

Selectboard Special Meeting
January 24, 2024
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger, Jeff Solsaa, David Paganelli (via Zoom)

Participants via Zoom- Lisa Bragg, Sarah Root, Chris Boyle, Rett Emerson, Curt Albee, Rachel Kendall, Meredith Kendall, Anni Praetorius

In person participants- Nate Hine, Nellie Pennington, Stephen Marx, Toni Pippy, Terry Garrison

1. Call to order at 7pm. Reading of Selectboard guidelines.

2. Citizen concerns

Stephen Marx would like to warn an addition of a new vote on switching back to in person town meeting instead of Australian ballot. Toni clarified that this would need to be a petition brought from the townspeople rather than from the select board. Brian moves to write a second mailing to do a straw poll on how people feel about Australian ballot versus in person Town Meeting in mid March. All in favor.

3. Review Minutes

January 17th minutes approved with the addition of a note about Dan Prescott's salary
January 10th minutes approved.

4. Highway Updates

There is a potential that the road crew will switch from a 550 to a 650 dump truck which is bigger and potentially cheaper to run.

Jeff moves to sign the prebuy sand contract for \$13000 with Bogie. All in favor.

There are no changes to the mileage certificate. John moves to sign it, all in favor.

Freeman Bridge- the Selectboard moves to put Steve Wilbanks and the state's stream alteration engineer Ben Matthews in contact to discuss Freeman bridge.

5. Timeline for Town Positions

All open positions have at least one person running.

No one is up for election to the Harris Library Trustees.

Ballots will be mailed on February 14th and the Town will hold an informational session on March 2nd (the Saturday before Tuesday voting on March 5th). The School board will be having an additional meeting on February 17th at the Newton School. The Select Board would like to add a budget meeting to the School Board informational meeting. John will speak with Sarah Root about planning the joint meetings.

6. Budget

Ed Eastman has requested reimbursement for \$238 for a radio for his car.

Nate Hine and Nellie Pennington discussed the funding of community services in the town budget.

The Board approved level funding for all community services except for the seniors which will increase from \$3000 to \$10000.

David moved to increase the municipal building repairs line item from \$50000 to \$100000. Hannah, John, Jeff, and Brian voted nay, David voted aye. The motion fails.

7. Town Office

There will be a meeting on 1/25

8. DRB Appeal

The DRB denied an application and the applicants are appealing the denial. John moves that the Selectboard approve funding a consultation with the town lawyer.

10. Orange County Budget

John is working with a member of the Corinth Selectboard to see if other selectboards in the county can help improve the law enforcement for the county as a whole.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Levinger