

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 24, 2014

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1) Selectboard meeting minutes include

- (A) All members of the public body present;
- (B) All other active participants in the meeting;
- (C) All motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and
- (D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Although meeting minutes have complied with 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1), any additional information is included as a courtesy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Members of the public body present:**

Rod Maclay, Chair, Steve Marx, Brent Cadwell, and John Freitag, Members

**Other active participants:**

Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary, Jennifer Brown, Reporter Herald of Randolph, William Burden, Emergency Management Director, Rocky Fuller, Chair, Town House Advisory Group, Jennifer Brown, Reporter for Herald; Martha Walke departed at 7:35, Ed Eastman arrived at 7:42 pm and departed at 7:55 pm

**Citizens present:** Marie Ricketts, Eric Thorpe

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS:** Bill Burden commended the Road Crew for keeping Old City Falls Road in excellent shape despite all the construction.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of September 10, 2014. Steve made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John F. asked for clarification on when sand is paid for; Lisa stated sand is paid for in the summer but it's paid for out of winter budget. John F. questioned why the ice be gone isn't budgeted the same way. Lisa said that if the Select Board wanted to change the ice be gone to the winter budget, it can be changed for next year's budget. Brent seconded. All approved.

**GENERAL:** Emergency Management Director Report – Bill Burden. Discussed Vermont Alert, which is a reverse type 911. It enables a town or agency to put out an emergency alert of any type to phone, email, road signs, etc. State of Vermont has implemented this program. Towns can use Vermont alert on a town level. Town officials have access to the software and training to implement this service which can be used for communication in a local emergency. It's not for routine messaging or training, but only for emergencies. Bill proposes that with the Select Board's approval

he will work directly with the Dept. of Homeland Security to set up a time, day and location for training. The state would like Select Board members and local leaders including Fire Chief, EMS, Town Road Foreman, Emergency Management Director to be trained in using this system. To use the system, there is no cost to the town. The Select Board approved moving forward using this. Bill also stated that when applying for grants, there are specific training requirements. The Federal Government is implementing new mandates for training, which are unknown at this point. He wanted the Select Board to be aware that there may be new training requirements forthcoming.

Town House Report – Rocky Fuller. THAG received an extension for applying for their grant. Rocky reviewed the minutes from the September 16, 2014 THAG meeting. THAG feels that requests to serve alcohol in the town house should be on a case by case basis and then bring the request for approval to the Select Board. THAG and Mix family appreciated the Select Board approval to serve wine. Back House slate roof is now 100% complete. Now the THAG will focus on doing inside work. THAG is applying for a grant for the composting toilet system. The THAG discussed other fundraising ideas. Their next meeting is October 14 at Martha Manheim's house.

Noise Issue – Ed Eastman. On Route 132, in front of 100 and 101 Route 132, people are having problems with noise, rifles being shot after dark, fireworks, burning rubber in the middle of the night. Orange County sheriff is going to start working early morning weekend hours to patrol the area. The people who hear noise need to call state police to keep them in the loop on it. Ed suggested that if neighbors who are affected keep calling the state police, they will respond. Rod has received complaints about people getting tired of hearing gunshots at 2:00 a.m. Ed said that as a town, we need a noise ordinance. There is a statute on noise such as incessant dog barking or other noise that lasts all day long, however, there is not currently a loud noise ordinance during certain times of the night. If there was a noise ordinance, it would help the Sheriff's Department to enforce a noise restriction. Ed stated you can't put in an ordinance that would affect jobs; i.e. bulldozer, pounding steel, contractor. John F. asked Lisa to get a model noise ordinance from VLCT for the next meeting. Ed said that if the town has a noise ordinance, you have a rule to go by. Ed stated that the residents of Alger Brook Road would like a posted speed limit. Lisa will look into a town report and move forward on posting a speed limit on Alger Brook Rd.

Warrant Signatures – Currently we don't have anything voted on who signs for the warrants. Select Board can choose how many people they want to sign the warrants/orders. Brent made a motion that a majority (3) Select Board members sign all warrants. John F. seconded. All approved.

Dog Officer Vacancy – Compensation - Currently the annual compensation for this job is \$550 for salary plus \$700 for expenses. This year's current expenses are \$136. Ed is currently interim dog officer, but, he doesn't want a permanent job and he hasn't been appointed by the Select Board. John Freitag made a motion to appoint Ed Eastman as interim Dog Officer until town meeting 2015. Steve seconded. All approved.

Municipal Planning Grant – TRORC Martha Walke reviewed the grant and discussed the plan and changes. Martha will ask Steve Campbell to send a new draft to Lisa. John F. expressed concerns. Town Plan has to be written for 2016 and include the TRORC grant. Martha supports the signing of it. Rod would like the committee to attend a Select Board meeting to explain to the Board. Lisa will email Samantha and invite her to attend the October 8 meeting.

Barrett Memorial Hall – John Freitag received email from Barrett Hall trustees asking for \$35,000 for the roof replacement. As Chair, Rod asked John for an explanation for his email he sent to the Barrett Hall trustees, because people in town felt that John was suggesting that the town purchase Barrett Hall. John explained that he sent an email to the Trustees and explained how the school purchased the Rosa Tyson gym from the SAA and explained how it would be possible for the town to purchase Barrett Hall. Rod expressed concerns that citizens were coming to him concerned that the town was going to purchase Barrett Hall, based on the email John sent to the Trustees. John Freitag stated his email had nothing to do with town business and that he sent it from his personal email and it was a private conversation. Jennifer Brown suggested that John include a statement saying he is writing as an individual citizen when he writes as an individual.

HS-122 - Homestead Filing – Lisa distributed the Vermont Statute and the town policy on the Vermont Homestead filing. Statute is clear about the penalty. Lisa explained the law and why we have an 8% penalty for residents who are late in filing the Homestead declaration. Lisa feels the town policy is not clear the way it was written. Lisa stated she has been told the Select Board can decide to implement up to an 8% penalty when people are late filing their Homestead declaration. John F. asked Lisa her opinion on the penalty. Lisa feels a 3% penalty is sufficient. Brent suggested adopting a policy that states, if the resident rate is higher than the non-resident rate we need to assess a penalty due to extra work of Town Clerk. Discussion ensued about changing the policy. A decision on a vote will be postponed until a meeting where all 5 Select Board members are present.

Education Training – Sept. 30. Municipal Budget Workshop in Montpelier. Lisa, Brian & Steve are attending.

TOWN HIGHWAYS: FEMA Bridges Update – White Bridge is done, Bean Bridge is done. Elmer Brown is delivering 3 lilac bushes to the Bean resident.

Highway Report - Trees have been cleaned up. Deed is recorded for Watson Bridge. The clutch was replaced in Danny's truck. Town roadsides are mowed except for Taylor Valley. Homeowners are responsible for their driveway culverts including keeping them clean. There are over 500 culverts in town roads that the town maintains.

Tyson Bridge Report – Rail Estimates. Jon M. is still trying to get prices, but everyone is out on mandatory overtime. Lisa stated the bond money does not need to be spent this year, but, we should use it soon. John F. asked if we could use bond money to pay Jon M's time checking the FEMA work. Lisa stated that due to the way Jon M's time is budgeted, this would not be possible.

Town Garage Update – John F. reported that he met with Blake Spencer & Dave Taplin and the problems in the ceiling of the garage looked much more complicated than what they expected. Next step is to visit W. Windsor and view their garage. Spending \$5000/year on propane and the fixes may cost several thousand dollars. Brent called W. Windsor and they told Brent they don't have much of a moisture issue at all. However, Jon M. said that in the past, he was told they did have moisture issues. Their garage is identical to ours – they have metal in their ceiling. W. Windsor told Brent they have Sun Star heaters and haven't had any issues and they have an occasional drip of water, but nothing that creates a problem.

Brent motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next Scheduled meeting: Wednesday October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary