

Town of Brookfield Selectboard Meeting
Monday September 23, 2024
6:30 pm
Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

MINUTES

Present: John Benson, Chair; Stuart Edson, Curtis Koren, Laura Rochat, members of the Board. Keith Sprague was not present. Ed Neas, Second Constable, Andrew and Amy Courville, Rich Doolen, Anthony Sferlazzo, Ann Fisher, Josh Jonestein, Amy Ingrassia.

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

B. Adjustments to Agenda – none

C. Public Comments

1. Resignations for Delinquent Tax Collector and Lister – Carol Monness presented the Board with two resignation letters, for Delinquent Tax Collector and Lister. Mr. Edson made motions to accept her letters and appoint Kristi Ehlers, Town Treasurer, as the new Delinquent Tax Collector, and Liz Davidson, Assistant Town Clerk, as the new Lister. Both motions carried unanimously 4-0-0.

2. The dog issue heard by the Board in their previous meeting, in which dogs owned by James Freeman attacked pets owned by his neighbors Andy and Amy Courville and killed or injured 9 of their chickens, was further researched by 2nd Constable Ed Neas, who presented his findings to the Board for resolution. The Courvilles explained their side of the issue in detail. Mr. Freeman, owner of the accused dog, was also invited to present his point of view but chose not to attend. The Board left the room for deliberation and arrived at the decision that, following the Town Dog Ordinance, Mr. Freeman should be fined for the loss of 9 chickens, and also for the period of time that his dogs were not licensed. That amounted to a fine of \$160.00, which the Board proposed should go toward implementing appropriate fencing to keep these dogs on their own property. The Courvilles agreed and Mr. Neas will inform Mr. Freeman of the decision and continue to monitor the situation.

3. EMG shelter – Rich Doolen, Emergency Management Director for Orange County, reported that the Town EMG shelter is continuing to look for

volunteers in case of an emergency. He mentioned that the Brookfield Public Safety Committee asked him to look into the E911 notification process to see how people town residents and officials could be better notified of locations. Safety alerts can be sent out by Mr. Doolen as well as by Brookfield's Fire Chief and Road Foreman. Amy Ingrassia from the Shelter committee reported on a conference she attended on the EMG system, as well as on a recent open house celebration of White River Valley Ambulance, which is expanding and is financially sound.

4. Anthony Sferlazzo attended to notify the Board that he is not happy with changes at Green Trails Inn. The Board advised him to contact Steve Reid, Zoning Administrator, about any building violations. Josh Jonestein, co-owner of the Inn, also attended the meeting and stated that all State and local regulations for Inn renovations have been met.

D. Payroll and AP Warrants – September 23, 2024 – Ms. Koren made a motion to accept the September 23, 2024 AP Warrants as presented for a total of \$88,505.54 with the largest amount going to AJ Galfetti for \$53,668.38 for work done on Eagle Peak. Mr. Edson seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0

E. Highway report – none

F. New Business – none

G. Old Business – none

H. Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024 minutes – Mr. Edson made a motion to accept the September 9, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

I. Other Proper Business

1. Public Safety update – Mr. Edson reported that it was brought to the attention of the Public Safety Committee that UPS trucks and ambulances are having trouble locating certain addresses due to confusing roads names on the Town's E911 map. Mr. Benson suggested that a better map and instructions be created and that the Public Safety Committee should discuss this further to determine a solution.

2. Mr. Benson stated that the Town had received a new confirmation letter from Sullivan and Powers & Co., PC for the June 30, 2024 audit that and

is about \$1,000 more than last year's bill. Mr. Benson made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 audit contract from Sullivan & Powers & Co., Ms. Rochat seconded the motion which carried unanimously 4-0-0.

3. The Board approved an ad for the Treasurer's position written by Ms. Rochat, who will post it. She will also attend a "Shared Town Manager zoom meeting" and report details to the Board.

J. Status Report – none

K. Adjournment – Mr. Benson made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm, Mr. Rochat 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 the Selectboard