

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

6:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Selectboard Chair; Stuart Edson, Betty Lord, Curtis Koren, Keith Sprague, members of the Selectboard. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer; Carol Monness, Town Clerk; Rich Doolan, Gary Lord, Greg Wight, Jack Zebora.

- A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- B. Adjustments to Agenda – none
- C. Public Comments
 - 1. Town safe – Town Clerk Carol Monness said her sister, Carla Preston, has expressed an interest in removing the large, unused and empty safe from the Town vault. The Board approved the transfer of the safe, which will be removed Sunday March 3, 2024.
 - 2. Town Meeting minutes – Carol Monness has a wrist injury, and requested that her sister Carla Preston be able to assist her in taking minutes at Town meeting. Ms. Preston has taken minutes for the town of Berlin VT for several years, and the Board approved this request.
 - 3. Rich Doolan, Director of the Emergency Management Shelter Group for Brookfield, reported that the group has been meeting, and requested \$500 from the Town for a two way radio so that the Shelter Group can communicate with the fire and police departments in the event of an emergency. Funds are also needed eventually for food and other items. The Shelter group currently has plates, silverware and various canned food items, but would need more to be able to feed 20 people for one day. 15 people are currently willing to volunteer in case of emergency. Mr. Benson advised that any future donations by individuals for this purpose could be made to the Town for deposit in the Town account .

4. Greg Wight from the Historical Society is exploring the possibility of placing an old school bell, presently being held at the Marvin Newton House, at the Brookfield Elementary school. Mr. Benson advised him to contact the Brookfield School Board.

D. Payroll and AP Warrants – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the February 26, 2024 AP Warrants as presented for a total of \$30,885.55 with the largest payment being made to the engineering firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) for work on the Halfway Brook Culvert in the amount of \$8,144.96. Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

E. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that Mr. Higgins had not heard back on the cost of the new town truck. They would like to get a trade-in value to help pay for the truck but may hold on to it in case one of the trucks breaks down. This would have to be approved at Town Meeting. The road crew has done a lot of sanding, plowing and grading, and also worked on equipment maintenance, done a great deal of work on Kibbee Road, and hauled lots of stone to replenish the Town stockpile.

F. New Business

1. Town Meeting – Setup for Town meeting will be on Monday evening at the school beginning at 6 pm.

G. Old Business

Bear Hill Culvert Replacement – Mr. Benson reported that the first Addendum was posted on the website with questions and answers.

H. Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the February 26, 2024 as presented. Mr. Benson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-1

I. Other Proper Business

1. A second request from Ty View Farm and Camp in Bethel for a \$3,000 donation was not approved. They will be advised that they would have to get a petition signed by 50 Brookfield registered voters for such a request to be considered, and get it to the Board a month and a half in advance of Town Meeting .

2. A renewal application for Doug Haggett's gravel pit was sent to the Board and Mr. Benson passed it around in case anyone had questions.
3. Mr. Benson spoke to Stan Wheeler, the painter of the Town Clerk's building, who told him that it should be touched up yearly. He also recommended using a dehumidifier inside the building. Mr. Wheeler will touch up the paint on the building this summer and paint the roof as well.
4. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) has agreed to fund the Taylor Hill Rd rebuilding project 100%. Mr. Benson will complete another application by March 5, 2024.

Mr. Edson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm, finding "that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage". Ms. Lord seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Benson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:20 pm. Ms. Koren seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

J. Status Report – none

K. Adjournment – Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.