

Selectboard Meeting December 12, 2018

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp
Others present: Jon MacKinnon, Lisa Bragg, Jeremy Kawalec, Donald Kawalec, Jennifer Brown, Steve Marx, Gil Robertson

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizen Concerns

Donald Kawalec came to the board to talk about an incident he had with a member of the road crew when a town vehicle hit his car, objecting to the road crew member's behavior toward him. He and board members discussed the issue. He also said that the road is being pushed over toward his property due to erosion. The road crew will address the road problem in the spring.

Steve Marx came to express thanks to the road crew for managing to clear his road during the recent snowstorm.

2. Town Highway and Equipment Update

General highway update: some soft spots on the road—they are trying to cut the ice back with the grader. The crew has worked hard to keep the roads clear during the early snowstorms.

a) Report of truck bids. Jon recommends going with the FL 80 Freightliner from Freightliner of New Hampshire (located in Lebanon), with the four seasons body package. That bid was for \$185,050. With a trade in it would be \$168,050. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to buy the truck. Lisa will work on financing options.

b) Response to C. Hardy's letter. Jon MacKinnon reported that he took a photo of the damage and the town will pay for it. Jon discussed with the board the actions the road crew member took and the conversation he had with the road crew member. The board considers this incident closed.

c) Email from Michael Stoffel re: reduction of salt use in winter. The Board also received an email from Tom Jacobs regarding Hanover's use of brine. Jon said the town is conservative in general, regarding salt, but they had to salt more these past weeks due to the weather. Jon explained that to implement a system of brine wetting would be very expensive and require a designated truck. He said that Thetford tried to do it with a standard truck and they decided it was too expensive. Board discussed salt management and encouraged the road crew to stay up with current developments, but acknowledged the road crew's expertise in caring for the roads in winter. Lauri will respond to Michael Stoffel.

Action Item: Jon will get prices for updating and painting Tyson Bridge based on the inspection summary of 9/19/2018. Jon will also create a paving priority list for 2019, recommending what

should be done and when. Jon is also working on several surveys for bridges in town, including the one on Tunbridge Road.

3. Approve Minutes of November 28

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.

4. Correspondence

a) Email from Eric Forand re: Vermont Emergency Management. Board will pass the email on to Bill Burden, Emergency Management Director for the town.

b) Thank you card from the Creative Preschool, thanking the board and the Rec Board for the contributions it made toward the new playground equipment.

c) Contract with Orange County sheriff. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to level fund the budget at \$23,000 for the sheriff for 2019. Kate Siepmann abstained from voting.

d) State of Vermont rate increase for municipal retirement of staff, effective July 1, 2019. There will be a .25 increase in the employer contribution, which will be reflected in the 2019 budget.

5. Compensation increases for highway and town office staff

Toni provided the board with a document outlining different scenarios for pay increases. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to increase the base pay for town staff and road crew at 3 percent shared equally by all employees, as well as an additional .50 per hour for the assistant road crew foreman for his additional responsibilities, and to the town clerk for maintaining her municipal clerk certifications. The increase for the newest road crew member will not be implemented until his six-month probationary period is over.

6. Town House spire budget and funds

The Town House Advisory Group would like to pull funds from the George Brown Fund to cover costs of the chimney at the Town House. John moved to put \$1800 from the George Brown Fund to do so.

7. Letter from DesMeules, Olmstead & Ostler re: Hug right of way

John will send a letter he drafted to the Strafford town lawyer.

8. 2018 budget

Town is on target to stay within budget.

9. 2019 draft budget

Budget draft was not ready at time of meeting. This will be discussed at the next selectboard meeting.

10. General

a) liaison updates. None

b) Whitcomb Hill Management Plan update. Strafford Conservation Commission contacted landowner to alert him that the commission would be doing work

c) Parking agreement Town House: Lucy Hemenway signed the agreement.

d) Local Emergency Management Plan Training writing workshop, December 20 from 6–8 p.m. Lauri will attend.

e) Follow up on trail logging. No action necessary.

11. Other

f) Selectboard meeting scheduled for December 26 is cancelled. Board will meet January 2 instead.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.