

## **Strafford Selectboard Meeting**

December 11, 2019

Selectboard members present: Kate Siepmann, Brian Johnson, Lauri Berkenkamp, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly

Others present: Gil Robertson; Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Jennifer Brown, *The Herald of Randolph*

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

No citizens had concerns this week.

**Town Highways and Equipment:** Brian reported that the crew was working to fix the sand sifter; other work is on track. Road crew is applying for a \$20,000 grant for ditching and creating culverts on Alger Brook Road; the town's portion of this cost would be \$5,700. Board moved, seconded, and approve the grant application.

**Correspondence:** The board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Ed Hathaway re: EPA report on blasting
- Josh Kahan re: sign at Pennock Road has been removed
- Jim Carrien, Loss Control VLTC re: prepare to use the new drug and alcohol clearinghouse and CDL updating. Jon MacKinnon will need to attend training for the drug and alcohol clearinghouse. In order to be in compliance with regulations, the Town will also require a driver's record for all road crew members each year, add our crew names to a national CDL database, and will need to create a new drug and alcohol policy. Lisa will distribute relevant material to road crew members.
- Green Mountain Power re: exchanging street lights for LED lights. GMP will be swapping out existing lights with LED lights in both Upper and Lower villages over the course of this next year.

**Minutes of November 27 meeting:** Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve minutes of November 27 meeting.

**Update on Ashley Community Forest project:** This agenda item has been tabled until the next meeting (December 18).

**2020 Budget and pay increase discussion:** Toni has reported that most of budgets are level funded, other than increases in benefits. Recycling is an outlier and will increase the budget almost \$2,000 next year. Already budgeted for next year are emerald ash borer mitigation funds and funds for Strafford's portion of an energy coordinator.

The board discussed various scenarios for pay increases based on several formulas. No decisions were made at this time, and the board will continue discussion next meeting.

**Orange County Sheriff's Contract 2020:** Last year's contract paid the sheriff's department \$46 per hour with a \$23,000 not-to-exceed cap. This year, the contract is stipulating a \$47 per hour fee. The board move, seconded, and voted to sign a contract for the \$47 per hour fee with a not-to-exceed cap of \$20,000.

**Town Meeting and Report Preparation:** Lauri will write up a general selectboard's report for Town Meeting, which is due by January 15. FYI: The presidential primary will be taking place during Town Meeting.

**FEMA DAC Hour Request:** Board agreed that Lisa will be paid for her FEMA grant administration with FEMA reimbursement funds, per recommendation of the VLCT lawyer.

**Other:** Town office will be open on Monday, December 23, closed December 24 - 26. The office will be open on December 30 and half day December 31 closing at noon, closed on January 1-2, 2019.

Toni is working on paved road asset list.

Board will send out the town office frequently asked questions the week of December 16.

The delinquent tax amount for 2019 is currently \$132,523.44.

Please note the selectboard will meet on December 18 and not on December 25.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lauri Berkenkamp**

**Recording Secretary**