

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:00pm
Strafford Town Office

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Rett Emerson (via zoom), Pat Kelly, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Liz Sauchelli, John Freitag, Taylor Slonaker, John Tiholiz, Geoff Martin

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. None
2. Town Road Crew, Highways and Equipment Update. Jeff Solsaa reported that everything is going smoothly, new hire Ryan Kennedy is working out well. A meeting for interested contractors for Old City Falls and Miller Pond Roads, using the Better Roads grant, was held on Friday--during the storm, so no one showed up. Lisa has received calls requesting the bid package and a new meeting date. A new meeting will be held on Feb 16th at 9:00 am at the town garage.
 - a. Radio quotes, Ossipee Mountain Electronics, Inc. Jeff received two radio quotes and recommends purchasing the lower priced upgraded radios for \$4,137.85. Motion passed to purchase five new radios for the road crew in the amount of \$4,137.85.
 - b. Tractor/Snowblower update. The new tractor is working well for snow removal on sidewalks. Crew will be adding a flashing light, and it is being stored at Town Garage in the heated space.
 - c. Brook Road Bridge Railing Repair. Cost estimate provided is very high and does not reflect the repairs as intended. Further discussions are needed before proceeding.
 - d. Correspondence: 1.) Pamela DeAndrea (she/her), AOT GIS Professional III, Mapping Section, RE: State Certification of Highway Mileage, Andrus Road – research to be done. Rett Emerson is investigating and undertaking discussions with State to document the increased mileage. Needs to be resolved by Feb 20 or will have to wait till next year.
 - e. Fuel pump to fuel the trucks has been replaced. Shelves have been delivered and as soon as a break in the weather, the crew will be re-organizing the mezzanine. New uniforms have been received and seem to be well-received.
3. Approve minutes to the January 27th, 2022, regular meeting, and February 3rd special meeting. Motion passed to approve the January 27, 2022 regular meeting, and February 3, 2022 special meeting minutes.
4. Review and approve letter to taxpayers, RE: Article 9 on the Warning for Annual Town Meeting. Discussion re letter and list serve summary. Motion passed to send the letter to all voters about Article 9 on the Warning for Annual Town Meeting.
5. Ashley Forest appointment advertisement for volunteers to the Ashley Community Forest Board. In accordance with the interlocal agreement, the two Selectboards will make the final selection of participants and will share candidates' submissions with the Conservation Commission. David Paganelli has submitted a letter of interest. JT Horn has prepared a job description for Ashley Forest Board members. Discussion re how to post the new board on Town website. Bank account has been established; the property purchase was finalized on Jan. 31, 2022.

6. IREC Progress Report, Town of Strafford, January 2022, RE: Municipal Green House Gas Emission Inventory – Geoff Martin presented a progress report on municipal emissions. Demonstrated how he used the US EPA Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool to generate the findings, which should be tracked year after year to monitor progress toward goals. Noted that data on fuel consumption of specific vehicles could be used to decide on prioritization of replacements, and for grants to describe possible carbon reduction if biodiesel or electric vehicles were procured. Electricity usage—the town does not control emissions of the electricity producer but does control its consumption levels; clarified that electricity produces far less emissions than propane. Geoff has attempted a community assessment but found the data quality was poor and did not provide useful results. Board members requested information about the results for the other towns to see how we are doing relative to others.
7. Appoint a representative from the local emergency services community to the Regional Emergency Management Committee as the 2nd voting member. Motion passed to appoint Aaron Dotter as the 2nd voting member for the Regional Emergency Management Committee. Lisa will notify TRORC.
8. General Correspondence:
 - a. Byron Breese, RE: Communication Request.
 - b. Northeast Regional Recovery Association, RE: Strafford, VT 2021 Environmental Impact Report. Report on environmental impact from recycling.
 - c. Representative Jim Masland, RE: Bylaw modernization.
 - d. Representative Jim Masland, RE: Website for the Declaration of Inclusion. Chair will sign on behalf of Town of Strafford.
 - e. Carl Rogers, President, VLCT PACIF Board of Directors, RE: Thank you for choosing PACIF. Grants are available for 100% coverage for selected equipment (office furniture, protective equipment) for both Town Office and Garage. Lisa will apply for ergonomic office equipment identified in the assessment conducted by Wade Masure last year.
 - f. Victoria Littlefield, TRORC, RE: Regional Emergency Management Committee Appointments
9. Preparations for the February 19th Town Public Information Meeting. Hearing will be conducted remotely by zoom, presenters will be at Morrill Homestead Education Center, just like last year. Rec Board representative will present re: Pocket Park article. Ballots will be stuffed for mailing tomorrow morning.
10. Liaison Updates
 - The Tilles family would like to make a donation to the Town as a memorial to their mother. Potential ideas were discussed. Rec Board liaison will contact the Tilles family to follow up.
 - Planning Commission is working hard on Bylaws modernization updates.
 - Chair presented information on energy efficiency information received.
 - Jeff Solsaa reported that he checked the heat loss at the Town Garage and is investigating the cost of spray foam insulation for the roof. Discussion about how this would affect the condensation issue. Jeff will get a cost estimate for consideration.
 - Pat Kelly reported on discussions with the Fire Dept about future planning and budget management and needs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan