

Selectboard Special Meeting  
January 29, 2024

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger, David Paganelli, Jeff Solsaa

Participants via Zoom- Sue C (Sue Coburn), Jonathan Stableford, Andrew Silovich, Sean (Lewis), Elizabeth Ruml, Emmeline Doyle, Bill and Mary Thompson, Kelly Harmon, Sherm Wilson, Mark Shaw, Kerrie Bushway, Jessica and Tom Tidman, Lisa Durstin, Karla Bushway, Zoom User, MBlack (Mary or Mark), Ed Huang, Dustin Ray, iPhone(438)

In person participants- Curt Albee, Lisa Bragg, Rett Emerson, Rocky Fuller, Paul Hardy, Nellie Pennington, Toni Pippy, Martha Walke

1. Call to order at 6pm. Reading of Selectboard guidelines.

2. Budget Discussion

Paving- John proposed a motion to eliminate \$400,000 from the paving budget. It makes sense to postpone this major expense until we have done the capital budget with community involvement. Additionally, Jeff was able to get the state paving grant to cover Brook Road even though it is a class 3 and not a class 2 road. Strafford is number 19 out of 25 towns eligible for the paving grant, so it is unlikely we will receive the \$200,000 this year. All in favor, motion passes.

Highway Equipment- Jeff discussed the trade in for the 5500 truck for the 6500 truck. This can only happen after May and the exact trade in value is not yet known. Hopefully Jeff will have more information from the state on Friday.

Fire Department/FAST- There is a \$6900 increase in the requested budget. The fire department had a surplus of \$7000 from the previous year's budget. The selectboard had some questions about the specifics of the budget. This discussion was tabled until Wednesday 1/31/24 when a member of the fire department can be present to answer specific questions.

Zoning and DRB- Brian proposed decreasing the amount requested for the DRB chair and Zoning administrator to \$1500 and \$5000 respectively. Discussion ensued regarding the role of the DRB chair and the zoning administrator and what work goes into the two jobs given the changes in the By-Laws. No motion was made.

Freeman Bridge- The 12.5% match by the town was not factored into the budget, so that must be taken into account. John will reach out to Steve Wilbanks and Jeff will hopefully get more information from the state stream adjustor. Discussion tabled until the Wednesday 1/31/24 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Levinger