

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, August 14, 2023  
6:30 PM  
Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Betty Lord, Stuart Edson, Keith Sprague, members. Curtis Koren was not in attendance. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Monique Perry, Dan Childs, Dan O'Brien, Bryce Batchman, Amy Borgman, Steve Hill, Jocelyn Lorrey, Sandra Culter, Herbert Cutler, Jay White, Pat Hood, Doug Hood, Paula Russell.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – none
- C. Public Comments

1. Sandra Cutler said there was a lot of work being done on Ferris Road which is a dead end and questioned why. Ferris Road is a Class 3 road and the Town is obligated to maintain it. There is culvert work that needs to be done and the Town is waiting for FEMA to come and assess the situation. Halfway Brook Road was also mentioned regarding have the worst sections being worked on soon to avoid any accidents. Doug Hood came regarding the East Hill washout which deposited a lot of gravel, sand and other debris on his property and wanted to know what the Town is going to do about it. Mr. Sprague said the Town is only responsible for the road and the right of way and he should contact 211. Paul Russell also wanted to know about cleanup and Mr. Benson stated that the Town does not cleanup private property and the Town is waiting for FEMA to come and assess all the damage. Jay White wanted to know if any other selectboard members had been to the Hoods to see the damage and if the Town would consider cleaning up the property since it was so extreme. Mr. Benson said we need to let FEMA take its course. Jocelyn Lorrey who lives next the Hood's came hoping to get some answers on what could be done for her and her place. Unfortunately, FEMA is shorthanded right now but hopefully they will be out in the area soon.

2. EC Fiber appointment of Bryce Batchman – Dan Childs spoke and said that since he was in a new department at EC Fiber that appointing an alternate delegate to their Board would be very beneficial. Mr. Edson made a motion to appoint Bryce Batchman to be the alternate delegate to the EC Fiber group, Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

3. Library Update – Amy Borgman, President of the Library Board reported that they had contacted VTC inquiring about help designing a stone patio outside of the library. VTC came up with a few designs and now the Library Board is looking for someone to do the work. It is a work in progress.

D. Payroll and AP Warrants and Tax Rate – Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the June 30, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented with a total of \$134,830.90 with the largest payment being made to WB Rogers in the amount of \$93,000.00 for winter sand. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0. Ms. Lord then made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented with a total of \$123,345.11 with the largest payment being made to R.E. Tucker in the amount of \$23,231.00. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0. Ms. Ingrassia reported that the tax rate has not yet been set.

E. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that the road crew has been working on Ferris Road which is both storm damage and grant work for 2023. The plan is to finish there next week. Kolby Haupt has been working with the Town on storm damage also. Ferris Road and East Hill are not complete. The new one-ton truck is finally here. Mr. Higgins will be working on Cram Hill this week also. There was an email that was received that came in from Walt Garner regarding Witts Bridge and Mr. Higgins is going to check this out.

F. New Business – none

G. Old Business – TH 45 (Old Stage Rd) – Mr. Edson reported he did not have a lot to tell since he had been on vacation and now the Town Attorney is away but when he returns, he will have something to report.

H. Meeting minutes for July 13, 2023, and July 24, 2023 – Mr. Sprague made a motion to accept the July 24, 2023, minutes as presented. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 3-0-0. Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the July 13, 2023, minutes as presented. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

I. Other Proper Business

1. Public Assemblage Permit – Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the permit application for September 9, 2023, made by the Brookfield Community. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

2. Kirkyard Services for Cemetery Contract – Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the new contract for Kirkyard Services. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

3. Three letters regarding storm damage – These were discussed above under Public Comments and Highway Report.

4. Letter from State of Vermont regarding VT Route 65 speed limit – Ms. Lord reported that they are not going to currently act on a to change the speed limit from West Street to Bear Hill Rd in Town due to the significant damage sustained from flooding.

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:07 pm, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

Mr. Benson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 pm, Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

J. Adjournment – Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 pm. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.