

**Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda**  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 6:00 pm  
Strafford Town Office and via zoom

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

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Mary Thompson, David Paganelli, Peter F, Orange County Sheriff Bohnyak, Capt. Scott Clouatre, Ken Bushnell, Anne Peyton, John Freitag, Michele Gaboriau

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns – none
2. Town Road Crew, Highways and Equipment Update.
  - a. Brook Road Bridge Railing Repair. Jeff spoke with Mike from Winterset to provide cost estimates for the bridge on Brook Road. There is no temporary repair that will bring it to Agency of Transportation standards; to meet the standard a new bridge will be required. However, a repair of lesser standard will be better than the current status.
  - b. Open bids to construction for ditching and culvert replacements on Miller Pond Road and Old City Falls Road. Liaison will work with Road Crew to review bids and provide recommendations to board. Mandatory site visit for potential contractors and Patrick Ross, on March 4, 2022.

Company	Phase 1 Miller Pond Rd	Phase 2 Old City Falls Rd
Avery Excavation Inc	\$40,240	\$38,147
Blanchard Contracting	\$70,300	\$60,870
Blue Mountain	\$21,640	\$22,765
Earthworks Unlimited	\$42,516	\$43,675
G&N Excavation, Inc	\$59,353	\$64,355
Isaacs Excavating & Construction	\$46,355	\$51,770
Northwoods Excavating	\$29,203	\$27,039
RA Filskov & Sons, Inc	\$36,436	\$53,617

- c. BR#23 bid due April 13 and letter to landowner for temporary by-pass. Lisa sent a letter to the landowner but has not yet received a response.
- d. 8025-9040 Town of Strafford Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Annual and Progress report. Needs to be signed and submitted by April 14th
- e. FY23 Structures Grant and Paving Grant applications need to be submitted by April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Unifirst Contract. New Unifirst contract is \$57.16 every 2 weeks, a significant reduction in the cost of services—reduced by half of previous negotiated contract).
- g. TRORC TAC Meeting, Thursday March 10, 9:30am via Zoom. Chair volunteered to attend to learn about funding levels and priorities for roads and bridges. PD also recommended to attend if possible.
- h. Correspondence – Edward Gallagher, RE: 68 Taylor Valley Road, Strafford, VT. Pat responded to Mr. Gallagher.

- i. Certificate of Highway Mileage update, Andrus Road. Additional research has not yielded more information. 2022 deadline has passed. If it is not approved by AOT, we will have to resubmit next year.
  - j. PD would like to attend the next Selectboard meeting to update on how the Road Crew is doing. He was unable to attend tonight because the crew has been called out to work on the muddy roads. They are putting gravel down and preparing for 12 inch snowfall on Friday.
  - k. Grader has not been fully maintained and has exceeded the 2000-mile service date. Cost of service is close to \$10,000. Jeff proposes that reviewing more closely the service needs and consider replacing equipment after 7 years instead of 10 years, and potentially lease equipment to avoid unanticipated repair costs.
  - l. Susan Cloke reported that the Road Crew did a great job fixing a culvert blockage that was causing water to flow into her basement.
3. Approve minutes to the February 9, regular meeting. Motion passed to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes.
4. Orange County Sheriff Bill Bohnyak, time spent in Strafford and understanding what services are or can be provided. Sheriff Bohnyak presented information on ticketing and warnings for traffic speeding. OC Sheriff's office is now fully staffed and has created an email address for non-emergency communications; leaving voice mail is not the most reliable method. Capt. Scott Clouatre is second in command and can also respond to calls. Board requested data on how time is spent (in response to direct calls v. traffic patrolling). Discussion about how citizens can get information about disturbances or suspicious events. 911 calls are directed through State Police. Notice of community events provide an opportunity for community engagement and can strengthen relationship with the town. COVID restrictions have reduced local engagement, but they look forward to increasing contact again, including in schools. Discussion about how to improve safety at crossings near Newton School. Clarified that unposted dirt road speed limit is 50 MPH.
5. Review volunteers to the Ashley Community Forest Board. Only one response has been received. Notice will be re-posted.
6. Sign Town Road and Bridge Standards and Municipal Roads General Permit. Motion passed to sign the Town Road and Bridge Standards and Municipal Roads General Permit.
7. Approve Coburns Store Liquor License. Motion passed to approve Coburns Store Liquor License.
8. Motion passed to sign the Agreement for Hazard Mitigation Grant. Chair signed.
9. General Correspondence –10 minutes:
  - a. Erik Reimanis, RE: Ballot question
  - b. Geoff Martin, RE: SB meeting follow up
  - c. Kevin O'Connor, VTDigger
  - d. David Paganelli, RE: Town Office repairs
  - e. David Lutz, RE: Option for new property for Town Office?!

- f. Kristin Seipel, Financial Admin III, VT Dept of Public Safety, RE: BRIC 2020 Strafford #02140-31236-002V Agreements for Hazard Mitigation Grant
- g. Lisa Durstin, RE: Follow-up questions
- h. Mike Hebb, RE: Town Office Process and Article 9
- i. Betty Jo Black, RE: The Preliminary Meeting Feb 19, 2022
- j. Rebecca Seibel, RE Thanks
- k. Judie Englander and John Echternach, RE: Information Meeting
- l. Rockwell Fuller, RE: Article 9
- m. John Echeverria, RE: Vault

10. Liaison Updates.

- Jeff Solsaa met with Geoff Martin RE: energy use at Town Garage, including installation of heat pumps. Eric Solsaa has volunteered to do a free energy audit and a report, which will sign the Town up with Energy Vermont. VT legislature is working on a bill to improve energy efficiency in VT towns. The audit will position us to be prepared to go after funds should they become available.
- Rett has requested that Tom Otterman get us a letter reporting his findings

Meeting adjourned 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Secretary