

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2024
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Participants in Person: Toni Pippy, Andrew Duncklee, Jeff Solsaa

Selectboard Participants via Zoom: Mary Linehan, Kelly Harman

Town Clerk: Lisa Bragg

Participants in Person: John Frietag

Participants via Zoom: Betty Jo Duncklee, Tim Denny, Meredith Randall, Regina Josler

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Public Concerns: None
2. Highway Update:
 - a. Roads suffered a few wash-outs due to heavy rain and snow melt.
 - b. Vacancy on road crew- no update
 - c. Sidewalk Snow removal - snow blower has been repaired and now operational.
 - d. Bridge 30- discussion around the approximate \$200K grant and scope to repair.
 - i. Solsaa motions for the Chair to sign the amended grant for the scope of work to repair Bridge 30. Linehan second and all approve.
 - e. Highway crew uniforms-
 - i. Pippy motions to amend the contract with Universe to remove the uniform portion. Solsaa seconds and all approve.
 - f. Freeman Bridge- bids will be opened in the Town House at 2pm on Friday 20th.
3. Reappraisal Update:
 - a. Tim Denny provided the update on the reappraisal process. The proposal that was received from NEMRC met with the stipulation to use the required software. The cost will be \$78,600 (money in the reserve will cover this cost) and the time frame will be July 2027-July 2029.
 - b. Pippy motions to accept the proposal from NEMRC. Solsaa seconds and all approved.
4. Approve Meeting Minutes from 11/21/24.
 - a. Linehan motions to approve the minutes, Duncklee seconds and all approve.
5. Town House User Agreement Update:
 - a. Among other things, the agreement has been updated to include the requirement that the user must provide their own law enforcement or traffic control.
 - b. Pippy motions to approve the updated Town House User Agreement but with the edits to remove the word "constable" from the security section to "certified traffic control" or "law enforcement". Harman seconds and all approve.
6. Right of Way Ordinance– No update
7. Law Enforcement:
 - a. Three options regarding the engagement of law enforcement for the Town:
 - i. Stay with Orange County
 - ii. Contract with Thetford
 - iii. Contract with Windsor County

- b. After discussion, Solsaa makes a motion to move forward with negotiations and a request for proposal from Windsor County. The not to exceed amount is \$40,560 annually. Duncklee seconds and all approve.
- 8. Budget 2025:
 - a. Contribution to health insurance for Town employees– Linehan has researched and discussed with several other towns and concludes that more research needs to be completed before a recommendation can be made.
 - b. Wednesday January 22, 2025, will be for an information meeting to review and discuss the budget.
- 9. Liaison Updates: no updates
- 10. Other: Executive Session:
 - a. Pippy moves to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the litigation and negotiation strategy related to the appeal to the environmental court of the Town DRB's decision in the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Harman seconds, and all approve.
 - b. Pippy then moves for the Board to enter executive session to discuss the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Solsaa seconds, and all approve.
 - c. Selectboard comes out of executive session at 8:19pm

Linehan moves to close the Selectboard meeting at 8:22 pm.