

DRAFT
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants – Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsa, Andrew Duncklee
Other Participants in person – Martha Walke, Bonnie Bergeron, Lisa Bragg
Participants via Zoom – David Lutz, John Freitag, Peter Jeffries, Stephen Willbanks, Jessica Duncklee, Betty-jo Duncklee, Kelly Harman, Karla Bushway, David Webb, Kerrie Bushway

Meeting called to order 6pm

Public concerns – none

Meeting Timeline

Highway Department update

Roads and equipment: no major updates, the road crew is working early mornings and late nights to work on the roads when conditions permit.

Mud Season roads update: the roads are rough, but not as bad as previous mud seasons. When at all possible, please limit travel on gravel roads to help preserve the condition of the roads this Spring. Thank you to Paul Hardy and the Road crew for the hard work already put in this mud season.

Freeman Bridge update: The Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently out for bid and is due on March 27, 2024.

Vermont's Public Assistance Disaster Declaration update: there is no documentation available to submit to the State. The Town has timecards and materials used, but not the needed photographic documentation.

Municipal Roads General Permit Annual Report (MRGP): Toni Pippy moves to approve and sign the MRGP, Andrew Duncklee seconds. All approve and motion carries. The MRGP is signed by the Selectboard.

Personnel Update: tabled as there is no Personnel Update for the Highway Department

Other: The Selectboard discussed the marking off of spaces in the Park and Ride, with additional spaces being made available at the Historical Society building during the time the Park and Ride spots are marked off.

Jeff Solsaa moves to approve the minutes of the Selectboard Meeting on March 6, 2024. Toni Pippy seconded the motion. All approve and the motion carries, the minutes are approved.

Toni Pippy moves to accept the resignation of Bonnie Bergeron as a voting member of the Development Review Board (DRB). Jeff Solsaa seconded the motion. All approve and the motion carries.

Toni Pippy moves to appoint Bonnie Bergeron as the new Zoning Administrator. Jeff Solsaa seconded the motion. All approve and Bonnie Bergeron is appointed as the Strafford Zoning Administrator.

Unified Bylaw Application fees: Bonnie Bergeron states that the adjustment to the Unified Bylaw Application Fees is to better align to the types of zoning and the associated cost to the Town to process the applications and properly hold meetings around zoning applications.

Jeff Solsaa moves to approve the Unified Bylaw Application Fees. Andrew Duncklee seconded the motion. All approve, and the motion carries. The Unified Bylaw Application Fees are approved.

Selectboard vacancy: The vacancy will be left open until March 27, 2024. At that time the Selectboard will appoint a voter to fill the vacancy. Kelly Harman has written in to the Selectboard expressing interest in the vacant position.

Open Appointments: The Selectboard reviewed the 2024 Appointment and Vacancy Spreadsheet. Toni Pippy moves to reappoint those who are currently serving for another appointment term and to fill vacancies as people step forward and volunteer. Jeff Solsaa seconded the motion. All approve and the motion carries.

Capital Budget and Program Services Grant next steps: An email was sent to Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and our next step is to have the kickoff meeting with town officials to review projects and timelines. The Selectboard discussed possible stakeholders of Town Capital projects for the next 10 years, possible candidates include the Red Barn, Recreation Department, Highway Department, Planning Commission, Old City Falls Nature Preserve, and others that were not identified, but are looking for Town funding of Capital Projects in the next 10 years.

Correspondence to the Selectboard Acknowledged

- a. David Paganelli resignation effective 3/5/2024
- b. Gabe Freitag, RE: Trucking and Roads
- c. Steve Willbanks, RE: Park & Ride Pakvan
- d. Peter Welch, United States Senator, RE: FY24 Minibus Appropriations bill passed on March 8th includes a National Parks Service, Historic Preservation Fund Grant for the Town of Strafford in the amount of \$325000 for the project "Preservation of Historic Town Office."
- e. Tom Cecere, ECFiber, RE: Message for Selectboard, Zoom issue at town house during public meeting.
- f. Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk and Treasurer, RE: Message for Selectboard, Zoom issue at town house
- g. Julia Leopold, Assoc Dir of Communications, Renewable Energy Policy, The Nature Conservancy-

Liaison updates: The vote for the Newton School Budget and ballot items is scheduled for April 15, 2024 with an informational meeting scheduled for Saturday April 13, 2024. Ballots will be mailed out to voters.

Jeff Solsaa moves to enter the Selectboard into an Executive Session to share confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Town and premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Town or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Andrew Duncklee seconded the motion. All approve and the Selectboard enters Executive Session at 7:28pm. At 8:03pm the Selectboard exits the Executive Session, no actions taken and no decisions made.

Jeff Solsaa moves to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. Toni Pippy seconds the motion. All approve and the Selectboard adjourns at 8:05pm