

May 1, 2023

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Jay Marsh, Carlos Martin, Chris Mann

Guests: Jeff Tilton, Scott Griswold (Newport Ambulance Services)

Jay Marsh called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Scott Griswold provided an overview of the current trends in ambulatory services in the area, specifically the year-over-year increases in demand and frequency of calls. He explained the one change to the proposed service contract that would allow a paramedic + EMT crew to respond to a call versus a paramedic + AEMT (Advanced EMT) only when the AEMT duty was already dispatched. This is to mitigate staffing issues during short periods of higher than normal calls. There will be a “20-years in operation” celebration in July that the public will be invited to. Jay Marsh signed the annual service contract.

6:00pm: Lucas Tilton, Shawn LaRose, Scott Johnson, Robert Wright, Don Lynch, Bart Bezio, Tom Pitre, and Alec Jones (LCPC) joined the meeting.

A round table discussion on potential uses for the ARPA funds began with Jeff Tilton describing how Waterville’s contributed ARPA money (\$50k) along with VCBB-matched amount can be used to facilitate and expedite Lamoille FiberNet CUD’s deployment of broadband infrastructure throughout the town. Jeff’s recommendation was to use \$70k towards the fiber buildout, create a pool with \$20k to be used for long or challenging drops that may exceed the “standard drop allotment” by an ISP partner, and use \$5000 to connect the Town Clerk’s Office, Library, and Town Hall.

Further discussion on how to use the ARPA funding followed, including the importance of seeking out matching grants to maximize the impact of the town’s money. Alec Jones provided copies of a VLCT printout highlighting how other towns in VT have started using their money. He will send Nancy information on grants that have ARPA matching available.

The library group has been investigating library-specific grant opportunities. There are likely ways to stack the various grants to complete larger projects.

There was a discussion of using the state’s approved “revenue replacement” technique to extend the spending window. The consensus was we should not have an issue spending the money on time, but more information on the program is needed.

Other ideas and topics included:

- Targeting one or a few major town road “problem spots” and investing in a long-term fix.
- Lighted road signs in town and in front of school.
- A “smart” meter for the water district’s spring.
- Solar array to offset annual town electric bill.
- Feasibility of acquiring land adjacent to Town Hall for parking.
- Center of town parking, in general.
- Using money to pay for increased police presence in town.

No actions resulted from the roundtable discussion. The group decided to review grant information that Alec will be sending and continue seeking input from their neighbors. The group will meet again on 12 Jun, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Jeff Tilton

Respectfully submitted by Nancy LaRose, Town Clerk