

Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Members in Person: Toni Pippy, Andrew Duncklee, Mary Linehan, Jeff Solsaa

Town Clerk in Attendance: Lisa Bragg

Assistant in attendance: Chris Behr

Participants in Person: John Freitag, Kate Bass

Participants via Zoom: Bob McAllister, Judie Englander, Betty Jo Dunklee, Stephanie Slayton

5:58 pm Start

### **1. Highway**

- a. Road sign replacement status - ongoing
- b. Flashing speed limit sign upkeep - Done by PD
- c. Equipment & Roads - No significant updates
- d. Projects - No significant updates (Freeman bridge's first billing, Brook road paving has no date yet, but moving along, other projects are complete)
- e. Other - The Thetford recycle center has an annual fee of \$18 per vehicle. Vehicles are monitored for a valid sticker prior to using the facilities. Solsaa will gather more information from Thetford and report if this could help the town with the rising cost of its recycling center.

### **2. Approve minutes**

- a. June 11, 2025. Solsaa: move to approve. Discussion about the start time of the executive session. Linehan: Second. All approve.
- b. June 26, 2025. Solsaa: Move to approve. Linehan: Second. All approve.
- c. July 1, 2025. Pippy: Move to approve. Solsaa: Second. All approve (Duncklee recuses himself)

### **3. Grant Manager Plan Review**

Review of the suggested procedure for managing grants with proper division of responsibilities, oversight and coordination.

- This a procedure, not a policy (modify the title accordingly)
- Define the term "Department Director"
- Review and possibly adopt at the next meeting, and start to use it on the next grant.

### **4. Trash dumped at the fire station's flagpole**

Solsaa: It is shameful and sickening that town residents are so lazy and inconsiderate that they dump trash anonymously on town property instead of taking it home and returning when Nordic (the trash collector) is present.

Pippy: Town events have their own trash collection like a dumpster. The Town has only facilitated the trash collection process and is not responsible for reimbursing Nordic.

Duncklee: Nordic may decide to pull out rather than deal with such behavior and then the town would have no trash collection at all. Will call Nordic to find out the full story and financial impact to Nordic.

**5. Budget Review**

The Cost vs Budget spreadsheet was previewed. It will allow the Selectboard to view the cost and the revenue on a monthly (or other) basis and be especially useful at the end of the year to prepare next year's budget.

**6. Cobb Forest gift research and stipulation of gift results**

Discussion of ways to preserve the Cobb forest's unique fen ecosystem by securing the development rights of the property (or of a portion of the property). The Conservation Commission will research and provide an update.

**7. Liaison updates**

- a. Tree warden - Sean Plottner came forward to fill the position
- b. EV charger - The new proposal information does not make the chargers any more viable.

**8. Other**

Linehan, Chris Behr and PD Hardy met to discuss how to gather more information about the maintenance cost per road using the weekly document prepared by the road crew.

**9. Acknowledgement of Correspondence**

- a. Mike Hebb (RE: Stanley Property access road). Solsaa to follow up with a surveyor to verify and mark the property lines and pins. At that point, the town can add fences or gates to prevent trespassing while allowing any access specified in the deed.
- d. Bob McAllister. Solsaa will visit Bob McAllister to discuss when Bob returns to town.

At xx:xx pm, Linehan motions to adjourn. Solsaa seconds. All approve.

Chris Behr, Selectboard Assistant