

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

6:30 pm

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Selectboard Chair; Stuart Edson, Keith Sprague, Laura Rochat, Curtis Koren members of the Selectboard. Vicki Blanchard, Administrative Assistant. Amy Ingrassia, Assistant Treasurer. Jon Binhammer, Brookfield Conservation Commission.

A. Call to Order – Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

B. Adjustments to Agenda – none

C. Public Comments

1. Kevin Wheatley, BVFD Chief, reported that the Brookfield Fire Department was gifted an air compressor but needs a fill station to use it. He requested permission from the Board to spend \$7,000 from the Fire Department budget to purchase and install the fill station. Mr. Benson and the Board were in agreement to use money from their budget.

2. Jon Binhammer from the Brookfield Conservation Commission requested permission to use \$400. from the Commission's budget for the following: \$50. for member dues to the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions; \$250. to purchase paint for Town Forest boundary lines ;and \$100.00 for an honorarium for the White River Partnership for a presentation they are going to give at Brookfield's Old Town Hall this summer. Mr. Benson made a motion to approve use of \$400.00 for those items from the Commission's budget, which was seconded by Ms. Koren. The motion carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Binhammer also inquired about the possibility of the Town purchasing a wetland that is going up for Tax Sale. The property, owned by Warner Shedd, is entirely wetland and has very difficult

access and very little real estate value. The Board will speak to the Town attorney about this possibility and then make a decision.

D. Payroll and AP Warrants – April 9, 2024. Ms. Koren made a motion to approve the April 9, 2024 AP Warrants as presented for a total of \$46,794.70 with the largest payment being made to Evans Group for diesel fuel in the amount of \$13,670.28. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

E. Highway Report – Mr. Sprague reported that the road crew worked on the roads before returning to plowing due to the 2 feet of snow received in town. They also moved stone from Chelsea as R.E. Tucker’s crusher was down in Brookfield. There have been electrical problems with the oldest truck, and a decision was made to just keep the truck going for now after receiving a quote of \$20,000.00 for work on it. Mr. Sprague reported that the town’s road crew got together for a pizza lunch with the road crew from the Town of Randolph in appreciation of the day a group of them came to help the Town of Brookfield when all of our trucks were down. The Town of Brookfield greatly appreciates all their help that day. In other highway department news, Steve Reid is still looking into culvert covers to deal with the problem of damage due to beavers. It is hoped that work on the new shed at the garage will start the third week of April, but a great deal of prep work needs to be done before this happens. Mr. Sprague also noted that two people are interested in helping with roadside mowing this year.

F. New Business – Amy Ingrassia, Assistant Treasurer, reported that a counterfeit check was presented to the town to pay for taxes, and Town Clerk Carol Monness notified Mike Monte, the Town attorney. Ms. Ingrassia also reported that she was underpaid when serving as appointed Treasurer and asked that she be reimbursed \$1,700.00. Mr. Sprague made a motion to accept Treasurer Kristi Ehlers accounting of this error as being correct and pay Ms. Ingrassia what she is owed. Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0.

G. Old Business – Old Stage Rd (TH 45) – The Town is sending a warning out to land owners, abutters and the Planning Commission about reclassifying Old Stage Rd (TH 45).

H. Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024 – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the March 25, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-1. Ms. Koren was not present at the last meeting.

Mr. Benson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:50 pm to deal with a personnel issue. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

Mr. Benson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:20 pm. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 5-0-0

- I. Other Proper Business – none
- I. Status Report – none
- I. Adjournment – Mr. Edson made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm Mr. Sprague seconded the motion and there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Vicki Blanchard

Administrative Assistant to Selectboard