

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

May 11, 2016

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

Absent: Brent Cadwell

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon Mackinnon, Road Foreman and Public Works Supervisor, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter, Phyl Harmon, Lee Vormelker, Marie Ricketts and Bill Burden, Rocky Fuller

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 6:00 p.m.

1) **Citizen Concerns:** There were no citizen's concerns.

2) **Correspondence (copies of these documents are available at the Town Clerk's Office) –**

An email from Lee Vormelker with a sample of the VTAlert test notice that will be sent during the testing in Strafford. Those that have completed a personal VTAlert registration will receive these notices through the method he/she has selected. By default, residents of Strafford are already registered in the 911 Reverse calling system directory and will receive a phone call when the testing is done. Notice will be sent prior to the testing.

A letter from Terri Gibson requesting we wave the fees for late filing of a dog license. Toni recused herself from further discussion on this item for personal reasons. A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Steve to charge the late fees. Brian and Steve voted for and John voted against. Lisa will notify Terri.

A request to use the Town Common for Ned Coffin's Memorial Service Recipient.

A letter from Phyl Harmon requesting that the Board consider amending the town governance section of the April 27th minutes before approving them.

A utility relocation order was received from VTrans when the work begins during the replacement of the Litton Bridge in 2017.

An email from Paul Gillies dated 5/11/16 about his work on the stipulations for the Elizabeth Mine Solar Project.

An email from Gus Speth dated 5/11/16 about NewVista.

3.) Minutes –Steve made a motion and Brian seconded to approve the April 27th minutes. Toni made a motion and Brian seconded to revise the minutes and remove, ninth sentence under Town governance. All approved. The revised minutes were approved by all.

4.) Budget – Lisa reported that we were in good shape. The legal fees line item is higher than budgeted due to the legal fees incurred for the Town to be a party to the Public Service Board hearing for the Elizabeth Mine Solar Project. Steve made a motion and Brian seconded that the Town bill the Elizabeth Mind Solar I, LLC for these legal fees. All approved.

5.) Town Highways – The equipment except for the grader which needs rear tire and roads are in good shape.

6.) General

Town House update – Rocky updated the Board about the Town House. There were over 20 people who helped on April 30th for cleanup day. There are many events scheduled throughout the summer. Town Partners submitted a proposal for exterior painting of the Town House which will be done over the next four years. Steve made a motion and Brian seconded to accept the proposal. All approved. Thank you to the

members of the The Town House Advisory Group Board and all the volunteers for the work they do keeping the Town House in great shape.

Tennis Court update – The Recreation Board presented a letter they would like sent requesting donations to assist in the replacement of the tennis courts. The goal is \$100,000 of which \$75,000 has already been raised. Toni made a motion and Steve seconded to send the request. All approved.

Junkyards and trash problems – Steve arranged a cleanup of the Pixley property and seven people showed up to help. Thank you to those that helped. Steve will continue to work on the junk yard and trash problems.

Dog licenses update – Lisa presented a list of dogs that have not been licensed. John will follow up with Janet Hardy, Dog Officer to take the next steps to have these dogs properly licensed.

Health Officer opening – Beth Preston has been the health officer of Strafford for many years and will be stepping down at the end of her term, March 2017. Thank you Beth for your years of dedicated service.

South Strafford village paperwork – Brian will work with Lisa on completing the paperwork.

Insurance planning process – Nothing to report at this time.

Bi-weekly bills – Nothing to report at this time.

Governance study – next step – The Board agreed that we must get this study underway. A special board meeting will be scheduled in June so that the Board can work with David and Nancy Grant to have a clear purpose and to set goals for the study. We will come to this meeting with our goals to review and refine.

7) Other –

Brian made a motion to adjourn and Toni seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: 5/23/16 Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m. at the Town Office

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Pippy