

Minutes of the Special Strafford Selectboard
April 19, 2017

Members of the public body present: Toni Pippy, Chair, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepman, John Freitag

Other active participants: Jon MacKinnon, Steven Campbell from Greenwood Energy, John Danner and Alex Droussiotis from Conti Solar, and Zeb Jenks from Northwoods, all contractors at the Solar project at the Elizabeth Mine, Deputy Briggs representing Orange County Sheriff Department, Constable Ed Eastman and residents John Lloyd, Allan Wylie, John and Jane Whelihan, and Bob Bauer

Meeting called to order at 6pm

1.) Speed indicator sign - John reported on his research and trip to Kendall in Hanover N.H. who had just purchased a speed indicator sign for their facility. The Selectboard had budgeted for a sign that will be put in once the new bridge project in South Strafford is completed to help with traffic calming as people enter the village. If we purchase the sign now it can be used as soon as it comes in for the Mine Road trucking for the solar project and the detour route while the bridge is being built. The sign is solar powered with a battery backup. It can if we later choose to be upgraded to record number of cars passing and their speed. John moved and Stephen seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a speed indicator sign for the cost of \$2,724. Toni, Stephen, Kate and John voted yes, Brian no and the purchase was approved.

2.) Construction Traffic Safety Plan for Bridge 29 and Elizabeth Mine Solar project - Steve Campbell who is in charge of the project presented their plan and schedule for trucking. They made clear that a top priority was safety and they wanted to work closely with the community to make this happen. They will be employing, at their cost, an officer from Orange County Sheriff Department to be on hand during the heavy trucking times. They will also provide teams of flaggers and signage. They expect total compliance on speed and safety issues from all the truckers involved and have made clear to them the expectations. They will also be providing a water truck and working with our Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon on dust control for the unpaved portion of Mine Road.

They would like to start hauling stone and material via the Tyson Road route on April 20th and the blocks on flatbeds on April 21st. They have had a company come in and do a video survey of the trucking routes and Tyson bridge. Mine and Tyson Roads are still posted. Jon was questioned as to whether it was okay to use these roads for the heavy trucking now. Jon said he would prefer waiting until Monday but felt that it would be alright to use these roads. He said he is in a difficult position because VELCO and others want to use roads in town for heavy trucking and he is in the position of seeming inconsistent. The Board said Jon has authority to open and allow trucking at his discretion as conditions vary in town. Jon said that at this point all other roads are still posted and heavy trucking not allowed. He will reconsider opening others on Monday.

Residents expressed their safety concerns and Steve Campbell said that they wanted to make this work as well as possible and are willing to address any concerns as best they are able. It was brought up that where the road narrows between the existing parking spaces and Mine Road across the street from Coburns Store will be particularly narrow. This will be blocked off for the duration of the trucking. According to the schedule provided, the heavy trucking should go until early June and then 2 trucks a day from mid-June until mid-July. Brian expressed his opposition to going forward at this time as instead of a laser survey that was agreed to about at our March 22 meeting, a video survey was done, we still do not have the video survey in hand and we are relying too much on good faith. Stephen Marx

expressed his concern that what GMP said would happen regarding putting in new poles and trimming ended up being more extensive than was put forth at the public hearings. John expressed his concern that the communication needs to get better and this start date did not allow for sufficient time to let people know what was happening. Steve Campbell said they would be providing weekly updates from here on in and offered to come to Selectboard meetings on a monthly basis. He will coordinate this with Board Chair Toni Pippy. People are encouraged to let a Selectperson know if they have safety concerns. Steve Campbell said that at the March 22 meeting the cost of a laser survey was estimated to be around \$5,000 and the cost was found to be over \$30,000 hence the video survey done by a professional company specializing in this work. He did agree to have a laser survey done on the paved portion of Tyson and Mine Road. He said that the GMP work while related to their project was something done by GMP and they did not have oversight of that work. Stephen Marx mentioned that there may be an advantage to starting the trucking this week as school is out of session. John will be the Selectboard's person posting on the listserve and to the Strafford News regarding the project. John moved and Toni seconded the motion: That based on Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon's assurances, the Board is willing to allow trucking on the project to start on April 20 with the understanding that if there is any damage to the roads or bridges, EMS Solar I will be responsible for repairs. Toni, John, Stephen, and Kate in favor. Brian opposed.

3.) Mine Road Concerns - Toni reviewed with the Board the concerns that had been brought up at the last meeting regarding Mine Road in general and the trucking and detour route in particular. She said that the speed indicator sign and water truck and law enforcement commitment addressed some of the immediate concerns. It was felt that our Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon and crew were addressing the other concerns as best they are able. It was noted that there are a good deal of roads in Strafford in much worse shape (some sections like Kibbling Hill and Old City Falls area almost at this time impassable due to mud) and that any long-term improvements like potentially repaving would have to be balanced against the other needs in town.

Brain moved and Kate seconded to adjourn, all approved and the meeting ended at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,
John Freitag, Acting Recording Clerk