

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

January 6, 2016

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

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, James Garnett, Martha Walke, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter

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

The purpose of this meeting was to work on the 2016 Budget, but there were other critical Town business to address in addition to the budget.

- 1.) Correspondence - Lisa presented to the Board with the “ATTACHMENT B. REIMBURSEMENT FORMS -Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation - Petroleum Cleanup Fund Request for Reimbursement Form, PCF FORM 1920-1-1010 AND PCF FORM 1920 1 102” request for reimbursement for monitoring of the old Town Garage site which is now the Park and Ride in South Strafford. Since the threshold of this long term monitoring required by the Town has already been met there are no further payments from the Town. The Board authorized John to sign the reimbursement forms.
- 2.) **Applying for official status on Solar Project at Elizabeth Mine-** Selectboard and Planning Commission members in attendance at the Public Hearing on Monday were surprised to find that testimony and written documents submitted to the Public Service Board were not considered evidence unless the Town applies for intervening status. John has checked with Attorney Paul Gillies. Paul has written these applications for other towns and will file the papers on behalf of the Town. He did not anticipate that it would take more than an hour or two of his time. Martha Walke from the Planning Commission asked that the Planning Commission be included as well as the Selectboard. Stephen moved and Toni seconded applying for intervening status for both the Selectboard and Planning Commission. All approved. The deadline for the application is January 11th. John will contact Paul Gillies and send information to him with regards to the Town’s decisions and concerns about this project to be filed as evidence. John will contact Planning Commission Chair Steven Campbell to have comments from the Planning Commission filed as well. Stephen Marx expressed his extreme disappointment at the Town and Planning Commission not having automatic status on this major project was informed of hearings at the State House on this issue on January 20. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is coordinating testimony. Stephen was authorized to speak on behalf of the Selectboard. Brian said if his schedule permits he will go with Stephen to the Statehouse.
- 3.) **53 week pay period in 2015--**John brought up his concern over the 53rd pay period/pay check that has occurred due to how dates fell on the 2015 calendar. While he had no problem with hourly workers getting paid for the actual time they worked, he felt that those town employees that are salaried, Lisa Kendall, Jon Mackinnon and Ed Eastman who is on a stipend should only get the money that was budgeted for their salaries for 2015, and that it was not dependent on particular calendar pay dates. Toni Pippy, said she would check into it and get back to the Board at the January 13th meeting with her findings. She also mentioned that there are years and 2015 is one of them when there will be an additional pay periods.
- 4.) 2016 Budget Discussion - Toni provided spread sheets and led the Board through a discussion on projections for the 2015 year end and the 3rd draft of the 2016 budget at this point. While final numbers are not yet in, it looks like we will meet the budget for 2015. Toni discussed proposals for making the budget simpler and easier to understand in the Town Report and ways in which it will cut down in the future on paperwork. She said that she would be willing to take the lead in explaining the changes to the Town.

5.) Budget and Regular Meeting Schedule --The Board then discussed future meetings and scheduled meetings on January 13th at 6 p.m. which is a regular board meeting, January 20th at 6 p.m. which is a special budget meeting and January 27th at 6 p.m. which is a regular board meeting,. All will be held at the Town Office. More meetings may be needed once more of the final figures are in from 2015 and the remainder of the projected expenses for 2016 are known.

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Brian seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Toni M. Pippy