

## Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 27, at 6:00 pm

Strafford Town Office

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Rett Emerson, Pat Kelly, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Anne Peyton, Laura Ogden, Greg Colling, Ann Kraybill, Susan Tiholiz, John Freitag

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. Request for sidewalk clearing in front of the school by Erin MacPhail, Road Crew handle it today. Thanks to the Road Crew.
2. Town Road Crew, Highways and Equipment Update. PD's truck is going in for repair, app. \$500 to get the gauges back up and working. Shelving for the Town Garage was delivered today.
  - Vacancies. Ryan Kennedy starts on Monday, Jan 31st
  - Brook Road bridge repair update. Corp. Briggs, Orange County Sheriff, stopped in the Town Office and is still trying to contact the owner of the vehicle. We will eventually get a police report and Lisa will forward to VLCT. Still waiting for an estimate for the full repair of the guard rail, including the cost to replace the guard rail on both sides, as insurance will not cover the undamaged side.
  - Sign Certificate of Highway Mileage. Motion passed to sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage to report an increase in class 4 road mileage by 0.23 miles (Andrus Road).
  - Chair signed the Agreement for Sale and Supply between Jeffrey Bogie and Town of Strafford, for sand and gravel, as previously approved.
  - Motion passed to accept the proposal from NICOM Coating Corporation to crackfill roads in Town of Strafford, not to exceed \$30,000. Chair signed proposal.
  - PD contacted VTrans re: painting of fog lines; Lisa is tracking this activity
  - Lisa is moving forward on Bridge Grant.
  - Radio repeaters. Joe Truss has the one of the radio repeaters--Bill Burden had intended to put it up near his house, but that did not happen. Joe will return it once he can access the garage, where it is stored, which is currently snowed in.
  - Discussion re purchase of a snowblower so that Road Crew can clear sidewalks, instead of subcontracting the work.
  - Liaison contracted Ossipee Radio to do a diagnostic of the radio system; determined that a new system is necessary due to technology—the radios we have will be obsolete in 3-5 years. Antennas have been upgraded to extend the life of the current system, but new radios will be necessary eventually. Requested quote for 5 new units to understand costs.
3. Approve minutes to the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular meeting. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular meeting. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Rett abstained due to absence from the Jan 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
4. Budget Analysis and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures Fiscal Years Ending 12/31/21, Proposed 2022. Chair presented final 2021 reconciliations and final 2022 budget proposal. **The ballot article will request a budget amount of \$1,146,710, including \$349,031 for the General Fund and \$797,679 for the Highway Fund.**

Discussion about proposed hourly rate increase for Road Crew members based on increased responsibilities and high level of performance. **Motion passed to increase the hourly wage of PD Hardy and Danny Prescott by \$1.25/hour based on increased responsibilities and high level of performance.** The Selectboard recognizes the dedication and hard work and loyalty of these two Road Crew members.

Budget line has been included to increase safety around Newton School, especially crossings at Barrett Hall and the gym. Ed Eastman is willing to continue as Town Constable and has provided a summary of responsibilities and activities. A monthly summary will be requested for 2022 expenditures.

**Motion passed to increase Highway Access Permit fee to \$50, Zoning Permit fee to \$100; Zoning Variance/Site Plan/Lot Line Adjustment permit fee to \$150; Subdivision Minor Permit fee to \$300; and Subdivision Major Permit Fee to \$500, to ensure that associated costs are covered.**

5. Historical Society Update. Laura Ogden presented an update on the renovation efforts of the Strafford Historical Society and future plans for the building and grounds.
6. Town Office Article. Discussion re: articles for Australian Ballot. Discussion re: Selectboard report in Town Report. Final changes will be incorporated and submitted to Nellie on Friday Jan 28.
7. Sign the Warning for Annual Town Meeting. Motion passed to adopt the Warning Annual Town Meeting as corrected and will be posted on the Town website and at the post offices.
8. Ashley Forest appointment process for the Ashley Community Forest Board. Selectboard will post an advertisement for two positions on the Ashley Community Forest Board. Closing will take place on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.
9. General Correspondence:
  - Laura Ogden, RE: Strafford Historical Society Update
  - Vermont Land Trust, re: Acquisition of Development Rights; Ashley Forest
10. Liaison Updates
11. Other:
  - Town Office will reopen next week with normal hours, all visitors are requested to use masks while visiting the office
  - Additional discussion re: snow blowing equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk