jack Corliss stated he was not for or against the land but that taking on land was not free, that he too would like more of the body of the Town have a say when asked to take on land, not just those that use it, the stewardship for all time, and the burden of more taxes for everyone. Peter Forbes acknowledged appreciation for the comments but wanted to clarify that the farms in our community that are protected pay their full freight on taxes and that as a taxpayer and farmer protecting the land and having it available should not be looked at as an expense. Wesley Bell stated that as one who has managed public land if it had gone to the State, we would have lost local control. Local control means creativity for the Town. (Talked about an increase of taxes of more than \$1300). Paul Sipple stated he was happy it will not be developed but that he hoped we would not overdo it - that there should not be a ton of paths, signs, list of rules, etc. Don Siminoni spoke of communication using the MailChimp system that has been set up in order that the public be informed about what is on the meeting agendas. Liz Levey asked how much funding the Town needs to maintain the parcel over time, Corrie replied that she thinks it will cost \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 and hopes to seek private funding.

Brad Cook made a motion to move the question. Hearing no objection, a voice vote was taken. All in favor. Article passed.

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to fund the Town Forest Reserve Fund?

Freddie Graves made a motion to move the articles. Jodi Chamberlin Cook seconded. Freddie Graves called the question.

No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 17. Shall the voters authorize a sum of money (\$1,302,482.00) to pay debts and expenses of the Town of Fayston for the year ending December 31, 2020?

Casey Murphy made a motion to move the article. Tony Egan seconded.

Rick noted that article 18 will be passed over and Mike Jordan then explained that the reserve thought to be remaining in the municipal building reserve fund was no longer available due to a late arriving invoice.

Mike reviewed several things re: the budget. Including but not limited to; reserve transfers, highway salaries and supplies, 10-20 more years of gravel at the gravel pit, staffing, state requirements re: road maintenance and reporting, stone lining ditches and ongoing maintenance, including replenishing the stone when it fills in with no great way to get rid of that material and the cost of stone/trucking. Paul Sipple asked how long stone lining lasts and the answer was 5-7 years. Reed Henry asked if the State was mandating stone lining ditches. Corrie Miller as FMR rep. said that some places could work with check dams but it all depends on the steepness. She also said that what one can do on their private land to help with runoff to the Town ditches could make the ditches last longer. Bill McDonnell asked about the cost to improve Boyce Road. Mike Jordan said the Selectboard had evaluated that prior to acquiring the land and that there is a decent subgrade, there are culverts to be replaced next summer, and with material from the gravel pit it would not be a huge cost. Bill also asked if anyone had been to the gravel pit and seen the devastation up there and what the \$50,000.00 road construction reserve fund was for. Mike replied paving and general road maintenance.

Chuck made a motion to amend this article from \$1,302,482.00 to \$1,312,482.00 to accommodate Article 18 which must be passed over. Liz Levey seconded. Chuck explained that while setting the budget it was thought that there would be \$10,000.00 left from the municipal building ADA project but that was not the case when the final bill came in. This increase would fund the fire equipment reserve fund. Wesley asked if we had the revenue to cover that and the answer was yes when the tax rate is set. Larry Consenstein asked if the ADA project was done and the answer was yes.

Gussie Graves made a motion to approve the amended budget of \$1,312,482.00. Tony Egan seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 18. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to move funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the established Municipal Building Maintenance Reserve Fund to the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund?

Jared made a motion to lay this article on the table as previously discussed. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 19. Shall the voters approve a contribution to support the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service in the amount of \$15,000, contingent upon the voters of Warren, Waitsfield and Moretown each also authorizing appropriations to support the Service in the same amount?

Freddie Graves made a motion to approve this article. Rebecca Baruzzi seconded.

Kevin Van Schaick made a motion to amend the article to remove Moretown from the list of Towns that would need to approve to pass the article. Theresa Membrinio seconded. Paul Sipple asked why we would tie our contribution to other towns at all.

Carol Chamberlin made a motion to amend the amendment by removing all other towns from the contingency. Abbey Dyer seconded. Discussion followed. By voice vote amendment carried. This left some awkward language referring to no towns in the remaining amended motion. Theresa made a substitute motion that removed from the article the related wording concerning other towns participating. "The voters approve a contribution to support the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service in the amount of \$15,000." Rebecca seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Kevin spoke briefly about volunteers needed and applications he had in hand. Carol Chamberlin thanked the ambulance service for their service. A round of applause by all.

Article 20. Shall the voters authorize an additional appropriation to support the Mad River Valley Recreation District in the amount of \$15,000, contingent upon the voters of Warren and Waitsfield each also authorizing additional appropriations to support the District in the same amount?

Sue Jefferys moved that the other towns be removed from this article as well.

This was out of order as Rick Swanson noted the article had to be moved and seconded first. John Stokes said that he believed the towns had to move together on this one or not at all.

Casey Murphy made a motion to move the article. Kathy Cadwell seconded. Body voted not to move the article and continue discussion.

Tony asked if the other towns had the same article and Jared replied yes. Waitsfield had the exact language while Warren included it as a budget line item. Gerri Procaccini asked what the money was for. John Stokes said that since the Mad River Park had been purchased one person had been handling all the ADA compliance, water runoff, parking lot and permitting issues. They need a manager to apply for grants, take care of the fields, etc. He compared our Recreation District with Bristol and Waterbury. Rebecca Baruzzi noted alternative revenue sources that were spoken of when the land was purchased. If this article passes, she could like to see measures of what is done with the money and judge next year if this will be a year after year request. John explained the position would be part time. David Koeple asked then if the total the Town would give to the Rec District is \$30,000.00 this year and year after year. Answer yes. Matt Howes spoke that he was not sure this district needed the extra \$15,000 as they already get \$45,000.00. Likened to the Skatium that makes their own money and does not feel the taxpayers need to donate to a private business. Brad Cook spoke of coordination between all the recreation entities in the Valley. Rebecca Baruzzi replied that coordination would be great but not sure this is the place for that. Valerie Welter agreed with the coordinating but that this should cook a bit, let them have the money this year and see what happens.

Rick Swanson called the question, without objection.

Rick reread the article. All in favor, motion carried.

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to set the necessary tax rate after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the Office of the Town Clerk?

Sue Jefferys made a motion to move the article. Ned Kelley seconded. No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 22. Shall the Town vote to start next year's Town Meeting (March 2, 2021) at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon at the Fayston Municipal Building/Robert Vasseur Town Hall?

Jodi Chamberlain made the motion to move the article. Kathy Cadwell seconded.

Darlene put a plug in to move the town meeting to a night meeting.

Rebecca Baruzzi made a motion to amend the article to meeting March 2, 2021 at 6 p.m. Peter Forbes seconded.

Matt Howes explained that, for anyone running the elections on that day and ballot counters, this would not work as polls close at 7p.m. Jared agreed that elected officials would be absent at such a meeting. Some discussion was had about another night and Theresa Membrino noted the HUUSD meeting held on the Monday night prior. Jodi Chamberlain said Waitsfield had tried this a couple years ago and moved back to morning as it did not work to bring in more participation. Doug said that those adversely affected by the time of the meeting are not here to speak for themselves and suggested a survey be sent out via the new email system to see what opinions might be. Other dates/times/location/ideas were discussed.

Brad Cook asked to call the question.

Rick restated the amendment to change next year's meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. By voice vote, the motion to amend was denied.

Rick restated the original article. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Article 23. To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting?

Corrie asked that funding for the rec district next year be an article that includes total funding not just increased funding as it was this year. Don Simonini commented that how can they hire someone if they don't know if that position will be funded.

Rick Swanson made a motion to adjourn. Sue Jefferys seconded. Voice vote was unable to determine but by division of the house the motion failed.

Bev McMullin noted on pages 24 & 31 in the town report the use of term Selectman and requested change to Select Board. Patti responded that the Town Clerk's office will continue its efforts along the lines of that request.

Theresa Membrino and Tim Jones, representatives to the HUUSD spoke.

Tim apologized for the profound failure in leadership and respect the people expect in the School Board. He has no explanation for the division that has been wrought on this community. He hopes when voters speak today, and some turn over on the board, that they can get back to work and regain some trust. He stated he is grateful and impressed with the teachers in our community and that his kids come home from school happy every day and that our children are in the best hands that can be.

Theresa said she had voted no in the 6 to 7 minority to the budget as well, based on binary decisions and long-term cost. Theresa and Tim received an appreciative round of applause for

their work.

Raymond Schenk wanted to know if they had settled on a bus contract and what was the board doing re: the coronavirus on buses.

Lou Putnam expressed her opposition to closing the Fayston School. Someone noted that the Fayston School enrollment was driven down by the white paper and talk of closing the school. Question was asked what happens if the budget is voted down and would the lights go out and would that be a telling rebuke. Rebecca Baruzzi thanked the school board members for doing the worst job in the Valley, stated the challenge is retention of our kids in our school system, and noted the 45 houses built in Fayston in the past five years and the number in Moretown as well. John Stokes spoke to class size and does not believe more is better. Jill Ellis thanked both the members for their work and spoke of teacher RIFs even before the budget passed. She is concerned about this. Al Cogna asked when the Superintendent's contract was up. Answer June 2021. But if not renewing she has to be notified by 9/1/20. And this is a decision by the HUUSD Board by a majority vote. Karrie Thomas asked both our representative to vote against renewal. Valerie Welter also thanked our representatives. She noted that the superintendent works for the Board and the Board works for us and would like them to rein in the rampant, political poise and smoke and mirrors from the superintendent. Slap her ears so to speak. Gail Breslauer asked if there could be a straw ballot that this community would entertain a vote of lack of confidence/vote of no confidence in the superintendent.

Rick said this could happen at the will of the body but that anything under other business was nonbinding.

Gail Breslauer made a motion for a straw poll on a vote of no confidence in the superintendent Brigid Nease. Jill Ellis seconded.

Leigh Michel wondered if her contract could be bought out/terminated early. Wesley Bell said he had heard comments from those working in the system that disgusted him with this whole plan/leadership.

Theresa Membrino noted that as a citizen we have to be thoughtful and mindful how such a straw vote might be uncomfortable from some of those in the room that work in the system. Someone suggested a paper ballot procedure, but no motion was made.

Jill Ellis made a suggestion that the camera be turned off during the vote. The MRVTV camera turned away from the body of the meeting.

Rick restated the non binding motion for a straw poll on a vote of no confidence in the district superintendent Brigid Nease. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Zelda Lavanway spoke re: the Fayston Historical Society and the need for help. A President and Secretary are needed and people to get involved to preserve the history of the Town.

Kevin VanSchaick encouraged people to read page 38 of the town report to better understand the MRVAS request for 2020 and 2021.

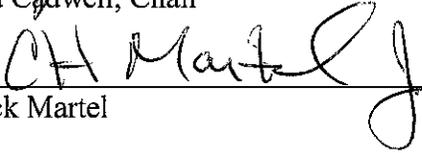
Wesley Bell spoke of his desire to have a Town/Valley-wide initiative that would require a wage ordinance addressing living vs. minimum wage. This would begin by a study of wages and living expenses in the Valley. Motions were started but not seconded and after much discussion Wesley was referred to the Mad River Valley Planning District to begin his investigation of those numbers as they already work on those statistics.

1:26 p.m. – Brad Cook made a motion to adjourn. Cynthia Seckler seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Selectboard;



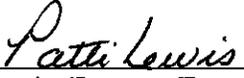
Jared Cadwell, Chair



Chuck Martel

Michael Jordan

Dated this 30 day of March 2020 at Fayston, Vermont



Patti Lewis, Fayston Town Clerk

Received and recorded this 31 day of March 2020.

Someone suggested a paper ballot procedure, but no motion was made.