

Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2024  
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Participants in Person: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan, Kelly Harman  
Town Clerk: Lisa Bragg

Participants in Person: Martha Walke, Sheriff of Orange County George Contois, Sgt. Bob Ryan, [Bryan Kovalick](#)

Participants via Zoom: John Frietag, Judie Englander, Peter Jeffries, Ryan Palmer Sheriff of Windsor County

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Public Concerns: none
2. Highway:
  - a. Freeman Bridge: Three (3) bids received. New England Consulting (NEC) to provide recommendation and selection on January 9, 2025. Three bidders were Manosh, Daniels, and CCS.
  - b. Bridge 30: RFP clarifications made to include mandatory site visit and road closure during construction
  - c. Pippy moves to approve the RFP for Bridge 30 repair with the clarifications regarding mandatory site visit and road closure. Harman seconds and all approve.
  - d. Discussion around Ascent Consulting, the project manager for Ward and Van Dyke road repairs. Bragg to follow up with clarifications.
  - e. Ayers road repair: Pippy moves to sign the Vermont Better Roads grant for \$20K for the road repair. Solsaa seconds and all approve.
3. Approve the meeting minutes:
  - a. Dec 2, 2024: Pippy moves to approve, Solsaa seconds, all approve.
  - b. Dec 12, 2024: Solsaa moves to approve, Pippy seconds and all approve.
4. Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer:
  - a. Proposal for law enforcement services provided to the Board for review.
  - b. Sheriff Contois and Sgt Ryan of Orange County asked to discuss a potential extension of their contract.
  - c. Board will discuss and make a decision on January 2, 2025
5. Capital Budget Update:
  - a. [Bryan Kovalick](#) reviewed each (but not all) department submissions for the 10 year capital budget plan. The budget is still in draft form and will continue to be revised and updated for the next several months.
6. Town Budget 2025:

- a. Regarding the contribution to insurance for town employees: Linehan provided a comprehensive analysis and comparison of insurance contributions made by other towns and the schools. Due to the rising cost of insurance, the towns vary in their contributions. Based on the analysis, Linehan proposes matching the WRSU school contribution for the town employees. The Board agrees.
    - i. Linehan moves to adopt the insurance contribution for the Town employees that WRSU has applied to its employees. Harman seconds and all approve.
  - b. Annual Compensation:
    - i. Pippy suggests a 2.5% cost of living increase.
    - ii. Pippy moves to approve the 2.5% increase in annual compensation, Solsaa seconds, and all approve.
  - c. Equipment Budget: under review
  - d. Other budget items still under review are FEMA interest and attorney fees
7. Acknowledgement of correspondence during the week.

Linehan moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Pippy seconds and all approve. The meeting is adjourned.

Kelly Harman, Clerk