

Selectboard Meeting
February 28, 2024
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Hannah Levinger,
Other participants in person- Bonnie Bergeron, Martha Walke
Participants via Zoom- Andrew Duncklee, Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Michael Tarrant

Meeting called to order 6:00 pm
Guidelines for Selectboard conduct read

1. Public concerns- none

2. Minutes- February 15th minutes approved (with an edit changing a date from March 17th to February 17th).
February Special Meeting minutes approved

3. Town Meeting Timeline

John has been in contact with Sarah Root regarding the Zoom capabilities of the Town House and having a tech hired by the School Board help run the Town portion of the meeting as well. The cost would be \$75. Hannah moves to approve the technical assistance for the Town Meeting- all approve, motion passes.

Rebecca Holcombe is willing to come to the meeting to give a larger context for the School Board budget issues. She will arrive at 11:45 and take questions during lunch as needed. The tax sale deed of a parcel near the Elizabeth Mine bought by a trust did not notify all of the correct family members of the previous owner. The trust is going to do its due diligence and report back to the Board on March 11th with a plan for moving forward.

Board went into Executive Session from 6:39- 6:58. No further steps relating to the Town Meeting and Australian ballots taken.

For the Information Meeting on March 2nd, all Board members should be present (or via Zoom) and Nellie Pennington will do an update from the auditors.

4. Highway Update

The Road Crew is preparing for the next round of mud season. On March 20th the Board will discuss a position at the Town Garage.

The last of the paperwork was sent in to the federal highway administration on February 28th. Stephanie Slayton is looking into MCRF loans which might cover some of the FEMA costs at a lower interest rate than the current loan.

Jeff moves to give PD Hardy the ability to post the roads as he sees fit. Hannah seconds the motion; David, Jeff, and Hannah approve the motion (John recused himself because of familial connection to logging in the town).

The RFP for an engineer for the Freeman Bridge project is getting the correct documentation and should go out to bid in the next week.

5. Town Office Update

The Town Office Committee is waiting for the FEMA elevation certificate for the corner of the building nearest the flood hazard area and will be moving forward with interviewing the two architecture firms in the next few weeks.

6. Grant Update

The blower test at the Town Garage took place and a report will soon be submitted. The grant concerning fog lines might be updated to be for 132 rather than Justin Morrill Highway since it was more recently repaved.

7. Review work done in 2023

Follow through on programs set up in previous years like the new Town Bylaws and Flood Hazard Ordinance, the Municipal Planning Grant, and the property sales for the Town. Additions of Grant Manager position and the Town response to two flooding events were also noted.

8. Liaison Updates

Reminder that the agreement between the School Board and the Rec Board regarding the use of the parking lot by the Tyson Gym is still tentative and a final agreement should be made.

9. Correspondence

Dottie Dubey wrote concerning a ditch that needs road work. The issue has been noted and is on the list for further consideration.

Lance Funston wrote stating that the septic system on his property is in working order as per an engineer. Steve Marx, as Town Health Officer, will verify.

Board went into Executive Session from 7:47- 7:55. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Levinger