



Town of Fairfax
Select Board Meeting
January 21, 2019 – 7:00pm

The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

Selectboard Members Present: Steven Cormier; Chair, Randy DeVine; Vice-Chair, Stephen Bessette, Duane Leach.

Public Present: Brian LeClair, Robby Rodimer and Jeff Marble

Employees Present: Brad Docheff (Town Manager), Pat McNall, Deb Woodward

Call to Order: S. Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Announcements/Additions: A thank you letter was received from Friends of Northern Lake Champlain for the Town's donation.

The order of the agenda will change due to timing of members arriving:

Minutes: 12-17-18 S. Bessette made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by D. Leach, all in favor. 1-14-19 Randy DeVine made the motion to accept as written, seconded by S. Bessette, 3 in favor, one abstained.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants: The Town warrants were reviewed by Randy, Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Cormier, approved by the Board.

Correspondence:

- Sewer Allocation Application for Franklin South for the transfer of 5 allocations from Tuttle St. property and 10 additional allocations for Unit A of housing FILL IN was approved by the Board after discussion.
- Highway Mileage Certification was reviewed and signed. The Town did not gain nor lose any mileage from last year.

Brian LeClair- Recreation Director: Brian came in this evening to introduce himself to the Selectboard. Brian has joined the Fairfax staff after years working in the Recreation Department in Bristol, VT. Per Brad, Brian comes with years of experience in the recreation area and we are excited to work with him. Brian will start on January 28, 2019.

Pat McNall- Assessor's Office: Pat came in to discuss proposals received for a town-wide property reappraisal. Two bids came in regarding this project, from NEMRC and Wright Appraisal Co. After consideration of criteria and

review of the proposals, both Pat and Brad felt that the NEMRC proposal was preferable. The reappraisal should be on schedule to be completed for the 2022 Grand List. The Board gave its blessing to go with the recommendation and award the reappraisal bid to NEMRC, and directed Brad to take next steps to secure a contract.

Public Comment: Jeff Marble came in to represent the interests of himself and his neighbors living in the area of Benny Rd. and Goodman Rd., and to express a desire for more information regarding the proposal received by the Town for lease of land for the construction of a cellular tower. Jeff was a resident in an area of Massachusetts where a similar situation took place. The Town is working with representatives of Verizon Wireless to schedule a public informational meeting on this topic, and has not signed any agreement to date. Jeff was assured that all abutting property owners to the lot in question will receive invitations to this meeting, and Brad will publicize any meeting date to encourage as much participation as possible. Jeff expressed the fact that his neighbors very much want to be included in this process, and the Board agreed that this was a reasonable request and will continue to share information on the process with the public.

Town Manager updates:

- Coming out of the discussion of a public informational meeting, Brad requested possible availability from the Selectboard for mid-February to schedule this meeting. Tentatively, it was decided to see how Feb. 13 at 7pm will work for the Planning Commission and the representatives for Verizon. Brad will report back.
- Returning to a discussion from a previous meeting, Brad was informed by Highway Supervisor, Tim Germaine, that some members of the crew were hoping to reduce their hours in the Spring. Based on that Tim and Brad would like to bring on a new full-time employee to flesh out the staff. They have a candidate in mind who interviewed earlier in the month. This position will have very limited training hours through the Winter, but will start up in the Spring as a full-time employee.
- Brad put forth an updated Employee Policy for 2019 to cover time off and benefits available to Town Staff. No significant changes have been made from the 2018 Policy. The Board approved the updated policy.
- Brad noted that he did not think it was a good idea to have a Sidewalk Fund Article at this year's Town Meeting. Due to "sidewalk fatigue" and the small financial impact such a vote would have at this point, he thought it best to give residents a break from the topic.

Other Business:

- AM Peisch & Company completed an audit for the Town of Fairfax for the 18-month 2017-2018 budget. This has been submitted to the Town. The Board voted for S. Cormier and D. Woodward to sign a letter accepting the audit results and findings. S. Bessette made a motion to accept findings, seconded by R. DeVine, all approved.
- Article Review for Town Meeting: the Board reviewed the proposed language for the Articles for Town Meeting, and approved of them

pending the finalization of some budgetary numbers. No further Articles were deemed necessary.

- Duane made mention that he felt the Town's one-ton plow truck should have better lighting to make sure that folks can see it when it clears out intersections. Brad will speak to the Highway Department about this.
- It was announced that the Agency of Transportation will be holding a meeting on Monday, January 28th at 6pm at the Georgia Fire Department regarding the situation with the 104A bridge repair between Fairfax and Georgia. Brad will attend and all Selectboard members have been invited to attend.

Adjournment:

At 7:40 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by D. Leach, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Brad Docheff, Town Manager.

Steven Cormier- Chair
Fairfax Selectboard

**** The recorded meeting is available through LCATV or the Town's website. ****