

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Betty Lord, Curtis Koren, Keith Sprague, members of the Selectboard; Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Stuart Edson did not attend. Carol Monness, Town Clerk; Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Jack Zebora, John Pimental, Nate Schmechel, Kyle Obenauer.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm
- B. Adjustments to Agenda - none
- C. Public Comments
 1. White River Valley ERC Update – John Pimental gave a presentation update on the White River Valley Energy Resilience. He explained that there were two goals: one was to bring WRV energy committees/coordinators together to build a regional network for collaboration and the other was to understand and identify gaps in the existing structures for Town Energy Committees, Energy Coordinators, and volunteers. There is currently 14 town that have been invited to join. He presented reasons why Towns should have an Energy Resilience Coordinator, what the job description would consist of what potential 2024 projects there could be, and the cost for each Town. If this program were to take place it would have to go on the Warning for the Town Meeting before it could go through.
 2. Kibbee Road – Kyle Obenauer attended to find out why some roads were plowed sooner than others. The Town works with the bus route coordinator to determine the winter schedule. Roads with school age kids are plowed first and then the other roads after that, and in some cases if a truck is down it puts plowing even later. Mr. Sprague recommended Mr. Obenauer contact the bus coordinator. It takes two to three hours to do the school bus route, before they can do the rest of the roads. Mr. Sprague will mention this to Mr. Higgins.

3. Nate Schmechel stopped in to talk about what was said regarding West Brookfield in the previous meeting. He felt that all he talked about was not in the minutes and asked that the minutes be amended.
- D. Payroll and AP Warrants – Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the November 27, 2023, Payroll and AP Warrants as presented for a total of \$108,588.52, with the largest payment being made to Evans Group for \$24,954.33. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.
 - E. Highway Report - Mr. Sprague reported that one of the trucks was down because of a radiator problem and hopefully the part would be received soon. The crew only had two trucks for the last storm. They had some work to do on Kibbee Road due to a culvert. It will probably have to be replaced this winter. Mr. Higgins mentioned that people are plowing snow from their driveways out across the roads which causes problems for the town crew plowing the main roads. If there are repeat offenders, a warning letter will be sent.
 - F. New Business
 1. Tax Map Maintenance Proposal – needs approval. This is tabled until the 12/27/2023 selectboard meeting.
 - G. Old Business
 1. Reset Tax Rate – Teresa came in and explained the new rate. She explained why we will be sending out a revised tax bill. Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the 2024 revised tax rate for the 2023-2024 with the municipal tax rate at 0.5412 and the total municipal tax rate is 0.5450. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.
 2. Taylor Hill Rd – Mr. Benson reported the Town will not receive any funds from NRCS on this project.
 3. East Brookfield Cemetery land – Mr. Sprague will check with Mr. Townsend who is researching to find out who owns the property. Mr. Townsend will need to provide the cost to do a boundary line adjustment.
 4. Route VT 65 speed limit – Ms. Lord said she heard from the State requesting a speed limit reduction along Vermont Route 65 from West Street to Bear Hill Road in the Town of Brookfield. The current speed is

35 mph and many in the community feel it is too fast since it is narrow and unpaved. The Traffic Operations Unit conducted a study that found the 85th percentile speed (the speed below which 85% of traffic is traveling) to be 36-mph, based on a week-long tube count conducted from October 5 – 12, 2023, just east of house #3242. Due to the dip in the road at that spot and the relatively rural nature there, speeds may be slightly higher than when closer to the more settled areas just east. The Traffic Operations recommend reducing the speed from 35 mph to 30 mph beginning 0.12 plus or minus (630 plus or minus ft) miles west of Bear Hill Rd and extending easterly to the begin point of the existing 30-mph zone, a distance of approximately 0.99 miles. There will be additional signage put up in this area.

- h. Meeting Minutes – Ms. Koren made a motion to accept the November 27, 2023, minutes as amended, Mr. Sprague seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0
- i. Other Proper Business
 - 1. Inquiry about the process of including an appropriations article on the Town Meeting Day ballot – Mr. Benson said it has to be put on the Warning for the Town Meeting.
 - 2. The next meeting: Ms. Lord made a motion to change the next Selectboard Meeting date from December 25, 2023, to December 27, 2023, Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0
 - 3. Regarding the shed – The Board will need to reapply for the permit for the shed and also ask Black River Design to review their design. Then the request for a building permit will have to be re-submitted as the previous application has expired.
 - 4. A discussion regarding dental coverage will be tabled.
- j. Status Report - none
- k. Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0