

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 12, 2014

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

Members of the Selectboard present: Rod Maclay, Chair, Brent Cadwell, John Freitag, Tori Lloyd, and Steve Marx

Members of the public present: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Melvin Coburn, Susan Coburn, John Echevarria, Roz Finn, Barbara Murray, Robert Murray and Alan Wylie , Citizens

As this was the organizational meeting after Town Meeting, the first order of business was to elect a Chair. Tori Lloyd nominated Rod Maclay, seconded by Steve Marx. All members in favor and Rod was elected Chair.

John Freitag volunteered to serve as Acting Secretary

There were no citizen concerns

The agenda was adjusted so that the item Bridge 29 – Citizen Concerns was the first to be considered. Alan Wylie, Roz Finn and John Echevarria spoke in favor of the Selectboard reconsidering their vote of February 19 to “approve the Vtrans recommended bridge design for a 26 foot wide bridge”. A petition with 90 names was presented and will be attached to the approved minutes. Susan Coburn, Melvin Coburn, Robert Murray and Barbara Murray spoke in favor of the Vtrans recommended bridge design approved by the Selectboard. A petition with 126 names in support of this position was presented to the Board and will be attached to the approved minutes.

John Freitag made the motion to reconsider the bridge decision by the Selectboard on February 19, 2014. Brent Cadwell seconded the motion. Those in favor of reconsideration were Lloyd and Marx. Those opposed to reconsideration were Cadwell, Freitag, and Maclay and the motion for reconsideration failed.

John Freitag then made a motion to designate Rod Maclay as Board liaison with the State for Bridge 29 and to have all communication with the State on this bridge go through Rod. It was seconded by Brent Cadwell. In the discussion preceding the vote, it was made clear that this does not preclude discussion on aspects of the bridge as the project proceeds at Board meetings. In order to prevent confusion in communication it was felt best that one Board member be the designated point person. Those voting in favor of the motion: Cadwell, Freitag, Maclay. Those opposed: Lloyd and Marx and the motion carried. The citizens who came to the meeting for the discussion on Bridge 29 then left the meeting.

The minutes of the February 19, 2014 Selectboard meeting were approved as drafted

Tori Lloyd ran through a number of Town Procedures for the benefit of the new Board members.

These included Use of Town Equipment and Computers by Town Employees, and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Chair Rod Maclay talked about areas of responsibility that individual Selectboard members could take on as part of our new five member Board. He specifically asked Brent Cadwell, who has his own heavy equipment business, to be involved in the bridge projects slated for this summer as well as a culvert issue on Maple Hill Road. Brent agreed. Steve Max expressed an interest in being the Board liaison with the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission. Tori Lloyd expressed interest in continuing to serve as the liaison with the Town Office and Recycling Committee, Rod Maclay with the Highway Department and John Freitag with the Recreation Board and police services.

The Board reviewed and signed orders for the week as well as a tax anticipation note to fund expenses until the collection of taxes.

The Board approved posting roads starting March 17.

The Board discussed meeting schedules. In the last year, the Board has gone from weekly meetings to biweekly meetings. Given the amount of business currently before the Board, it was decided to, at least in the beginning to meet weekly. The next Board meeting will be on Monday March 17 at 7p.m. Agenda topics to include Lister vacancy, budget, and contracts. The next meeting after that will be on March 26 at 7p.m. Town Clerk Lisa Kendall passed out a budget status report for the first two months of the year for the Board to review before the next meeting.

The Board discussed the fact that Gary Kendall has chosen to leave the Road Crew as of March 15. A collection was made from Board members for a parting gift in appreciation for his years of fine service to the Town. Due to budget concerns the previous Board decided not to immediately fill his position. In the meantime the work loads and schedules will be monitored by the Road Foreman and Selectboard Chair Rod Maclay

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, Acting Recording Secretary