

## **Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 25th, at 6:00pm  
Barrett Memorial Hall upstairs,  
248 VT Rte 132, South Strafford, VT  
Masks and social distancing required

Members present: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Brent Cadwell, Mary Linehan

Others present: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, Steve Marx, Eric Thorp, Roz Finn, Eric Lopez, Micki Colbeck, Michael Sacca, David Paganelli, John Freitag, David McWilliams, Anita Onofrio

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

### **Public Concerns**

None

**Emergency Management COVID 19** – State of Emergency extended by Governor Scott to September 15th

### **Town Highways and Equipment Update**

- Tyson Bridge updates. Still waiting for cost estimates from EPA. Jon will get estimates for the cost of replacing the bridge, and the cost of a pedestrian bridge, and the cost of a bridge with reduced weight limit. Selectboard will investigate the process of changing to a pedestrian bridge. EPA to provide estimates for replacement of the deck. Review communications with EPA to cover bridge damage. Bridge will need to stay closed till repairs are made.
- Paving project updates. Jon is getting updated prices for Miller Pond Road work in the coming days and then repairs can proceed.

### **Correspondence**

- Email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, re: **COVID 19**, Vermont Department of Health. We also receive emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC and VLTC
- Email, Nicole Pavick, RE: Accessibility of selectboard meetings. Selectboard is working on improved meeting options, including access to zoom. David McWilliams noted that Barrett Hall Trustees are planning to get internet access at Barrett Hall; Newton School will need access during the school year. Current options come with trade-offs for those who want to attend in person vs. those who want to attend on-line. Selectboard remains committed to providing the broadest access possible.
- Elise Schadler, Program Manager, VT Urban & Community Forestry Program, RE: 2021 Ash Tree Management Grants now available for VT Municipalities. Cost-sharing grant of \$5,000-\$15,000 and requires planting trees on one-to-one basis. Selectboard will review grant more closely to see if it is worth pursuing.

- Lieutenant Barbara Kessler, Station Commander, Royalton Barracks, Troop B, Vermont State Police, RE: “a discussion about how police services can and should evolve to meet demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century policing.”
- Email, Charles Denton, RE: Moran Dog Barking
- Email Bill McCalpin, RE: new power poles on Old City Falls Road

Motion passed to approve minutes for the August 13 regular meeting

**Selectboard meeting room solution beginning 9/8/20.** Next meeting will be held at Town Offices upstairs, with access via zoom.

### **Ashley Community Forest Project**

Michael Sacca presented the history of the Project. Asked the SB for an article added to the Nov 3 ballot to allow voters to approve acceptance of the land free and clear, with details to be worked out by the Selectboards of the two towns. Town Clerk not clear how this would happen. Motion passed to put to the town a special vote for deciding whether to accept the Ashley Community Forest Land free and clear. Micki noted the historical and educational value of the land.

### **PACIF – Town Garage and Town House Assessments**

Decide to leave the Town Hall insurance valuation at \$1,721,729; increase Town Garage valuation to \$907,432.

### **Use of Recreation Fields Requests**

- Motion approved for Creative Pre-School request to maintain tent on Murray Field as long as weather allows
- Motion passed for request for an outdoor dance at Murray Field, for 25 people, 6-8 pm on Saturday Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, COVID social distancing required, pre-registration required to limit participation.
- Motion passed for an Artisan Fair, in lieu of the annual Holiday Sale, to be held October 10th & 11th, 10am-3pm on Murray Field for 20 up to vendors, each vendor in tent, separated by 6 ft, masks required

**Draft review of Ethical Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy for the Town of Strafford.** VLCT provided a sample document. Eric: State allows Towns to put in place a COI, and VLCT put forward a model policy, which differs in some ways, which Gillies noted. Proposes we dovetail the draft document with VLCT’s model, so that language is updated. A new draft will be prepared, incorporating language from VLCT and Gillies, and made available for comment by the town.

### **Dog Officer vacancy and Dog Ordinance changes**

No applicants yet. Discussion undertaken regarding how Orange County Sherriff might assist in enforcement.

**Liaison updates**

- Alan Donahue resigned from Development Review Board
- The bottom of Finn Road was re-ditched to force water under the road. Brook Road and Miller Pond Road culverts need to be replaced.
- Town office smell issue still problematic off and on. May be a venting problem, and liaison continues to investigate.

**Other**

- Junk Yard inventory update. Toni and Mary have begun the inventory and continue to gather information.
- Retaining wall behind the Red Barn is starting to collapse and may be a hazard. Recreation Board is attempting to ensure the repair will be conducted before school starts. An anonymous donor will support the repair; no funds are required from town.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk