



Town of Fairfax
Select Board Meeting
March 18, 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 and Duane Leach

Public Present Robby Rodimer, Sheriff Roger Langevin, Lieutenant Paul Talley and Deputy John Grismore

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

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

Announcements/Additions:

Addition: A letter was received from NRPC of a By-law Change. This will allow NRPC and municipalities to coordinate, implement and administer service agreements among more than one municipality.

Deletion: The Reappraisal contract will be moved to April 1, 2019.

Minutes: 3-11-19 S. Bessette made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Duane, so approved.

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

Public Comment None

Correspondence: Validation Resolution, This letter was provided from our Bond Counsel to clarify posting dates for the bond vote to replace meters. S. Bessette made the motion to accept the letter provided by counsel, seconded by Duane, all in favor.

Franklin County Sheriff's Dept.: Sheriff Langevin, Lt. Paul Talley and Deputy John Grismore; Roger Langevin became Sheriff on February 1, 2019. The Sheriff reports they have 35 Deputies on staff. Sheriff has implemented changes to include evaluating Deputies every 6 months. Sheriff will be looking to Selectboards to see how they are performing. Sheriff is big on Community Policing, this gets Deputies out of their patrol cars and engaging

people walking the streets and getting residents to know what is going on in their neighborhoods. There is improved technology; they now have cell phones with "hot spots" to increase connectivity and use. There are a couple new cruisers coming. Also the department is looking to improve communications both outgoing so people are aware of what's going on around them as well as incoming information to service their customers. They hope to have a high level of transparency. The FCSD is working on updating their website, creating twitter accounts and pushing information through Facebook to help get communication out. The Sheriff is working on an idea for a portal between the towns and Sheriff's office to help share information. The Selectboard feels that speeding is a big issue in Fairfax. We will have access to the solar speed signs again. FCSD has a contract for 56 hours a week, 7 days a week, with a staggered schedule. Also new is a resource officer in the BFA School. FCSD is working with the State Police and St. Albans to work with saturation patrols. Out of 14 Counties, per capita Franklin County is the 4th worst county in the State for the Heroin issue. Currently there is a Deputy applying to be on the VT Drug Task Force. Officer Grismore stated he will do all he can to support the Deputy. The FCSD is working on a Street Crimes Unit to go county wide. They refer to this as a "Knock and Talk" it lets people know that there is illegal actions going on in the residents and the FCSD is on to them. This has been very successful in some counties. From March 1 to March 17, 2019 there have been 57 calls for FCSD to respond to. February 2018 there were 46 compared to February 2019 of 89 calls. Our current contract ends June 30th. ; We can start working on the new contract at any time with John Grismore. The Selectboard appreciates the Sheriff and Officers for all they do to protect Fairfax and all areas.

Highway: Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory- This is used on VTRANS grant applications. There are no changes since April 2013. The board signed off on the form. Brad will sign as Duly Authorized Administrator.

Town Manager report: At Town meeting it was voted to appoint the Town Clerk and Treasurer. As advised by VLCT Brad wrote up job descriptions for the positions. Minor changes to the description were made since the board last received a copy. VLCT advises to have a term appointment to these positions such as one, two or three year. Brad recommends a three year appointment. S. Cormier feels the descriptions are very comprehensive and he is pleased with them. Brad spoke with Sheri over the phone since she couldn't attend the meeting and Sheri is onboard with the description and term as well. Deb Woodward spoke on this and expressed that she is not comfortable with the term limit. She feels a member or members could be voted to the Selectboard and terminate her from the position because they "could" come with their own agenda. Deb asked if additional wording could be added to protect her. After a brief discussion the board agreed to keep the term limit. As Brad stated the vote to appoint the positions was to protect the town and Selectboard, not to protect a Clerk or Treasurer who may not be doing a good job for the town. Again, S. Cormier said this is of no reflection to the job Deb is doing. Deb had no other issue on the job descriptions. The board will appoint these positions on April 1st as a target date.

Lawn Maintenance: It's that time of year again; the request for a bid will be advertised in the newspaper as per our Procurement Policy as well we will reach out to those who have expressed interest.

Paving Bids: There will be 6 sections of pavement this year, bids will be based on unit price, experience and expertise as well as overall suitability to the proposal. Each bidder is encouraged to ride around with our Road Supervisor Tim Germaine. Our RFP will be advertised in the newspaper as well as reach out to companies of interest. There will be a couple weeks to respond.

Tractor review bids: So far Brad has looked at John Deere, Mahindra and Kubota tractors. He is leaning to the Mahindra which comes in under \$20,000. No recommendation has been given yet.

Other Business:

Sidewalks are being used. There is a broken sidewalk by Cliff Ross's business. S. Bessette met with Shawn Coleman over the 2019 Local Emergency Management Plan.

Adjournment:

At 8:02 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Amy Sears, Admin. Asst. to the Selectboard

Steven Cormier- Chair

Fairfax Selectboard

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