

Town House, Strafford upper village

Selectboard Members in Person: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Kelly Harman
Assistant in attendance: Chris Behr

Participants in Person: Bryan Kovalick, John Freitag, Debbie Richie, Ed Huang, Rachel Kurland, David McWilliams, Will Walke, Terry Garrison, Rebecca Seibel, David Grant

Participants via Zoom: Lisa Bragg

6:00 pm: Meeting starts

Bryan Kovalick (Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission, AKA TRORC) presented the [Capital Budget & Program](#). In short, the Capital Budget lists projects within the Town of Strafford that are anticipated within the next ten years, their estimated cost, their timeline, and the proposed method for financing. The Capital Budget cost and revenue amounts are estimates or place holders, and will be refined each year and further modified if and when they are included in the yearly town budget. By looking 10 years ahead, the town can anticipate expenses, plan for necessary revenue sources and act to avoid a crisis or emergency work.

Bryan continued with a look at each tab of the [Draft Capital Budget](#) itself, one tab at a time: Highway Equipment, Highway Infrastructure, Town Garage, Old Town Garage, Park & Ride, Municipal Building, Town House, Recreation Facilities, Pocket Park, Tennis Court, Fire Truck, Evergreen Cemetery.

The Highway tabs, which together account for 88% of the Capital Budget, got most of the attention during the open discussion that followed. Some highlights:

- The Capital Budget identified the next 10 bridges to be upgraded
- Strafford has been very successful funding infrastructure projects and other towns have noticed, which increases the competition for funds. In addition, several funding sources are in turmoil, so it appears that funds will be more difficult to secure.
- The cost of upgrading bridges has increased drastically from an average of \$300,000 to \$1,500,000, due to material cost and newer specifications to allow updated stream flow data.
- As a result of these factors, it is likely that bridge upgrades happen more slowly.

At 6:56, Toni Pippy made a motion to adjourn. Kelly Harman seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned.