

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, November 27, 2023

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair, Betty Lord, Curtis Koren, Keith Sprague, Stuart Edson, members; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Nate Schmechel, Heather Robinson, Robert Danaher.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda - none
- C. Public Comments
 1. White River Valley ERC Update – Nicole Cyr – Tabled until 12/11/23.
 2. Nate Schmechel attended to voice his opinion regarding the West Brookfield traffic problem. He questioned what the Town’s position was regarding the town right of way and things being placed in the roadway. Mr. Sprague said the Town is not giving anyone the right to drive on anyone’s property and no one should be putting materials in the way of traffic. Agricultural equipment has the legal right of passage according to State law. The Board suggested that Mr. Schmechel send the videos that he has taken of violations made to private property, to the Sheriff in Chelsea, and to follow up with the Sheriff when he has had time to receive the material. The Public Safety Committee is going to follow up with the Sheriff also.
- A. Payroll and AP Warrants – Ms. Lord made a motion to accept the AP warrants and Payroll in the amount of \$47,544.95 with the highest amount of \$37,036.26 to the Town of Barre. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.
- B. Highway Report - Mr. Sprague reported that Todd Lyford previously owned a house on Eagle Peak which needs a culvert to keep the road from washing out. Mr. Lyford had given the Town permission to do this on his property. Mr. Sprague will talk to Devon Cropley, the new owner, to be sure if it is acceptable to him to have this done. The roofing on the garage is half completed and the other half should be finished this week. Fortunately,

there was no roof rot. Before the snow, the road crew unclogged several culverts that were still plugged following the July 10th storm. Two Rivers will be asked to place a speed counter on Stone Road near 1,000 Stone Farm to determine the amount of traffic passing through that area and to address the issue of speeding. This will give the town the data needed to address a request to lower the speed limit in that area.

c. New Business

1. Budget discussion – Mr. Benson asked that the Board to begin work on the Town budget for 2024-25. He also asked Mr. Sprague sit down with Mr. Higgins to go over the Highway budget items.

A. Old Business

1. West Brookfield- this issue was discussed above.

2. New Tax bills – Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the revised tax rate for 2023 - 2024 with a total municipal tax rate of 0.5412. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

3. Town Garage update – see Highway report above.

A. Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2023 – Mr. Edson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

B. Other Proper Business – Mr. Benson reported that there was an automobile accident in the cemetery. The offending vehicle broke two head stones and six granite posts. Joe Mangan, Cemetery Sexton, is waiting for the State police to send a report of the accident and he will then send it to the Selectboard.

c. Status Report - none

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:04 pm. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

Mr. Edson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:02 pm, Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

D. Adjournment – Mr. Edson made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 pm. Ms. Lord seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.