

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Betty Lord, Stuart Edson, Keith Sprague, Curtis Koren, members; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Carol Monness, Town Clerk; Jack Zebora, Rich Doolan, Jocelyn Lorrey, Arleace Green, Robert Stewart.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – none
- C. Public Comments
 1. Arleace Green SBA Public Affairs Specialist gave a brief report for Homeowners & Renters in Vermont. This is a loan-based program only and not a grant. Mr. Edson will post this information on the Town website. Ms. Green also recommended contacting USDA for assistance regarding the July storm also.
 2. Carol Monness – open lister position – the subject is tabled until the next meeting.
 3. Rich Doolan reported that VTC, the Brookfield Elementary School and the Randolph Senior Center are all available for use in the case of an emergency. He is still looking for volunteers to man the shelters and is seeking donations for supplies for the shelters. He will start to train volunteers soon.
 4. Mr. Robert “Jake” Stewart stopped by to find out when the road he lives on will be repaired. He will provide the Board with pictures and a description of what happened to the road so this can be added to the FEMA damage inventory report.
 5. Jack Zebora brought up a problem on Eagle Peak Road about a pond above his residence; and said water from the pond now comes across private property and damages the road. Mr. Sprague will discuss this with Mr. Higgins and scope out the situation.

- D. Payroll and AP Warrants – September 25, 2023 – Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the September 25, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented with a total of \$75,366.47 with the largest payment being made to Catapillar in the amount of \$19,817,12. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
 - 1. Tax Rate – On the September 11, 2023, minutes, the wrong rates were listed. The correct Homestead Rate is 1.8418 and the Non-Homestead Rate is 1.8442. These corrected rates were changed on the Minutes before they were approved by the Board.
- E. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that new Stop signs and Yield signs will be put up on Cram Hill Rd in West Brookfield. Northfield Rd, West Street and Halfway Brook Rd guard rails will also be installed soon. A wheeled Excavator has been rented and is being used to repair some of the road damage from the July storm. There has been small culvert work also.
- F. New Business – Ms. Lord reported that Skip and Elaine Buck have a fir tree that they would like to cut and donate to the Town for the holidays. The tree will be put in Hippo Park and decorated. Mr. Sprague made a motion to approve the tree being put in Hippo Park for Christmas, Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried forward unanimously 5-0-0.
- G. Old Business – none
- H. Meeting minutes – September 11, 2023 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the September 11, 2023, minutes with corrections made to the tax rate, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
- I. Other Proper Business
 - 1. FEMA Update – Work on the Damage Inventory worksheet are progressing.
 - 2. Public Safety Committee review – Mr. Edson said Rich Doolan would like the Board to consider putting a line item of \$500. Mr. Benson pointed out that an item in that amount was already in the budget.
 - 3. Brookfield Town Hall requested approval of a liquor license for Octoberfest on October 8th. Mr. Edson made a motion to approve Wayne Warner’s Valley Bowls liquor license be used for the one day event, Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0
- J. Status report

1. Submitting Grants-in-Aid for 2023 on Ferris Road will be sent in by the end of the week.
 2. Ms. Lord reported that a painting of the Floating Bridge had been donated and will be hung in the Town Hall.
 3. Mr. Edson brought up that he was approached about testing the water quality on the lake. Starr Strong said this is not a requirement but said if the Town gets a cost for testing that she would be willing to do the testing herself.
- K. Adjournment – Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm, Ms. Koren seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.