

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, April 24, 2023  
6:30 PM  
Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Stuart Edson, Keith Sprague, Curtis Koren, members; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Assistant Treasurer. Jack Zebora. Betty Lord attended via zoom.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – none
- C. Public Comments – Mr. Sprague said he has to apply for a Large Farm Operation permit for his farm, and he has to have a public meeting for this which will be May 10, 2023 at the Brookfield Fire Station. Mr. Sprague asked the Selectboard to approve this meeting and they did.
- D. Payroll and AP Warrants – Mr. Edson made a motion to approve the AP and Warrants as presented with a total of \$31,825.03 with the largest payment being made to R.E. Tucker in the amount of \$5,544.00. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.
- E. Highway Report
  - 1. One-Ton Truck – Mr. Higgins submitted a quote, with a trade in value on the old truck, which totaled \$76,842 for a new truck. He asked the Board to approve the purchase of chains for it and an extended warranty. The Board authorized Mr. Sprague to move forward with the purchase of the one-ton truck. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
  - 2. Mr. Sprague received a call from a concerned individual in town regarding mud and dirt on her lawn. He tried her number several times to get in touch with her but never got a return call.
  - 3. Jeff Gilman reported to Mr. Sprague that there is two yards of sand left over at his place and they will save it for the town. He said he could probably get the other three yards that the town needs also. Mr. Benson said it needs to be received before the end of June and paid for by July 1, 2023. Mr. Sprague will confirm availability.
  - 4. Mr. Sprague will meet with Bob Coniff regarding building the shed and Mr. Sprague will get back to the board.
  - 5. The repeaters should be installed at the school soon.

F. New Business

1. Public Assemblage Permit – Dennis Tatro submitted a Public Assemblage permit for the Justin Morgan Celebration in September. There was no reference to having an officer of the law available or to notify all the neighbors in advance of the event. The Board approved the permit asking that they find volunteers to be on site to control traffic on the road if an officer is not available and to make sure all neighbors are contacted.

G. Old Business – Wind Turbine – David Christensen – Ms. Blanchard will contact Mr. Christensen as it is the belief of the Board that the project was approved last year. Further discussion will take place at meeting on May 8, 2023.

H. Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2023 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the April 10, 2023 minutes as presented, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

I. Other Proper Business

1. Declaration of Inclusion Initiative for the Town of Brookfield – This is tabled until the next meeting.

2. VT-Alert Adoption – This is being sent to Rich Doolan with questions, and it will be discussed again at next meeting.

3. VTrans Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program – The Town received a 2024 Grants-in-Aid application which the Board will submit, however questions have arisen and the Board would like to know about last year's status of this program.

4. Montgomery Road Update – Mr. Edson said Rob Townsend is willing to do the survey after July 1, 2023. Mr. Edson will contact all that are involved.

5. Computer issues in Town Clerk office – Mr. Edson asked the Board's permission to have David Doda order a minicomputer for the Town Clerk as her computer has failed. Mr. Benson made a motion to get a new computer for the Town Clerk and Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

6. PSAC meeting updates – Mr. Edson was asked to bring forward to the Board a signage question which was to see if there was money to continue getting new signs for all that have been stolen or damaged. He also said that some people requested Equestrian signs. Mr. Benson reported that Vtrans stated that it is not a good idea as it becomes more of a liability with signs being posted. Mr. Benson will check with Vtrans to confirm that this is still their advice. Mr. Benson presented the question of asking PSAC if they could help in getting someone to patrol the roads as Brookfield no longer has a sheriff. There is a possibility that Randolph will pass something which would

be done in Braintree, Northfield and Brookfield regarding patrolling the roads. Mr. Sprague made a motion that PSAC reach out to Northfield regarding sheriff coverage. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

J. Status Report

1. Town Clerk office septic system – Last week there was a problem with the Town Office bathroom facilities. Mr. Sprague contacted Pump Tech who came immediately and pumped the tank. Now going forward, the building will be pumped every four years.
2. Mr. Edson is having trouble getting in touch with Monte and Monte the Town attorney. Mr. Benson will go to Barre and see if the office is still operating.
3. The Jersey barriers at the Floating Bridge will not be removed until the State finishes work on a couple of places that have rotted out.
4. The Town Office is in need of a painter to repaint a few places on the back of the Town Clerk's Office which are peeling. Ms. Koren will look into this and talk with someone who may be able to do the painting so the building does not start to rot from exposure to rain and snow.

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:56 pm to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

Mr. Benson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:22 pm, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

K. Adjournment – Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, Ms. Koren seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.