

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

July 27, 2016

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

Absent: Brent Cadwell

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall Town Clerk and Treasurer, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter, Bill Burden, Lee Vormelker, Marie Ricketts, Elizabeth McLane, Steve Campbell, Terry Garrison

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

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

2) **Correspondence (copies of these documents are available at the Town Clerk's Office) –** Included individually under general

3.) Minutes – Steve made a motion and Brian seconded to approve the July 13th minutes. John Echeverria was added to list of attendees. Toni reported that John Echeverria requested that the minutes be revised to include that, he urged the select board to reject the application. Brian, Steve and John approved the minutes with this revision. Toni opposed.

4.) Town Highways -

Storm update – Bill Burden and Lee Vormelker reported on power outage from July 23rd to July 25th due to high winds. This outages across the state were vast which required Green Mountain Power to request assistance from other states and Canada. Bill, Lee and Eddy Eastman worked with the GMP crews to help them find their way around Strafford and South Strafford because of limited radio communication. The town road crew did a great job clearing the fallen trees from the roads. Thank you Bill, Lee, Eddy and the road crew for your dedicated service to our town.

Road and Equipment update – Equipment is in good shape.

Ward bridge update – On schedule

Vermont Clean Water Fund – Tabled for the next select board meeting.

Agency of Transportation grant review – On July 20th the Contracts and Grants Unite staff members visited Strafford and certified that the projects costs associated with the FEMA grants are allowable. The state will be sending their share of the grants soon.

Authorization to Discharge Permit – John F. signed the VT Department of Environmental Conservation for the Town Garage.

Better Roads Grant agreement was signed by John F.

5.) General

Conservation Commission invasive project – Tii McLane brought the board up to date on the progress and funding of the project.

Setting tax rate - Lisa presented a handout showing the calculation of the 2016 Town tax rate. Toni verified the calculations.

Town Tax Rate	\$.6763
Education Tax Rate Resident	\$1.5536

Education Tax Rate Non Resident \$1.4870

Combined Town and Education Resident Tax Rate \$2.299

Combined Town and Education Non Resident Tax Rate \$2.1633

This represents for residents an increase of \$.0529 over 2015 (Town decrease of \$.0060; Education increase of \$.0529).

Toni moved and Steve seconded a motion to accept the tax rates as presented by Lisa. All voted in favor. Lisa will have the tax bills in the mail Thursday.

Tennis court update – John Freitag and members of the Recreation Board will meet Saturday with the Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing Company to go over the project..

Recycling update – Will be tabled for the August 10th select board meeting

Dog kennel and dog license update – All but two dogs remain unlicensed in town. Steve is working with the owners to rectify the situation.

Financial Management Questionnaire -- signed by John F for the board.

DRB Process Procedure (highway access and sub-division) – Steve and Terry discussed with the board possible changes to consolidate the subdivision approval and highway access process. There will be more discussion later on in the year, since the Planning Commission is focusing on the Town Plan.

Zoning Penalty – The zoning violation penalty was discussed.

6.) Other –

The board approved at the request of Lisa a contract with Irving Propane of \$1.36 per gallon.

The SLC Pond was discussed.

The Board reviewed the year to date financial reports

Brian made a motion to adjourn and Steve seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: 8/10/16 Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m. at the Town Office

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Pippy