

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Selectboard Chair; Stuart Edson, Curtis Koren, Laura Rochat members of the Selectboard. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Carol Monness, Town Clerk. Mr. Sprague did not attend.

- A. Call to Order: Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- B. First Item is Organization – Mr. Benson told Laura Rochat who was just elected as the newest Selectboard member for the Town of Brookfield what each of the other members of the Board did. He said that Ms. Koren was going to take over Ms. Lord’s job of checking the Payroll and AP Warrants and then asked her if she would assist Ms. Blanchard with the December 18-19, 2024 FEMA project in the event that she was unavailable and she agreed. Ms. Koren made a motion to appoint Ms. Rochat to assist Ms. Blanchard with FEMA, Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.
- C. Adjustments to Agenda - none
- D. Public Comments - none
- E. Payroll and AP Warrants – Mr. Edson made a motion that we allow Ms. Koren to approve the Payroll and AP Warrants on the Boards behalf since the warrants were not available for the Board meeting. Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-1. On Tuesday March 12, 2024 Ms. Koren was able to approve the Payroll and AP Warrants for March 11, 2024, as presented for a total of \$42,152.40 with the highest payment being paid to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) in the amount of \$10,754.70. Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.
- F. Highway Report – There is no highway report this week.
- G. New Business
 - 1. Town Meeting follow up – Mr. Benson reported that Kristi Ehlers was elected as the new Treasurer and that Laura Rochat is now the new

Selectboard member. There was only one change with the Town Meeting minutes which was Dennis LaRocque worked for the Food Bank and not Food Shelf.

H. Old Business

1. Taylor Hill update - Mr. Benson explained the status on Taylor Hill where a brook that comes down Taylor Hill Road with the July 2023 storm unraveled and a bunch of material came down which blocked the stream and the stream went around this material, and went through a field and the owners of this field would like this fixed. FEMA would not do this so NRCS said they could at 100%. Once this is approved it will go out to bid.
2. FEMA meeting update - Mr. Benson stated that we now have a new FEMA representative and the process is ongoing. The next step is going to be what they call mitigation so we can get some culverts replaced. We now have another FEMA project for the December 18 – 19, 2023 storm.
3. TH 45 – (Old Stage Rd) There was some contention about the Town no longer owing the Right-of-Way but the attorney proved that the town still does. The town will do a reclassification. The next steps will take place soon.
4. Town Garage and energy audit grant – The Board has received the permit for the garage so now the contract can be put in place. The Town also received a grant to do an Energy Study on the Garage, Fire House and Town office.

I. Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the February 26, 2024 minutes, as presented. Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 3-0-1.

J. Other Proper Business – Mr. Edson reported that Mr. Lew Stowell and himself joined the Orange County Selectman Joint Committee to see how policing is going to be done and what we can do for the Town of Brookfield.

Mr. Benson said he had heard that our insurance company said anyone operating a town vehicle with a restricted license can nullify the Town's coverage.

Mr. Edson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 pm at finding “that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage” Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

Mr. Benson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 pm. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

K. Status Report - none

L. Adjournment – Ms. Rochat made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm Ms. Koren seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.