

## **Selectboard Meeting July 10, 2019**

**Board members present:** Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Lauri Berkenkamp

**Others present:**

Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Gil Robertson; Roz Finn; David Paganelli; Michael Sacca; Shawn Harlow, representing the Strafford Fire Department; Doug Hackett from Hanover Dispatch

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Citizen Concerns**

Pennock Road residents were upset because the road was closed for almost two hours with no warning. Others had reached out to the road foreman about the repairs being made on the road. They are worried about the extensive nature of the project, including depth of ditches and lack of trees, potentially being dangerous in winter. The repairs were made according to state standards. Board will come up with a process for notifying residents about road closures and board liaison will ask road foreman to talk with contractors.

Ellen Langtree wrote to the board about people speeding between Strafford and South Strafford and the dangerous blind intersection at Carpenter Hill Road. She requested more signage on the road to alert people that there is an intersection there.

Gil said that the team doing the work on the lawns and landscaping at the Town House have been doing great work.

The selectboard extends a heartfelt thank you to every volunteer who put on Strafford's Fourth of July celebration.

**Highways and Equipment**

Brian reported that all is well with the road crew.

Select and approve bid for work to be done on road damage from the 4/15/19 rain event that qualified for FEMA funding. Lisa reported that Jon recommended Blue Mountain, since they are the lowest bid and are currently working on projects in town. The board voted to approve Blue Mountain's bid of \$44,254 to do the work. The grant will cover almost 90 percent of the repairs.

Sign Updated 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards. Board moved, seconded, and voted to approve signing an agreement to adopt the municipal road standards so that the town can be eligible for FEMA funding to repair roads and bridges to the current standards if natural disasters occur (regardless to which standards the roads are currently built).

Sign Pennock Road Better Roads grant. Toni signed the grant agreement for \$20,000. Total cost of the project is approximately \$26,000.

Asset Management of Paved Roads. No update to report.

Jon Echeverria wrote a letter to fellow Two Rivers Road commissioners to support turning Route 132 maintenance over to the state.

Route 132 Federal Highway Administration bids for storm damage on Route 132, which is federal highway aid. They pay 100 percent of these costs. Town received 3 bids from the following: Blue Mountain bid \$26,669; Willy Earth Moving Corp at \$30,083; and L&M at \$56,457.50. Board moved, seconded, and voted to accept Blue Mountain's bid for the work.

**Alliance for Vermont Communities, requesting letter of support for application to Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program pertaining to the Ashley Community Forest**

Michael Sacca and David Paganelli came before the board to ask for a letter of support for their application for assistance to create a network of trails for biking, walking, and running. The application is for assistance for one to two years, and AVC will find out in November if they'll receive funding. Three letters are required, and they are asking Strafford to provide one. Michael also reported that the Ashley Outings on the Ashley parcel have been well received—more than 100 people have participated—and they will do more in the fall. Mike also reported that Dan Grossman (Norwich lawyer) provided information on possible legal agreements regarding the property ownership between Strafford and Sharon for the land. Dan recommends an interlocal agreement between the two towns. Toni suggested that AVC provide the information and the board will put this in front of the town lawyer. Their next steps are to have some public engagement meetings to explain the project to citizens of both towns in September. The Board moved, voted, and agreed to sign the letter of support for the project.

**Correspondence**

Email from Ed Hathaway re: Mine Road restoration. EPA's intentions to resurface the Mine Road—they will pave 1800 linear feet of the road from the front of the mine to the turn. They are also getting pricing to perform the deck work on the Tyson Bridge.

Email from Stuart Johnson, RE: Vermont Emerald Ash Borer Update  
Ash borer has been detected in Bristol.

Vermont Microcell Interest Survey. Pat filled out the survey on behalf of the board.

Email from Roz Finn thanking the board for working on speed issues.

Email from Kate Cassidy re: grading Rogers Road. Rogers Road has been graded.

Letter from VT League of Cities and Towns re: Claim by Francis Devlin. Board acknowledged receipt of letter.

Letter from estate of Norma Fink re: donation. Board acknowledged with thanks the receipt of funds to the town.

**Approve Minutes of June 26 regular meeting**

Board moved, seconded, and approved amended minutes of June 26 minutes.

**9-1-1 Address discussion update with Doug Hackett, Hanover Dispatch**

Doug Hackett came to discuss the 9-1-1 addressing problems in Strafford. He suggested that the town identifies how many households this affects. Lisa has determined this will affect approximately 100 households. Doug said that this has to be addressed because of safety issues. Doug has offered to come explain to townspeople why it is so important for those households that will be affected by the re-addressing. Lisa will create a letter and send to affected houses to explain the problem, and subsequently the board will hold a public meeting to help people understand the need. Doug will attend.

**Set the 2019 Tax Rate**

Board is waiting for the grand list, which is expected to be ready by July 15.

**Other**

**Liaison Updates**

Ed Eastman asked to be kept in the loop regarding speeding and traffic survey.

**Unlicensed Dogs**

Several dogs are listed as unlicensed, belonging to the following: Misty Cayez, Kassandra Landon, Rae Nutting, and Nathan Thibideau. The town will issue a violation to these dog owners via certified letter.

State of Vermont Transportation Capital Projects Prioritization Update. No update to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauri Berkenkamp  
Recording Clerk

