

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
December 14, 2016

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

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Jennifer Brown, Jeff Solsaa

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Citizens concerns: none

Correspondence: Dori Wolfe emailed the board about the triangle at the southern end of the common. She said someone fell and broke their wrist in the low spot of the road that creates the triangle and wanted to know what we could do about it. The board decided the issue will be dealt with in the spring. The board reviewed a letter from GMP regarding renewable energy. The Big Heavy World requested a donation of \$250 from the town. Steve moved, Brian seconded not to donate any money. All in favor. The board read a letter from Elizabeth Moyer regarding several mailboxes being knocked over. The road crew said that they were already down when they went through. John Freitag said he would follow up with Ed Eastman.

Approve minutes: Steve moved, Toni seconded to approve the minutes of November 23, 2016. John, Toni, Steve, Brent in favor, Brian abstained.

Town highways: Brent reported that all of the equipment is in good order. The town received on bid on the ton truck. The bid total was \$82,776. No decision was made, Lisa said she would look into financing options. School safety, closings and street light update. Brent reported that the street light had been repaired. The electrical contractor said that they could install new street lights but GMP would still need to hook them up. He suggested using GMP for the install as well. There have been communication problems during inclement weather between the principal and highway department. The principal said he was willing to have a radio at his house to help with communication. Brent will follow up.

General: tax sale update: two of the properties had the back taxes paid in full by the day of the sale. The town bid on the remaining property for \$9505.16 and the owner has 12 months to pay this off and retain the property. The board reviewed the 2016 budget. Toni said that over all everything looks good. The board discussed pay raises and the 2017 budget. Toni moved, Brent seconded to take the total of a 2% pay increase and divide it by the number of employees(6) and increase the employee's rates by that amount as well as a .50 increase for Lisa and Regina after receiving their Town Clerk/ Town Treasurer certification, consistent previous town employees educational increases. All in favor. Lisa stated that she intends to eliminate the second assistant position and start using an online records research system called the Cott system. Orange County Sheriff contract was discussed. Brent moved, Brian seconded to level fund the contract. All in favor. As of January 1st, Beth Preston is stepping down as the health officer. The Chair of the Selectboard assumes the position until a replacement is found. If anyone is interested, contact the board. There are classes available for training. VLCT said that

individuals that work for the town that do not have workers comp insurance would fall under the town's policy. John will work with Lisa and VLCT on the new wording. The clothing allowance has to be taxed for anything that can be worn outside the workplace according to VLCT. The New Vista article for town meeting was discussed and the board felt it would be best if a petition came before the board. There has been some confusion over lot line adjustments and who should approve them. Brian said he was fine with giving the authority to the DRB but feels it doesn't need to have a warned hearing for a lot line adjustment. Lisa said there has been some confusion over what fees and applications are needed. Some have been under subdivision permits and others under zoning permits. Brent said that both should be filled out. One individual is subdividing and the other is adding to their property and needs the lot line adjustment. Toni moved, Brent seconded to transfer authority to issue lot line adjustments from the Zoning Administrator to the DRB effective 12-15-2016. All in favor.

Other: Steve said he was told by Coverage Co. that the cell phone boosters will be working by Friday December 16th. Lisa said that she posted on the listserve that she will be closed the week after Christmas and will reopen on the 3rd of January.

Brent moved, Brian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Cadwell