

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30pm

Justin Morrill Education Center and via zoom

Members present: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Brent Cadwell, Mary Linehan

Others present or attending via zoom: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, Laura Ogden, Nicole Pavick, Roz Finn, Aileen Lem, Eric Lopez, Quinn Thomashow, Jason Loomis, Jennifer Brown

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

Public Concerns

- A town individual inquired as to why they need to call to get chloride for their road. Jon responded that the current practice is that people call him, and the road crew responds as soon as possible.
- Roz Finn questioned the need for an ethics code.

Emergency Management COVID 19

Governor Scott extended the State of Emergency through Saturday, August 15, 2020

Town Highways and Equipment Update

- Tyson Bridge and Mine Road paving by EPA—Jon will be meeting with them tomorrow at 10 am re: Tyson bridge; need to confirm what EPA will be doing, and what remains of the work needed, as detailed by the inspection
- Paving project site. Discussions have been held with vendors. Jon has a quote for the price per ton pavement in place. Priority locations include Brook Rd and Miller Pond Rd. Motion passed to select a portion of Miller Pond Rd, with exact length of pavement to be determined by the results of financial bids.
- Road Grant Process instituted to allow better fiscal oversight by Treasurer and Selectboard
- New truck financing options. Truck is approved, awaiting finance process.

Correspondence

- Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: COVID 19, Vermont Department of Health. We also receive emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
- Letter from Scott Traudt
- Email copy of letter Liz Clarke sent to Maggie Hayes, USDA, RE: Erosion. Jon is trying to advise about how to mitigate her challenge, which is beyond the scope of the Highway Department. Erosion issues at junction of Finn and Alger Brook Roads were also discussed.
- Email from Brett Kay, Project Manager, nobis, RE: E-Mine – Update on Mine Road, Tyson Bridge, and Route 132 Work.

- Emails from Ed Hathaway, EPA, RE: Tyson Bridge, Coppermine Rd paving and June Progress Report
- Emails from Victoria Littlefield, TRORC Regional Planner, Kevin Grady Chair Energy and Climate Committee and Nick Clark, Chair, Thetford Selectboard and Peter Gregory, Executive Director, TRORC RE: Norwich. Hiring Jeff Martin, starting August 10
- Email from Jill Michaels, RE: Goings on outside
- Email from Carol Langstaff, RE: Strafford Health Committee. Selectboard encourages this community initiative and will provide guidance regarding other resources in town
- VT-Local Roads Program, “Virtual Roundtable on Performance Management w/Jill Muhr of VLCT, July 22nd at 9am.

July 8th regular meeting minutes approved. Brent abstained.

Historical Society

Laura Ogden noted that Historical Society is required to move out of its current space by Jan 1, 2021 and will be looking for a new space. Inquired about plans for renovation of Town Office to see if Historical Society can potentially share space. Toni noted that the renovation project is on hold due to COVID pandemic and noted that there will need to be a Town Meeting to discuss the project before moving forward. Laura raised for consideration that, should the proposed renovation project be reconsidered, the Historical Society might be engaged in discussions about a plan with shared space.

Draft review of Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy for the Town of Strafford

Eric Lopez noted the proposed document reflects the groups’ consensus deliberations and is an update to the current Conflict of Interest statement used by the Town. Proposed updates reflect current legal provisions for protected classes, in ways that are not controversial, but rather use exactly the same language that one would find in a school, business and many other institutions in the US. Some language has been changed to reflect greater inclusivity (ie, Board of Selectmen changed to Selectboard). Suggested a process going forward that includes 1) having Town Attorney and VLCT review the document, and 2) once reviewed by them, open to town comment and review before it is approved. The Selectboard will review the document in more detail before making a draft available for review.

Junk Yard Ordinance discussion

An inventory will be updated over the next months and will be presented at future Selectboard meeting for action.

Set municipal tax rate

Waiting for final notification of tax rate, which was delayed by school budget vote, to send tax bills and finalize due dates.

Dog Officer replacement

Town Clerk will send certified letters notifying the owners of dogs that are unlicensed and or have expired rabies certificates of a one-week deadline before receiving a ticket. Owners who

are unable to get a rabies vaccine should seek assistance from Neighbors Helping Neighbors:
Sandy Preston, email: Sandy.Preston@gmail.com; phone: 765-4068

Dog officer job opening will be posted on website and listserv. In the interim, dog complaints should be directed to Town Office by phone or email.

Liaison updates

Lister vacancy. Motion passed for John Freitag to fill the open Lister position.

Other

Further discussion of road management and planning

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk