

Draft

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2024

Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy. Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants in person: Toni Pippy Jeff Solsaa, Andrew Duncklee, Kelly Harman

Participants in person: Curt Albee, Steve Willbanks, David Webb, Jessica Tidman, John Dumville, Susan Cloke, Gil Robertson, Scott Knoerlein

Participants via Zoom: Betty-Jo Duncklee, John Freitag

Meeting called to order 6pm

Meeting Timeline

Public concerns: None

Highway Department update:

- a) Motorists should be aware that roadside mowing has started around Strafford roads. The Town Garage needs to replace the water heater. There is an estimate of \$3900.00 to replace the current broken water heater with a new unit. Toni Pippy moved to accept the estimate and have work begin to replace the water heater at a price of \$3900.00. Jeff Solsaa seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.
- b) Kelly Harman moved to have Stephanie move forward with the VT Hazard Mitigation on Van Dyke Road. Jeff Solsaa seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.
- c) Miller Pond Road and Ward Bridge mitigation: Jeff met with FEMA as to what can be done to mitigate Miller Pond Road and Ward Bridge. Currently awaiting the next steps from FEMA.

Town Office and town office grants next steps: Curt Albee and the Selectboard discussed the history around the multiple Town Office committees over the course of many years. There has been considerable time and talent invested in this effort and with the Town vote, many on the current committee are stepping back from this project now that it has been set back to square one. While the Selectboard discussed potential short-term solutions, David Webb informed the Selectboard that the Justin Morrill Homestead will be closed for the calendar year of 2025 with no one allowed onsite for the year. The Selectboard continued to discuss potential short-term solutions. Toni Pippy moved to pursue corrective action in the Fire Marshall's report to bring the Town Office into compliance. Andrew Duncklee seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

Highway Department update cont.

d and e) Brook Road bids:

Blue Mountain \$328,000

Northwoods Excavating \$121,400

K&S Construction \$91,300 with call outs for potential overages and timeline delays

Jeff Solsaa moved to use Northwoods Excavation to grind Brook Road at a price of \$121,400. Toni Pippy Seconded the motion. All approve and Northwoods Excavation will be the vendor grinding Brook Road.

- f) Repeater update: the Selectboard discussed the potential need for a generator for the repeater, as there is an increased probability that we will all need to use the repeater in events where there is no power. Toni Pippy will be in touch with the Phelps to make sure the contract terms are agreeable to all parties.

Freeman bridge update, the Selectboard is getting a completed report out to FEMA with information that they requested.

Jeff Solsaa moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024, Selectboard meeting. Toni Pippy seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

Strafford Historical Society property line: The Historical Society and the Selectboard discussed the current plans for the Masonic Hall at length. There were documents found since the last meeting between the Selectboard and the Historical Society that support the claim that the land in question is the Historical Society's to do with what they wish once they have approval from the DRB.

Personnel policy draft: There are still some legal questions around how some of the sections of the policy are worded.

Unlicensed Dogs-next steps: The Selectboard reviewed the list of unlicensed and unvaccinated dogs in Strafford. The next step in the process is to send out a letter to the owners informing them of their dog's status, any late fees and what they can do to bring themselves and their dogs into compliance.

VT Child Care Contribution payroll tax: Toni Pippy moved for Strafford to cover the cost to Town employees for the new payroll tax. Kelly Harman seconded the motion. All approve and Strafford will cover the new expense for Town employees.

Strafford Community Trust-Letter of Support: Jeff Solsaa moves approve and sign the letter of support for the Strafford Community Trust. Kelly Harman seconded the motion. All approved and signed the letter of support for the Strafford Community Trust.

Liaison Updates: The Selectboard discussed how to handle any funds that the Recreation Board collects from classes to make sure everything is properly accounted for.

Acknowledgement of Correspondence:

- a) Strafford Community Trust, RE: Letter of Support from Selectboard
- b) Mascoma Bank Foundation – RE: support “Strafford Community Pocket Park” with \$1,500.00.
- c) Roz Finn, RE: Bump in the Road
- d) Byron Breese, RE: Mowing
- e) Ellen Bognato, RE: Recognizing service to our town
- f) Ellen Bognato, RE: Town office vote
- g) B. Dester Lefavour, PE, Principal Engineer, New England Consulting Engineers, RE: Freeman Road Bridge Alternatives Analysis
- h) VLCT, RE: VLCT Voluntary Benefits Opportunity! Please participate in this brief survey assessment
- i) Ann Gunning Kynor, P.E. Project Manager, Pathways Consulting, LLC, RE: Proposal for 2024 Annual Stormwater Review of Strafford Town Garage (P2417E)
- j) Jahna Magee, FEMA Public Assistance, RE: 739754-DR4720VT-Strafford, Town of - Miller Pond Road - 406 Mitigation?
- k) Orange County Sheriffs Office, RE: OCSD Stats

Jeff Solsaa moved to adjourn the meeting. Toni Pippy seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Recording clerk Andrew Duncklee