

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Betty Lord, Stuart Edson, Curtis Koren, Keith Sprague, members. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Jack Zebora, Alison Millar, Ian Millar, Scott Wakefield, Doug Hood, Steve Brassard.

- A. Call to Order - Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – Move the West Brookfield discussion under Old Business up.
- C. Public Comments
 1. Scott Wakefield reported that people on Cram Hill have been putting all sorts of stuff in the road right of way to keep his farm equipment from their property. Scott does not feel his workers are doing anything wrong, and that since this is a public roadway these people do not have the right to put anything in the way. He reported that one of those impediments to road access punctured and destroyed three very expensive tires on one of his trucks. The Board asked Mr. Edson to bring this to the attention of the Public Safety Committee as well as the Sheriff's office.
 2. Stone Road traffic speed – Ian Millar lives on Stone Road and asked that the Town put up speed signs for 25 miles an hour on Stone Rd between Northfield Road and Cross Town Road. Mr. Benson advised that legally a speed study would have to be done first in order to reduce the speed to 25. Mr. Edson was asked to bring this subject to the Public Safety Committee.

3. Bear Hill Road neighbor issue from Sherrie and Ron Tucker, who did not attend the meeting. This item is the same as concerns by others about plans by a neighbor regarding a septic system on Bear Hill Road. Kelly Morrison and Steve Brassard reported that a new neighbor on Bear Hill got an application for an agricultural building which is not on a septic system. As the Town has no jurisdiction over this situation, Mr. Benson advised them to get help from the Barre Waste Water Division about this situation.
 4. Support for TRORC application to USDOT – Kevin Geiger requested a letter of support for a Thriving Communities grant by TRORC. This grant would enable several targeted communities that have signed up for it to hire a person for three years to work on tying in transportation, equity, health, and disaster recovery. Mr. Sprague made a motion that the Board write a letter of support for TRORC, and Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.
- D. Payroll and AP Warrants – Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Payroll and AP Warrants as presented for a total of \$75,414.30, with the largest payment being made to R.E. Tucker for \$15,683. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.
- E. Highway Report - A lot of work has been done on truck repairs and getting trucks ready for winter. The Highway crew finished work on Eagle Peak, and will work on Twin Pond and the north end of Eagle Peak next. Mr. Higgins will go over the school bus route for winter. Some culverts were unplugged and will continue to be worked on. The roof material for the garage was delivered today and hopefully it can be worked on next week. Guard rail needs to be put up on West Street, hopefully before winter. A question arose concerning when the “Sunset Lane” sign in Pond Village would be replaced. A “road closed” sign on Old Post Road, a Class 4 road, was moved to a spot where the road was very bad, and some hunters had to be pulled out from the road.

F. New Business

1. Lister appointment – Mr. Edson said he spoke to the two current listers and they were fine with either of the two candidates for third lister. Noting that Teresa Godfrey as Town Clerk and also lister constantly gave out information she had easy access to by being in the office, he recommended that Carol Monness would be a good choice for the Town lister position. Mr. Edson made a motion to appoint Carol Monness as third lister and Mr. Sprague seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

G. Old Business

1. Update on the TH 45 reclassification site visit and meeting of Selectboard and interested parties planned for November 20. Mr. Edson noted that there should be a 30 day warning of that meeting, and that trying to do it at this time would not be convenient due to weather and the holidays. Mr. Edson made a motion to postpone the reclassification on TH 45 until spring and Mr. Benson seconded the motion, which carried forward 5-0-0
2. FEMA update – The damage inventory report was submitted on time.
3. New Tax bills – Mr. Benson suggested that Teresa come in and double check the new rate calculation before the Board approved it again. Teresa will go through the entire process before the next Selectboard meeting November 27, 2023.

- H. Meeting Minutes 10/23 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the October 23, 2023, minutes as presented. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0. Mr. Edson also made a motion to accept the October 16, 2023, minutes as presented. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

I. Other Proper Business

1. Replace bathroom floor in Town Clerk office – Ms. Blanchard will call Green Mountain Flooring to get estimate on replacing the flooring.

J. Status Report – none

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 pm, Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Edson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:43pm, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

- κ. Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Sprague made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.