

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 6:00 pm at Town Office
227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, VT 05072

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, Mary Linehan, David Paganelli

Other participants: John Echeverria, Courtney Potter, Phoebe Mix, Rocky Fuller, John Freitag, Steve Dycus, Trey & Olivia Piepmeier, Rodney Sloat, Rett Emerson, Mike Scanlon, Kate Cassidy, Cynthia Odell, Susan Cloke, Lucy Hemenway, Kevin

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. Courtney Potter expressed an interest in being a candidate for a position on the Conservation Commission.
2. Highway.
 - a. Roads and equipment. Pike delivery of spring gravel starts Monday. The Road Crew has been doing as much grading, cleaning culverts and ditches as possible in preparation for winter. PD will be meeting with Rita Seto to discuss the ditching grant; Jeff met with Geoff Martin re: heating cost reduction strategies for the Town Garage. A 4000-hour service is due on loader, but the cost is \$7,500, so Jeff recommends that we wait till there are available funds; Chair will review the equipment line item in the budget.
 - b. Open truck bids. Two proposals were received for 2024 Ten Wheeler Cab & Chassis, to replace PD's Western Star truck: 1) Freightliner 114SD at a cost of \$194,189.00; and 2024 Western Star 49X at a cost of \$215,189.00. Proposals will be reviewed by Road Foreman and liaison.
 - c. Tyson Bridge painting is completed and has been reviewed by the Road Crew.
 - d. Additional Radar Speed Limit signs. Chris Bump has information that will be provided in a meeting tomorrow with Jeff.
 - e. Brook Road Bridge, Bridge 30, Preparation for Winter. Jersey barriers are not available from the state. Jeff will discuss with Chris Bump tomorrow about other possible options.
 - f. Stone wall, Breese property. Draft letter to Breese was reviewed by the board, no changes were suggested. Motion passed to send the draft letter to Paul Gillies for review before sending to Mr. Breese. Unanimously passed.
 - g. Vacant position. Jeff conducted an interview with a Road Crew candidate; we are waiting for a response from the candidate. Jeff reminded the board that Danny Prescott is planning to retire in May, so we urgently need to move forward with filling this position.
3. Approve the minutes of the 9/28/22 regular meeting. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the 9/28/22 regular meeting. Unanimously passed.
4. Recycling -Mike Scanlon informed the board that the cost of recycling will likely increase in the coming year. An MOU was signed last year for a 2-year period, including a clause to adjust for inflation after one year. Expected increases include the following: from current rate of \$272/dumpster unit hauled, to \$290/unit hauled, as well as fuel increases, as anticipated by the MOU. The 2022 budget for recycling was \$19,500 and have spent \$13,000 to date. Mike anticipates that there may be some savings this year. However, the market for cardboard and mixed paper has reversed and we will now be paying for this to be removed; in April we received

\$84/ton for cardboard, \$21/ton for mixed paper. Now we pay \$18/ton cardboard, and \$43/ton for mixed paper. Discussion re: modifying schedule for recycling and how much of the material is being recycled, whether the Selectboard should consider charging residents for recycling.

5. Australian Ballot Article on town meeting warning. Mary presented voter participation counts that show that more than twice as many Strafford residents voted at Town Meeting during the COVID pandemic, when the State mandated Australian Ballot, with 205 voters in 2019 and 223 voters in 2020 (pre-COVID) vs. 485 in 2021 and 534 in 2022, when COVID restrictions were in place. To facilitate higher levels of voter participation, Mary made a motion to put Australian Ballot, in addition to in-person Town Meeting, on the warning for the 2023 Town Meeting. Toni seconded. Discussion re how the process would work, VT State limitations and regulations for voting. Unanimously passed. Mary and Lisa will seek guidance from VLCT for appropriate wording for the warning and guidelines for holding Town Meeting with Australian ballot and in-person meeting.
6. Acknowledgement of Correspondence.
 - a. Bridge 30 Group – Report of Bridge 30 investigation
 - b. J.T. Horn, RE: Conservation Commission Resignation
 - c. Carol Bushway, RE: Turnpike Road follow up
 - d. John Hawkins, Trustee of Public Funds, RE: A meeting about the Carrie Sanborn Trust
 - e. Stephen Dycus, RE: Selectboard meeting of September 28
 - f. Steve Wilbanks, RE: Historical Preservation Grant
 - g. Byron Breese, RE: communication
 - h. Mike Hebb, RE: My understanding of last night's decisions 7/27
 - i. Rocky Fuller, RE: Town House Advisory Group Minutes
 - j. Geoff Martin, RE: IREC September Progress Report
7. Liaison Updates.
 - a. Vacancy Conservation Commission. Motion unanimously passed to appoint Anne Fayen and Courtney Potter to the open positions on the Conservation Commission.
 - b. Planning Commission - Draft of Strafford Vermont Unified Bylaws and Planning Commission Summary of Unified Bylaw Changes. Strafford Planning Commission Public Forum will be held on October 26, 2022 at 7 pm at the Morrill Homestead Education Center
 - c. Brian Johnson reported that Mike Hebb has reported the presence of rats on the Stanley, Huot and adjacent properties. Steve Marx, Health Officer, has been contacted.
 - d. David Paganelli reported that the Recreation Committee has asked for permission to store the skateboard panels in the old Town Garage for the winter. It does not appear that there is adequate space, but Jeff will check to see if there is an alternative.
 - e. Lisa Bragg, the current Dog Officer, has been filling the position on a temporary basis and will be stepping down. A new Dog Officer needs to be identified.
 - f. Chair has reviewed the parcel sale process with Paul Gillies and has received guidance for how to move forward.
 - g. Town Clerk reminded board that BCA will be required on November 8 to assist with the election.
8. Bridge 30 Group discuss results of investigation. John Echeverria presented an option of steel trusses for Bridge 30, and a feasibility study that estimated the cost at app. \$820,000-843,000. The Group reported that the proposed process has been delayed, and the trusses would likely

not be available until 2024. Chair raised concerns about the high cost of the bridge and issues of storage of the trusses, which have exposed rust and could cause contamination of water sources. The board is concerned about putting repair of the deck on Bridge 30 ahead of other bridges which have been prioritized by the Road Crew and the State. Chair clarified that any large expenditures would be warned for a Town Meeting vote. Discussion re how to deal with the curve of the current bridge and road, and the expected cost to the Town. Echeverria requested that the board adopt a resolution to endorse the concept of refurbishing Bridge 30 using the Ludlow trusses providing it can be done at a fair and reasonable price to the town and its taxpayers; the Group goal to be at 0-10% of the total cost. Motion passed to adopt a resolution to endorse the concept of refurbishing Bridge 30 using the Ludlow trusses providing it can be done at a fair and reasonable price to the town and its taxpayers. Jeff, Toni, Brian and David voted aye. Mary abstained.

Motion passed to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan