

Selectboard Meeting February 13, 2019

Members present: Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp, Brian Johnson

Others present: Lisa Bragg, Gil Robertson, Jennifer Brown for the *Herald of Randolph*, Alan Wylie, Tim Denny

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Citizens Concerns

No citizens' concerns were presented to the board.

Road and Highway Report

- Contract with Bogie—motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the contract with Bogie for sand.
- Municipal Roads, General Permit Planning Report—Toni signed the report
- Town Road and Bridge Standards—Toni signed the 2019 certificate of compliance for town road and bridge standards, indicating that Strafford has a current road standard inventory
- FY 21 Transportation Capital Projects Prioritization—board acknowledged receipt of list of priorities for FY21 from TRORQ. Strafford currently doesn't have any projects on the current list and will discuss submitting a project in the future.

Approve Minutes of January 23 and January 29

Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes of both January 23 and 29. Board approved minutes.

Correspondence

Email from Tom Kinder regarding Church and snowstorm: Board acknowledged receipt of email. When it comes to maintaining roads, the town has a policy regarding winter road maintenance, which is available on the town website.

US census re: 2019 boundary and annexation survey to do's: Board acknowledges that the town has not changed its boundaries.

Email from Dwight Richeimer regarding mailbox damage: Board acknowledged receipt of email. According to policy, the road crew foreman will make a recommendation to the board. Jon MacKinnon and board liaison Brian Johnson will confer regarding the issue and will get back to the homeowner.

Pre-Town Meeting

Pre-Town Meeting will be held on Friday, March 1, 2019. The School Board Pre-Town Meeting will be held before the town portion. Time to be determined.

VCRD (Vermont Council on Rural Development) Mailing, Dinner, and Forums

Mailing has been completed. The board discussed the cost of \$450 to pay for the community dinners. Some members of the board were uncomfortable spending unallocated town funds for the dinner and instead volunteered to bring food and hold the dinner as a potluck. A motion was made and seconded that rather than pay for the meal out of unbudgeted town funds, the town should hold a potluck. Motion was approved 4 to 1; Toni Pippy voted no. Kate S. will contact the organizers of the dinner to alert them of the change. Board members have volunteered to bring dishes to the dinner.

Variance Permit Notice Discussion—Robertson

Board acknowledged the receipt of variance permit notice for Robertson to build a garage.

Listers Information Report to Selectboard RE: Contiguous Properties

The listers presented an explanation of a change to assessment of contiguous properties. According to state law, listers should be assessing contiguous properties differently than they have been: if two or more properties are contiguous and the names on the deeds are the same, each property will be assessed as if it were a stand-alone property rather than a combined property. The primary property will receive the tax bill for all contiguous properties. Note that any secondary properties that are determined to be contiguous will also be assessed as stand-alone properties and will be added to the primary property's tax assessment. The listers intend to send letters to all possible contiguous property owners to confirm ownership and explain the requirements by the state. They will designate all true contiguous properties and will add the full value of secondary properties to primary properties, which will trigger a change of appraisal notification. Listers will have the selectboard review the letter they intend to send to contiguous property owners.

Financial Matters

- Small Endowments—Move to Trustee of Public Funds: Discussion ensued regarding moving \$34,000 in town endowment and trust funds to Trustee of Public Funds. Lisa will contact the Trustees of Public Funds for their input and recommendations.
- Tax Sales Notice—several properties are up for tax sale, which will take place February 27 at 10 am. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that should there be no other bids; the Town will put bids in for all properties up for tax sale.
- Tax Anticipation Notice—Board approves signing the tax anticipation notice for \$658,000 at 3.150 interest rate. Members signed the notice.

Other

- Emergency Management Plan update: this is in process
- Paul Gilles and Hug right of way issue: Board will send out notice 30 days in advance of public hearing
- Local Government Day in Legislature, February 14: Strafford will be represented by John and Brian.

- Update state gas tax going directly back to towns: John will lobby against state gas tax going to the general fund and advocate for taxes going back to towns for their infrastructure.
- Municipal Building Update: Kate and Lisa updated the board on progress regarding proposed plans for updating the town office building. The architect will return to town office committee by February 28.
- Notary insurance coverage: VLCT will no longer cover notary insurance. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay notary insurance for Lisa Bragg and Regina Jostler at an approximate cost of \$120 per person.
- VLCT notice regarding unemployment claim: Board will contest the claim and Toni will follow up with VLCT.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk