

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

September 9, 2015

Members of the public body present: John Freitag, Stephen Marx, Toni Pippy, Brent Cadwell, Brian Johnson

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, Tim Briglin, State Representative, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter, Chris Gex, Steve Gex, Lee Vormelker, Marie Ricketts, Rocky Fuller, Chair of the Town House Advisory Group

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 6:00 p.m.

**1.) Citizen Concerns:** There were no citizens' concerns.

**2.) Correspondence Email:** No correspondence other than notices.

**3.) Minutes:** Toni had the following clarification to add to the August 26<sup>th</sup> under Outside Audit and Recommendations to read, "Eleven adjustments were made to the years ending 2013 and 2014 and resulted in a \$15,000 increase in the General Fund and an increase to the deficit in the Highway Fund of \$79,375. The deficit represents a \$62,875.47 reduction to receivables and a \$16,500 payable accrual adjustment. The payable accrual adjustment moved expenses recorded in FY15 to FY14. Also, the last paragraph was deleted from these minutes. There were no changes to the September 1<sup>st</sup> minutes. Brent moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 26<sup>th</sup> as amended and the September 1<sup>st</sup> as written. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **4.) Town Highways**

**Summer chloride and dust problems** – Dry weather continued dust problems despite the application of chloride. The Board and Jon discussed paving the Morrill Highway beyond the Binzen residence should we get a paving grant next year. Jon said the cost of paving has been going down. John suggested that we keep the width of the road paved the same as the current paved portion between the villages in order to get the maximum distance of paved road. Jon noted that there are more bike riders these days and a wider road should be taken into consideration.

**Conservation Commission culvert project** – Brent updated the Board on the project. Some modifications have needed to be made and there has been a slight delay in the starting time which will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. The road will be closed starting September 30<sup>th</sup> for two weeks. Updates will be posted on the Strafford list serve as information becomes available.

**Highway and Equipment update** – Jon said work on roads continues with the material they have. No equipment problems to report. Jon said that he had changed the code at the garage.

**Signs update** – Jon reported that he had ordered a yield sign for the corner of Tyson and Mine Road, He and John will get together to site a place heading down Sharon hill for a sign that the Town has for Newton School. The frost heave sign near the start of the upper village will be taken down until it is needed again next year.

## **5.) General**

**Town House Advisory Group Update** – Rocky updated the Board on the "backhouse". Progress continues to be made with the help of many volunteers that are lending their skill and expertise to this project. Thanks to the many volunteers and generous donors, it appears the project will be completed with existing funds. A party to celebrate the completion of the project will be held this fall, date to be determined. Rocky also made the Board aware of continued maintenance work that needs to be done. The Board thanked Rocky, the advisory group, and the many people who are helping with the care and proper usage of the Town House.

**Financial Management Questionnaire** - Toni had some she wanted to go over with Lisa, who needed to leave the meeting. The Board approved signing after questions from Toni were resolved.

**Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant** – There was some general discussion of the planning process and Town Plan after which Toni moved and Steve seconded approving applying for the grant. All approved

**Informational meeting on Renewable Energy Credits** – John updated the Board that the meeting would be on September 15, 7:00 p.m. at Barrett Hall. He will post an agenda and do publicity.

**Dog Kennel Update** – Some progress is being made, but it is still hard to get a work date. Brent will donate a insulated dog house and we need one more John suggested that if the road crew has some time at the end of the day when they finish projects early that perhaps they could work on it. Brent will mention to Jon.

**Body Camera Update** – Nothing new to report.

**Cell phone and VTel update** – Sam Coleman of VTel informed John in an email 9/8/15 that they have connected the fiber backhaul to the site last week and will be integrating the site this week if all goes well. Steve said no progress has been made on the cell phone issue. He had talked with Rep. Briglin to try to get his help on this problem of making the units along Rte. 132 that were put in last year operational. Tim, said he has been making phone calls and people are aware to the problem thank to Steve's constant calling people about it. Toni asked if there was a list of communication providers and their services offered available to people in Strafford as a reference. There is none. Lee Vormelker who has technical expertise in this area has agreed to work with Toni to generate such a list/reference.

**Right of Way for new power poles** – The Board reviewed documents showing the new placement of power poles along the Town Garage property and along Route 132 near the school entrance. This is part of the upgrade of the line to Sharon to provide more reliability and fewer outages. Brent moved and Steve seconded to provide the easements needed. All approved and John will sign.

**Comp Study Update** – There was nothing new to report at this time.

**Filing date issue update** – Is close to being resolved.

## **6.) Other -**

**Town Garage as public meeting site** - Toni brought up concerns she has heard over the Town Garage being used as a meeting site for the Republican Party Caucus. In recent years when there are caucuses the Town Garage was the site of the Republican caucus as then Selectboard member and highway liaison Rod Maclay was also the Republican Town Chair and he had access to the meeting room there. Due to concerns raised the Board in August adopted a new access policy for Town properties and those who have the new code to the Town Garage is limited to the Road Crew and the Selectboard liaison.

The Board discussed that access needed to be fair for all and if we made this a public meeting space we would need a policy. It was brought up that perhaps the garage is not the best public meeting space. Also, to gain access for a meeting a road crew member or Selectboard member would have to come and open the building. The Board decided to allow the already warned meeting of the Republican caucus, but to hold off on granting access for any more public meetings in the future. Brent will take care of making arrangements for the Town Garage to be open for this one meeting.

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Brian seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meetings: Special Informational Board Meeting on Renewable Energy Credits, 7:00 p.m. at Barrett Hall on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Regular Board Meeting – The place is to be determined -on September 23, 2015 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Toni M. Pippy