

## Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8th, at 6:00 pm  
Strafford Town Office

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

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, John Freitag, Michael Sacca, Jennifer Brown, Roz Finn

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

### 1. Public Concerns

- Roz Finn raised concern about ice on the sidewalks in South Strafford. Selectboard is working on finding a contractor to undertake the work.

### 2. Town Highways and Equipment Update

- Time sheet data entry and new system at town garage progress report. Nancy Butler has started data entry this week. Lisa Bragg will train the road crew on how to enter their own time into the system.
  - Project updates. No current projects underway, except plowing and sanding.
  - Flint – Highway access Robinson Road. Patrick Ross, ANR, informed Road Foreman that there is no prohibition. Motion passed to approve the Notice of Approval to Proceed Highway Access Application.
  - Correspondence – Ben Guaraldi, RE: Toyota Prius on the park and ride, Michael Sacca, RE: Flint pull-off, Robinson Road. Leaving the vehicle in the Park and Ride is not optimal, especially during the winter. Lisa will notify Ben that the vehicle needs to be removed.
  - Sidewalk between school and gym will be temporarily handled by Craig Allen removing snow in front of his house, and the Road Crew providing sanding, until a contractor can be identified.
  - One of the trucks needs maintenance, and we are seeking a price estimate for the necessary welding.
  - New radios to improve communication and safety among the crew members will be priced in the coming week.
  - Tires have been installed and chains have been ordered.
  - Roads have been plowed and sanded. Big thanks to the Road Crew.
3. Approve minutes to the November 22nd regular meeting. Motion passed to approve the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes.
  4. Conservation Commission vacancy. Discussion with JT Erbaugh regarding his interest in joining the Conservation Commission. Motion passed to approve JT Erbaugh as new member of the Conservation Commission.
  5. Update 4-Town Coalition Coordinator, GMEDC, Meghan Asbury. Meghan presented a summary of activities to date. Meghan was encouraged to contact the Strafford Lions Club and post on the town listserv to recruit hosts for the Vermont Welcome Wagon.
  6. Strafford Owned Properties – Rett and Pat reported on four properties (Miller Pond parcel, Blanchard Rd, Freeman Rd (5 acres with restrictions), Oneil Lane (app. 3 acres). Vershire Selectboard reported that their lawyer informed them that sale of town-owned land required a

vote by the town. Tom Otterman looked at the Blanchard Rd site, and indicated that it is a viable building site, however, is it a small site; Oneil Lane is also a potentially viable building site. Tom recommends conducting a perc test on the sites. Costs could be paid from the budget line item: Municipal Property Contract. Motion passed to get a cost estimate for perc tests to be conducted on Blanchard Rd and Oneil Lane parcels, and to authorize the perc tests up to \$1,500.

7. Town Office Immediate Repairs update. Work on the stairs and the water drainage will begin the week of December 20<sup>th</sup>. Significant snow fall before the repairs are complete will prohibit anyone from using the upstairs of the Town Office.
8. Budgets 2021 review and 2022 process. Discussion regarding adjustments to the 2021 highway budget, including new high visibility uniforms that will reduce the clothing allowance budget line item. Discussion about other cost savings due to improved purchasing arrangements, that will allow the town to cover unanticipated necessary contract services. General budget is in good shape.
9. Junk Yard Update. Miller Pond site clean-up is close to being completed. Cabot Teachout has contacted the liaison and is now representing the Benjamins and the Durkees.
10. Liaison updates
  - Liaison met with the Orange County Sheriff; a secondary letter was served at Mine Road regarding parking on town property. Mr. Hout disputes the property lines; Sherriff reviewed the survey documents on file at the Town Office and confirmed that the Town's understanding of the property lines is correct; Sherriff will return to clarify that parking is prohibited and birds must be removed from town property, and vehicles may be towed.
  - Pre-school committee would like to discuss their plans with the Selectboard at a future meeting.
  - Recognizing the increasing rate of COVID infections in Vermont, including in Orange County, the Selectboard reminds town residents to respect the right of businesses in the town to require the wearing of masks on their premises, and encourages all to continue to practice COVID prevention measures.
  - Pat will work the Recreation Committee regarding possible options for the Pocket Park
  - Byron Breese failed to move hazardous material from the town right of way as directed by the Selectboard. Board will request Paul Gillies to assist with follow up communications.
11. General Correspondence
  - a. Lianne Thomashow, Steve, and Elizabeth Dycus RE: Ashley Forest Support
  - b. Roz Finn, RE: Thank you
  - c. John Freitag, RE: November 22 minutes
  - d. Byron Breese, RE: your Nov 22 letter
  - e. Byson Breese, RE: matter at hand
  - f. Lori Kay, Finance Manager, TRORC, RE: TRORC will hold a public hearing on Wed. Dec 15, 2021, at the Quechee Club, Quechee, Vermont.
12. Other
  - Town Meeting 2022. State legislature may authorize Australian Ballot for Town Meeting 2022. Recognizing the greater voter participation using Australian Ballot during 2021, the Selectboard intends to use the Australian Ballot for 2022 if authorized.
  - Town Office will be closed Dec 21-24 and December 28-31.

- Next regular Selectboard meeting will be January 5 and meetings will be held weekly during January to finalize the budget.
- Constable duties need to be reviewed to better understand responsibilities and tasks.

Motion passed to increase salaries for full-time regular employees by 5% for the coming year.

13. Motion passed to enter executive session for a personnel issue at 8:18 pm. Exited executive session at 9:12 pm.

Motion passed to approve and issue the employee notice as drafted.

14. Discussion regarding budget preparation and cost containment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk