

## **Selectboard Meeting March 20, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

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

Others present: Jon MacKinnon, George Spaneas, Carlton Phelps

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### **Citizen Concerns**

There were no citizens' concerns

#### **Road and Highway Report**

Road crew is working hard to keep the roads passable and in good shape in mud season. Board discussed citizens stopping the road crew while they were working to complain about the state of the roads. The board asks everyone to please direct their concerns to the foreman and the liaison, Brian Johnson, rather than to the road crew workers.

FY 21 TRORC Capital Projects Prioritization: Jon will put the bridge on the list for priorities. There is no guarantee when this will be approved.

Inventory of paved roads review: The board reviewed a draft inventory of the paved roads in town and their general condition, as well as estimated costs for maintenance to prevent re-paving. The total estimated cost to maintain roads in order to prevent paving is more than \$2 million. Currently the budget has \$253,000 budgeted for paving, but this is contingent on the town receiving \$175,000 in grant funding.

In conjunction with the road foreman, the board is working on a long-term plan for road maintenance. The board is applying for state paving grants to support paving projects on existing Class 2 roads. In addition, the board is actively pursuing paving grant applications from a variety of sources for other paved roads. Much discussion ensued regarding how to determine priorities: John Freitag suggested that because it costs three times as much to rebuild a road as it does to save it and keep up proper maintenance, priority should be for roads that are currently paved so that they do not degrade to a point where the pavement must be completely replaced. Other disagreed, suggesting that if priorities always go to maintaining roads that are already paved, new pavement projects will not happen. To move forward, Jon MacKinnon will have someone from Black Top come to explain the general life cycle of paved roads, and the board will contact Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission for traffic study numbers on the paved roads. The board will make a decision for which projects they will submit a grant application at their April 10 meeting based on recommendations from the road crew.

#### **Approve Minutes of March 13**

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of March 13 with the addition of the following sentence under Liaison Updates: "Kate reported that the architect hired in regard to the Town Office came up with five preliminary plans."

### **Correspondence**

Email from Ed Hathaway re: resuming work at the mine. Board acknowledged receipt of email.  
Vermont Legislative Alert re: progress on bill on self-governance. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

Email from Historic Preservation Commission: all members wish to stay on. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the membership and terms as proposed by the commission.

### **VCRD Update**

Strafford hosts the community dinner at Barrett Hall on Thursday, March 21.

### **Review Contracts for Bids 2019 in lieu of the bid process**

Town clerk will contact contracted mower to see if he wants to renew his agreement.

### **Update Town of Strafford Rules of Procedure**

Board reviewed.

### **Other**

Liaison Updates:

Regarding Town Office plans. Committee will meet to review plans submitted by architect.

Hook Construction sent estimated costs for repairing sidewalk in front of Town Office. Toni will talk with Town Clerk regarding repairing the posts.

Please note that April's board meetings will take place on April 3, 10, and 24.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp

Recording Clerk