

Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020

Select Board (SB) Members: Jared Cadwell (Jared); Chuck Martel (Chuck); Michael Jordan (Mike)

Selectboard Assistant: Patti Lewis (Patti)

Minutes Recorder: JB Weir (JB)

Guests: Doug Berlan (MRVTV)

1. Minutes: Mike made a motion to approve Selectboard (SB) minutes of October 13, 2020. Chuck seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.
2. Road Foreman Update: Jared noted that the road crew is busy doing culvert work around town, perhaps getting to Dunbar Hill Road today. The road crew is also getting the plow and sand gear ready for the winter. Stuart plans on doing one more round of grading around town as long as weather permits.
3. Schedule Budget Meeting: Mike will send out dates for his availability starting the first week of November. The first week of November through the first week of January is budget season.
4. Ratify Covid-19 Employee Response Protocols: As the public knows, the town office does have protocol in place for using the office and interacting with Town staff. The employee response protocols drafted by Patti and Chuck serve to address concerns that employees may have regarding potential Covid-19 sickness of staff and process for screening. Some of the information was pulled from the VT Department of Health as well as materials generated by the school district. This document is being reviewed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns staff attorney but can be approved by the SB tonight as the SB does not believe substantial changes will be made. Chuck noted that the guidelines call for a temperature check and screening question list, and then proceeds from there depending on the outcome of the temperature check and responses to screening questions. Chuck moved to approve the Covid-19 Employee Response Protocols. Jared seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Town Hall Pine Tree Thinning: There is concern over the height of the trees should they fall. One tree fell the other day and almost landed on the propane tank. Mike is going to reach out to Eric Boyden who has worked with Lafayette Services to see about their reputation. Jared asked whether they all needed to be taken down. Mike responded in the affirmative, believing if you start taking some down you need to take them all down. Jared stated that the Town would need a return on the proceeds from the logs. Patti asked whether the intent was to clear cut the entire lot. Mike stated in the negative, just the white pines needed to be cleared. Patti asked when they would be taken down and whether there would need to be an RFP. Jared said perhaps this winter, Mike added it doesn't need to be imminent as the trees are not dying. The SB agreed that an RFP would be necessary.

6. Smith/No. Fayston Road Intersection Response: Ned Kelley had attended the last SB meeting to discuss what he believes was a dangerous intersection at North Fayston Road and Smith Road. There is a sign on the uphill side of North Fayston Road but not the downhill side. Jared reached out to Stuart about this and he suggested duplicating the existing sign, which is 50-100 feet above the intersection on the uphill side, for below the intersection. The Town will proceed with the additional sign.
7. Chet Morrison Access Permit Application: The proposed cut is on Center Fayston Road, about 300 yards from the intersection with Deer Run Lane. Patti is not sure Stuart has met with the applicant or viewed the proposed cut, but this would be a prerequisite to approval. The SB approved the access permit on the condition that Stuart approves the location.
8. 2021 Town Meeting Planning: There has not been any talk about how to proceed for the 2021 meeting as VLCT and others are focused on the election for now. The SB discussed the difficulty of holding and moderating a virtual Town Meeting. Jared mentioned perhaps there could be some sort of virtual informational meeting the night before. Subsequently, the Town would have to have an Australian ballot process for voting on the budget and for election of Town officers. Questions then arise as to whether every item would require an Australian ballot vote as well as how the process of petitions would work. Mike wondered whether the Town could use the Fayston School for Town Meeting. The question becomes whether the school district would allow the Town to use the building. Waitsfield did hold the August election in the Waitsfield Elementary School so perhaps this could work.
9. Boyce Hill Town Forest Fall 2020 Mowing Schedule and Budgeting: Sugarbush has agreed to do the mowing for the Town for free. The SB would like to thank Jon Hammond and Sugarbush for taking this on. Jared asked Chuck whether there would be any effort to hold a virtual public informational meeting. Chuck believes there will be. Lately, the focus has been on mowing before winter. Chuck and Lisa have gone on site visits the last couple weeks in order to determine what needed to be mowed this year, with the understanding that what does not get mowed this year may end up being quite difficult to mow next year. The focus going forward will be on public input. Mike mentioned whether starting a GoFundMe page would be a good step.
10. The Board read the mail and signed the warrant.
11. Other Business: Jared asked Patti whether the second laptop has been ordered, and Patti said yes it should be here tomorrow. This will be paid for out of a \$5,000 technology grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. Patti mentioned the Town received \$18,153.40 from the Agency of Transportation as a highway supplemental payment in lieu of any grant awards for this year. JB added that we are about to receive a little over \$12,000 back in grant money for completing the Randell Road work. The two other outstanding grant requests – the paving grant and the Town and Highway Structures grant for the Chase Brook culvert – have been pushed to 2021 by VTrans. JB is trying to determine where the Town might be in the queue for the request.

Patti has generated a summary of the current taxes for the SB. The deadline for paying property taxes in November 1. Patti said we are still waiting for about \$2,200,000 to come in. Total receipts are almost \$7,000,000. The office will be open on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until noon for people to drop off payment in person.

Chuck asked whether Front Porch Forum ever sends in an official request for donation. Patti said no as they have never requested any funds from the Town. Chuck was sent a donation request as a member of the SB. The SB agreed that the Town uses the FPF medium frequently. If they would like to make a request it needs to be in writing.

5:34 p.m. Mike made a motion to adjourn the SB meeting. Chuck seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

The next SB meeting is on **November 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Robert Vasseur Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

J.B. Weir

Approved: Jared Cadwell