

Strafford Select Board Meeting September 12, 2018

Members present: Toni Pippy, Chair, John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann. Lauri Berkenkamp. Also attending: Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk and Treasurer; Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman; Steve Dycus; Brenda Lewis; Dierdre Dennis; Bill Burden; Ken Bushnell; Cameron Speth; Gus Speth; Phoebe Mix; Susan Cloke; Gil Robertson; William Milne. Brian Johnson left the meeting at 7:27.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizens' Concerns:

Roz Finn is concerned about the gravel pile at the ballfield and the kids. The road crew will remove it.

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update:

- a) Mowing continues. Dust isn't currently an issue. The road crew is working on Kibling Hill.
- b) Hiring process: job description. Applications will be due by October 1. The Town will place the ad in several list serves, Valley News, and other industry publications.
- c) Signage on Furnace Flat: Citizen said the sign at the bottom of Furnace Flat Road is still up and needs to be removed. Road crew will put up the new sign as soon as it is ready.
- d) Utility poles to be removed for road projects: John will write to Consolidated Communications to request that they remove the old poles from Barrett Hall to Turnpike Road by December 31, 2018; and remove the poles from Turnpike Road to the mine next year.
- e) Letter received re: unsafe travel conditions on Old City Falls Road. Letter was signed by several residents of Old City Falls Road and adjoining roads, requesting that the Town address the poor condition of the road, particularly during mud season. John Freitag noted that the Town had planned to reconstruct part of the road using extra fabric in 2017, but those supplies were needed for emergency repairs after the July 1 storm. Jon Mackinnon said the road crew would get prices on contracting out repairs to the road. The board agreed it should be a priority for repairs.
- f) Driveway permit: Board approved highway access permit application received. Toni signed the permit.

3. Approve Minutes of August 22 and September 5:

Board approved the minutes

4. Correspondence:

- a) Karen Horn, VLCT re: Candidate Forum Toolkit. Noted that we received this.
- b) John Freitag, RE: Candidate Forum. Expressed willingness to participate in a candidates' forum if we want to have one.
- c) Email from Eric J. Forand, State Exercise Administrator VT Emergency Management, RE: Vermont Statewide Catastrophic Exercise: Notice that VT will be conducting a state-wide exercise in October 2019 and are looking for volunteers to participate.

- d) Email from Paul Kifner re: Parking. This has been addressed
- e) Email from Shannon Varley re: gathering demo on Green September 10
- f) Email from Ann Mclaughlin re: scary situation this am. Board noted receiving the message and spoke with Ed Hathaway. Ed Eastman has been clocking truck traffic and speeds and will continue to do so.
- g) Email from John Echeverria RE: Susan's New Granite Posts. Board noted receipt of note. Situation has been addressed.
- h) Email from Karen Minarik RE: Brook Road. Board noted receipt of note. Situation has been addressed.
- i) Email from Ed Hathaway: EPA will replace culverts on the Mine Road. The board wants to say thank you to Jon MacKinnon for his rapport with the EPA.

5. Upper Village granite posts and sidewalk:

Citizen removed the posts and wrote a letter to the board explaining her actions.

6. Budget:

Budget is in good shape. Toni will meet with Jon MacKinnon to go over the highway budget for the remainder of the year.

7. Personnel Policy revisions:

Board discussed adjusting health benefits to begin when employment starts with no waiting period. Lisa will check with Blue Cross & Blue Shield to determine best practices and will report back.

8. General

Liaison updates: All is well and no news to report.

9. Other:

- a) Vermont Conservation Design: John and Toni will attend the meeting on September 25.
- b) FEMA Update: Lisa reported that two more projects have been put through, with only one more to go.
- c) Town Office will be closed Thursday, September 20 so Lisa and Regina can attend a conference.
- c) Many thanks to Brian Johnson for making the sign currently hanging outside the Town Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.