

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. Mr. Sprague said the Town is not giving anyone the right to drive on anyone's private property. Agricultural equipment has the legal right of passage according to Mr. Benson. Mr. Schmechel brought up traffic concerns and speed limits. He had videos of violations made by the Wakefield Farm workers. The Board reported that it has no legal authority to address the laws of speeding or other safety concerns as only the Sheriff's Department can enforce the law. The Board suggested that Mr. Schmechel send the videos that he has made to the Sheriff in Chelsea and to follow up with the Sheriff's office in a timely manner. The Public Safety Committee is going to follow up with the Sheriff also.
- D. 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.
- E. Highway Report - Mr. Sprague reported that Todd Lyford who used to own a house on Eagle Peak which needs a culvert to be put in to keep the road from washing out 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 was OK to still do this. The roofing on the garage is half done and the other half should be done this week. Fortunately, there was no roof rot. Before the snow they unclogged culverts that were still plugged. Regarding Stone Road there has been a problem with speed so Two Rivers can put a speed counter which might give the town some data as how to resolve this issue.
- F. New Business
 1. Budget discussion – Mr. Benson asked that the Board think about issues that would be useful for the Town to consider having done. He also asked Mr. Sprague sit down with Mr. Higgins to go over the garage budget items.
- G. Old Business
 1. West Brookfield- this issue was discussed above.
 2. New Tax bills – Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the revised, 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.

- H. 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
- I. Other Proper Business – Mr. Benson reported that there was an accident in the cemetery where two head stones and about six granite post were knocked over. Joe Mangan is waiting for the State police to send a report of the accident and he will then send it to the Selectboard.
- J. 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.

- K. 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.