

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
July 10, 2014

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1) Selectboard meeting minutes include

- (A) All members of the public body present;
- (B) All other active participants in the meeting;
- (C) All motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and
- (D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Although meeting minutes have complied with 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1), any additional information is included as a courtesy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Members of the public body present:**

Rod Maclay, Chair, Brian Johnson, Steve Marx, Brent Cadwell, and John Freitag, Members

**Other active participants:**

Jennifer Brown, Reporter Herald of Randolph; Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Ed Eastman, Town Constable, Rocky Fuller, Chair THAG, Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: None

Town House – Rocky Fuller updated the group on the progress of the Town House Back House building. The electrical system was combined so there is now 1 system for both the Town House and the Back House. Rocky will be requesting funds from the Mix fund to complete the project. The current value of the Back House building is estimated to be \$35,000. Upon completion, the value will be approximately \$65,000. Work was not completed on the path to the building for which they had received a grant. They got an extension of the grant to the end of November. Completion of the path is expected then. Town House has been used for 2 events recently and both went well. The Town House Committee will approach Janet Cavanaugh and ask her to come up with an idea of how to make the steep bank look appealing, but keep people off from it. A generous donation was received to help with the removal of the chimney. The group is now trying to find a company to do the work. Kevin Grady donated panes of old glass which are being used to replace what is either broken or has holes. Painters finished painting east side of building. Lori is working on signage for handicap access with someone at the State to bring the building up to code to be ADA compliant. Future plans for the Back House are; 1 day /weekend to do work; working on trim detail around roof; will put slate on soon – then work on interior finishes.

Dog Officer Update – Janet Hardy updated the group. Janet currently has a stray dog that she is housing. She called the area vets, humane societies and dog officers, but, no one claimed to be missing a dog. She thinks the dog was not treated very well and he got dropped off in Strafford. The dog is a neutered male husky, shepard, greyhound mix. It's a sweet dog with no training. She called several area humane societies. 2

may have openings next week. In the meantime, Janet is going away on vacation and may need to board the dog at the Bradford Veterinary Clinic 10 day shelter while she is away. Janet asked the Select Board to make a decision to board the current stray dog in Bradford while she was away on vacation until she can place the dog in a humane society. Brent made a motion to sign a contract for any stray dog to go to Bradford Vet clinic for boarding in case Janet can't find home for dog. Seconded by Brian. All in favor.

Janet also stated that the kennel she has at her house for the dogs is inadequate and she keeps the dogs in an inside kennel in her garage. The current kennel has been moved and repaired several times. Each time she has tried to put a large dog in it, the dogs have jumped up and the kennel has broken. She has repaired the kennel, but, it is just not adequate. She is requesting a new kennel with a roof to shelter the dogs from the snow. Brent volunteered to donate 8 galvanized steel fence panels to build a new kennel. Janet asked the Select Board to make a decision on the kennel. Brent will work on building the new kennel.

MINUTES: Selectboard Minutes from June 25, 2014 & July 2, 2014. Steve made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Seconded by Brent. All in favor.

Designate Posting Locations – Due to the new Open Meeting law, the Select Board designated areas for meeting notices to be posted in town. The locations of meeting notice postings are: town office; post office at brick store & at Coburn's store near post office, and, on the town website.

Orange County Sheriff Contract – The Select Board discussed the current contract with Orange County Sheriff to patrol in town, and, to give more compensation to Ed Eastman for his work as constable. Lisa received an e-mail from Sheriff Bohnyak and his proposal to reduce Orange County sheriff's contract. It was agreed that for now Ed's increase will be \$300 per month starting in July and will get reviewed again in October will a possible adjustment if the Sheriff's department does not use all their budgeted funds.

#### Watson Bridge Survey

Update from Lisa: Larry Swanson completed the survey. Lisa sent copies of new survey to Joe Delfino and Paul Gilles. Deeds were drawn up for Joe Delfino & Chris Kendall. Chris Kendall has signed his quick claim deed and are now waiting for Joe Delfino to sign and return his documents. . Lisa showed a map of how the land is swapped out. We still have bond funds for unreimbursable FEMA expenses. Lisa will call Bob Giroux to see if we can submit expenses from surveying the Watson Bridge and have the expenses covered through bond. Paul Gilles said the Town does not needs to go through any zoning or subdivision regulations, because the town is exempt.

#### Recreation Field Play Ground Report

Shannon Higgins cleaned up around the tennis courts. Tree nearest red barn is dead inside. Moving forward to have tree taken down.

Cell Phones/Towers – No update. Steve Marx got list of phone numbers and cell companies he can call.

Personnel Policy – Lisa received the first draft from the VLCT. VLCT will also develop an employee handbook. Lisa will email draft personnel policy to Select Board. Lisa reviewed and has questions on it. Lisa will meet with Tori to review questions she has with her. Employee handbook will arrive in 1 week. .

Town Garage Update – Rod said that the insurance claim on the heating system was denied. They have had some conversations with Roger Carpenter on replacing the furnace. Roger gave an estimate of cost.

Equipment Update – None.

Cook Bridge on Dodge Road was a 100 year old bridge that got washed out during Irene. Mr. Thompson owns the land and he wrote a letter to the town stating that he wants to access his land. The Select Board discussed a plan for replacing the bridge. Brent will draft a letter to respond to Mr. Thompson.

A motion was made by Brent to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rod. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Prescott