

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 6pm
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Andrew Duncklee, Kelly Harmon, Mary Linehan

Other participants: Art Hanchett, Pheobe Mix

Via zoom: Micki Colbeck, John Freitag, Judy Englander, Betty-Jo Duncklee, Steve Willbanks

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

- 1) Public Concerns – none
- 2) Highway. Jeff Solsaa reported that equipment is fine, some repairs done to backhoe.

Discussion re: status of plans for bridges and road repairs. A by-pass for Ward Bridge has been proposed, Jeff clarified that the by-pass with replacement will be the least costly approach and is a better option in the event of future flooding. Chair made a motion to proceed with a by-pass and replacement bridge using FEMA mitigation funds for the Ward Bridge on TH77. Seconded by Andrew, all members voted in favor on the motion.

A structures grant has been approved for Kibling Hill culvert. Chris Bump also notified Jeff informally that Strafford would not receive a paving grant this year, as there are too many towns ahead of us on the list. Jeff will continue to follow up.

FEMA will need to allocate funds for the Freeman Bridge. New England Consultant Engineers will assist FEMA with request for funds. Jeff will follow up.

Four RFPs will be prepared and posted for work on Van Dyke, Ward Bridge and Bridge 30, and the Kibling Hill culvert replacement.

Town Garage Energy Assessment has been received.

Two payments from FEMA have been received, amounting to \$44,000.

- 3) Approve the minutes of the 8/22/24 regular meeting. Chair made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/22/24 regular meeting. Jeff seconded. Andrew, Toni, Jeff and Kelly voted in favor. Mary abstained. Motion passed.
- 4) Winter Parking Ban Ordinance. No update.

- 5) Dog Ordinance draft with changes. Mary presented revisions to the Dog Ordinance proposed by the Dog Officer, as a result of consultation with VLCT and review of ordinances on other VT towns. Major changes included streamlining the ordinance for clarity, inclusion of dog-on-dog offences, specification of fines for all offences, modification of the fines and inclusion of a waiver fee for uncontested offences. Draft ordinance will be sent to VLTC for review and represented at next board meeting for discussion and finalization.
- 6) Review draft of Selectboard Assistant/Grant Coordinator job desc. Andre provided a draft job description, which will be further refined by Andrew and Kelly.
- 7) Begin 2025 Budget Process. Toni presented a plan to ensure that all budget requests for 2025 are documented and detailed. Toni is preparing a letter to send to all committees and boards providing guidance on how the process will take place this year.
- 8) Update Selectboard Task List. Reviewed the task list.
- 9) Reappraisal Update. Tim Denney presented the challenges for the upcoming reappraisal process. Tim noted that the proportion of homeowners who allow listers to enter their homes has dropped to app 30%, which may result in inequities in appraisals. Listers will work to educate the town about the reappraisal process to improve equity. Toni made a motion made for the Listers to continue to use Microsolve CAMA software and to post an RFP for vendors for support for this software, in accordance with Town's procurement process. Mary seconded. All in favor.
- 10) Town Office updates. No update, waiting for additional information from Tim Utt.
- 11) Liaison Updates.
 - a) Community Building Award Committee. Selectboard was notified that Roz Finn will step down from the Community Building Award Committee. The Committee recommended Andy Coffin as the replacement. Motion made by Toni for Andy Coffin to replace Roz Finn on the Community Building Award Committee Recreation Board. Jeff seconded. All in favor.
 - b) Rec Board has requested funding support for trash and portolets. Liaison will go back to Rec Board and request that they include their request in their annual budget request for consideration as part of that process.
- 12) Acknowledgement of Correspondence
 - a) Emails, 8/23 and 8/24 John Echeverria, RE: Responding
 - b) Christopher H. Boyle, Esq., RE: Request for Notice of Any Special Meeting Regarding Rachel Kendall's Request to Bury Utility Line Under Kendall Road
 - c) Rockwell Fuller, THAG August 22 Meeting Minutes
 - d) John Freitag, RE: thanks
 - e) Sydney Steine, TRORC – Meeting Request: Shared Services
 - f) e-mail from Lori Mikusa – Community Building Committee
 - g) R. Byron Breese, Mowing Conversation
 - h) Strafford Town Garage Energy Assessment

- i) Hilary Linehan, for Strafford Recreation Board, RE: portlets and trash at Murray field
- j) Hilary Linehan, for Strafford Recreation Board, RE: town office space for storage in the Red Barn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk