

**Select Board Emergency Meeting
Town Office
July 18, 2023, 6:40 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Elizabeth Karle, Clinton Woolley, David Johnson

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.**
2. **Status of flood repairs.** The Select Board discussed paring down contractor work temporarily to let the dust settle on flood repairs as costs and reimbursements are assessed. Many repairs are complete or near complete in areas with significant damage. Hawkins Excavation and Markowski Excavating will be asked to continue to make repairs in areas requiring extensive repair. The road material stockpile is nearly depleted.
3. **Grant and reimbursement process.** FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Vermont to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe flooding. FEMA will reimburse for both temporary and permanent repairs. Jeff Chase will put together a rough ballpark of costs to date; roughly, road material has been delivered at about 1,000 tons/day, for a total of about \$5,000/day. All together, road material has cost about \$50-60,000 thus far, and trucking another \$40,000, at least. Total estimated expenses are between \$100-\$200K to date, not including overtime pay for the road crew. To reach stability the town will likely need to spend about \$300,000-\$400,000.
4. **Ongoing road work.** The Select Board discussed prioritizing routine road work alongside flood-related repairs. Gary Norton, Wayne Taylor and Keith Hawkins will continue to haul road material to the town so that flood-related repairs can continue in the short-term, as routine hauling is not sufficient. In addition to ongoing flood repair, the road crew will prioritize road surfacing and culvert repair as needed, and will delay paving until August.
5. **Cash flow.** Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that the town can borrow temporarily from other funds within the town's cash resources when emergency road repair costs exceed the town's general cash-on-hand in the short term. She also noted the town may need to consider alternative short-term financing to cover costs that will later be reimbursed by FEMA. Jeff Chase will make a contact list for contractors who have provided services so far, so that Mrs. Karle can request invoices and an estimate of costs-to-date can be assessed.
6. **Additional costs.** Ms. Karle noted that beyond road costs, emergency services have been performed by individuals, including Select Board members and additional road crew; costs to pay these individuals can be reimbursed with FEMA disaster assistance. Ms. Karle suggested rates be reviewed or set for emergency personnel, as needed.
7. **Documentation.** Ms. Karle and Mr. Turco noted the need for photo documentation of all road damage. The Select Board will compile a list of priority areas needing documentation, and will solicit citizen photos to document road damage for FEMA reimbursement purposes.
8. **Temporary road crew pay rate.** The Select Board identified a rate of pay for temporary road crew.
9. **Employee retirement.** The Select Board discussed procedures regarding an employee's retirement date and earned vacation days.
10. **Road crew interviews.** Candidate interviews will be set for Thursday, July 20 at 2:30 pm.
11. **Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.**