

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 19, 2015

Members of the public body present: Rod Maclay, Chair, Brent Cadwell, John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Steve Marx Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Rocky Fuller, Chair, Town House Advisory Group

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m.

The Board and Rocky reviewed the line items regarding the care and maintenance of the Town House. In light of upcoming painting as well as repairs to the spire, Rocky requested that unspent funds from the contracted service line item be carried over in a Reserve Fund for when there were larger projects. He also requested an increase in this line item and the Board tentatively raised the line item from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

John suggested that some decisions on items where there had not been initial agreement be made today in the light of Steve Max not being able to attend meetings in the near future and the Chair agreed and asked him to proceed.

John made the motion to keep the line item the same as last year for the Selectboard salaries. Steve seconded the motion. It was noted that in the past Selectboard members were each paid \$450 but with the increase in members to five at last year's town meeting this would require an increase in the line item of \$900 from last year. Steve and John voted in favor of keeping the line item figure the same, Rod, Brent and Brian opposed and the motion was defeated.

John made a motion to level fund the dog officers salary and expenses line items at \$550 and 700 respectively. Brian offered an amendment to lower the expenses to \$500. The amendment passed and the then amended motion passed without dissent.

In the budget this year under Selectboard contracted services is an amount of \$1,950 for a Recording Secretary for the twice monthly regular Selectboard meetings. John expressed his concern over the property tax rate and offered to serve in this position at no cost to the Town. He made a motion to delete the cost from the budget. Brian seconded the motion. It was noted that both the Development Review Board and the School Board have paid Recording Clerks and Brent felt that it was important for someone not on the Board to be taking the minutes. Steve and John voted in favor of the motion, Rod, Brent and Brian opposed and the motion failed.

The issue of the new law Act 148 and increased cost for disposing of recyclables was discussed. Figures were presented this past years costs and as well as the projections made for this year by the Recycling Committee. John will check with Debbie Clark on the amount of bags she collects on Saturdays before any final decisions are made.

The Board further reviewed the budget. No decisions were made.

Next meetings:

Friday January 23 at 8 am, - Budget meeting.

Monday January 26 at 8 am, - Final Budget meeting and adoption of budget

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, Acting Recording Secretary