

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 19, 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, Select Board Members

Other active participants:

Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon MacKinnon, Highway Department Foreman, Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary, Larry McEnany, Salesman from NorTrax, Jennifer Brown, Reporter Herald of Randolph

Citizens present: Chrissy Jamieson

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

CITIZENS CONCERNS: Chrissy asked why the garage lights are sometimes on at night when no one is in the garage. Jon M. explained that energy efficient lighting has a sensor that was installed in the town garage. The sensors can be activated and turn on, even when no one is in the garage. Chrissy also asked that, as we are approaching winter, that when the town plows the end of her driveway and parking lot, that they not leave a big snow bank at the end of her driveway.

MINUTES: Rod presented the November 12, 2014 minutes to the Select Board for their approval. Brent motioned to accept the minutes as written. Brian seconded. The minutes of the November 12, 2014 Select Board meeting are approved.

GENERAL:

Solar Credit Purchase Agreement – Brent reviewed with the Select Board. John F. contacted VLCT and stated we need to get legal advice on buying power from a private developer.

VLCT is in the process of creating a model agreement for towns wishing to purchase private Solar. John F. also suggested that Steve should work with Paul Perkins.

Employee Compensation / 2015 Pay scale Review – Abby Friedman will get Lisa a price on the cost of developing a future pay scale. The Select Board needs to decide on 2015 pay increases for employees. John F. proposes \$10,000 of pay for Ed Eastman and his constable services. Steve suggested the decision on raises be based on the amount of money in the budget for raises and he would like the money to be divided by a dollar amount, not a percentage increase. Steve would like to see the money for raises to be distributed to create more equity and fairness in pay. Brent stated that the proposed pay scale that he has developed with Lisa and Jon M. for 2015 would create more fairness and equity in pay. John F. stated he feels the town clerk is under paid. Lisa will report to the Select Board the amount the proposed increase would cost.

Maple Hill Road Culvert Update – The culvert is postponed. Ron needs a letter from the town of conservation committee. John F. moved to authorize Rod to sign a letter of support. Steve seconded. All approved.

Select Board / School Board Budget Meeting – Steve, as liaison to the School Board, will ask Paul Perkins when the School Board would like to meet. It was noted that Erik Reimainis is the School Board liaison to the Select Board.

Homestead Declaration – An email from VLCT was distributed stating that the law has changed and the town can now charge what they want. John F. made a motion to lower the penalty to 3%. No one seconded. It was decided to table the discussion for a future meeting.

Fairpoint – People in town have not had service. Rod called Fairpoint and the Public Service Board but hasn't gotten anywhere.

Lisa distributed the Budget Worksheet to each Select Board member. Lisa asked all members to bring their thoughts and questions to the next meeting.

TOWN HIGHWAYS:

Equipment Replacement – Larry McEnany of NorTrax presented different leasing to purchase options for the Town to obtain John Deere Backhoe and Loader through NorTrax. Copies of different options were distributed to the Select Board and discussion ensued. Brent reported that a 5 year lease with a \$1.00 buyout would be the most cost effective option for the Town. Brent stated that he had previously received a quote from Caterpillar that was much higher than the quote for John Deere Equipment. John F. stated he felt the Select Board should follow the Select Board's sealed bid policy. Brent and Jon M. stated that John Deere and Caterpillar are the only 2 heavy equipment providers in the area that provide the level of service that the town needs to keep the heavily used equipment properly maintained. Given that Caterpillar's bid was higher than John Deere's, with a smaller loader, Brent feels the John Deere bid would be best for the Town. The equipment purchase will also go before Town Meeting. Lisa stated that the contract would be written so that if the voters turned it down, the equipment would be returned.

Garage Moisture Update – Rod distributed a letter that was received from All Seasons. The engineer suggested moving the vents to the ground to remove moisture. Tom Root checked all electrical connections and they are all fine.

On Call Duty – Jon F. presented an idea to rotate the town crew on weekend call unless there is a major storm. Jon M. stated that it requires the same amount of work to take care of 2-3 inches of snow, as it does to take care of 12 inches of snow. Jon M. stated that if someone has a special occasion planned, Jon M. covers for that person.

Current schedule of meetings for the next month are as follows; December 10, 2014, and December 17, 2014.

Brent moved to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next regular meeting; Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Prescott
Recording Secretary