

Selectboard Meeting June 26, 2019

Board members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present:

Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Jon MacKinnon; Fred Kidder from Blue Mountain Trucking; Eric Thorpe; Bart Rutledge; Ham Bone; Jennifer Brown for *The Herald of Randolph*; Rocky Fuller; Roz Finn

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Citizen Concerns:

Eugen Hug wants to know when the town will take his trees down. He would prefer to do it in August. Brian will call Eli Mintz to do the work when he gets a chance.

Highways and Equipment

Crew is trying to catch up with grading—it has been a tough year for the roads. On a positive note, the crew hasn't had to spend money on chloride yet!

Gary Jamieson will begin work on July 1.

Bids for work to be done on road damage from the 4-14-19 rain event were opened. L&M Service Contractors bid \$111,609.10. Blue Mountain Trucking bid \$44,254. K&S Construction bid \$63,865.48. Willey Earth Moving Corp. bid \$61,140. Nott's Excavating bid \$75,663. Mak's Trucking and Excavation bid \$56,882. Avery Excavation bid \$58,333.80.

Jon and Lisa will review all the bids for comparison.

Asset Management and Paved Roads Update: this is ongoing

Identify a project for the capital projects prioritization. Toni and John Echeverria, Strafford representative to the TRORC Board of commissions, met with Peter Gregory and Rita Seto of TRORC to better understand how a project gets on this list. All "bridges" are evaluated by the state and the state generates a report showing which bridges are in the most need for repair. The information is shared with the regional commissions. The regional commissions will review and report back to the state on what they feel is the priority for their region. This program is only available to bridges with a 20 foot or greater span.

Correspondence

Email from Bridget Kendall re: Carpenter Hill Road. Jon said the crew would have to go about 350 feet. This will cost between \$17,000 and \$25,000. The road crew will work on it soon.

Email from Holly Hayden at FEMA: FEMA gave us a disaster declaration so we can commence work on repairing the roads.

Letter from Peter Gregory, TRORC Regional Plan Amendments and Land Use Area Changes. Regional plan draft is available for public view and there will be hearings on July 10 at 6 p.m. at Damon Hall in Hartland; July 11 at 6 p.m. at the Royalton Town Office. More information is available at www.trorc.org/trorc-regional-plan/.

Kerry Claffey also wrote to the board to say that he was run off the road by a truck, which he thought was from the mine project. Toni contacted Ed Hathaway, who responded and asked people to make sure they get license numbers or truck numbers so they can contact the drivers. The EPA will talk to all their drivers

Letter from Oliver Twombly Law Office re: Robertson variation. Board acknowledged receipt of letter.

Approve Minutes of June 12 special and regular meetings

Board moved, seconded, and approved minutes of the June 12 meetings

Town House Update

Fundraiser was great; raised more than \$1500 for the Town House. Floor has been sanded and refinished. Electricity is installed on the Common. Some people have complained about the way it looks. There is a code requirement that anything has to be 3 feet away. Rocky recommends leaving it alone for a bit to see if people get used to it. There needs to be a lock on the panel for safety reasons. Eli will remove a tree from the grounds. Painters will be back at the end of August. Contracted with James Mannix to do some upgrades around the perimeter of the Town House in July. Norma Fink made a donation to the town that includes the library and Town House for \$25,000 to be split equally. Rocky recommends that the money goes into the Mix Fund so it can grow.

Follow up to concerns of speeding in South Strafford on Route 132 and corner by Coburns

Bart Rutledge and Eric Thorpe came to the meeting to express their concerns, and Roz Finn sent an email and came to the meeting to do the same. Pat called sheriff for a speed trap, and the sheriff came. Acceleration past Coburns toward Thetford seems to be the big issue. Toni suggests more signage, including painting a sign on the road, but there are laws regarding what signs are allowed to be put up. Lisa will contact Chris Bump from District 4 to come and evaluate the situation. The board will contact TRORC to get help to do a traffic study to determine traffic density, speed, etc. to have accurate data.

Review Budget

Highway budget—we have a savings of about \$26,000 in wages and benefits due to the vacancy on the crew. We also have spent approximately \$24,000 in contracted services to do the winter roads and repairs during mud season. We are in good shape with both budgets.

9-1-1 Address discussion update

Lisa talked with 9-1-1 agency to find out if the town is in compliance. While we are in compliance on paper doesn't necessary make sense on the ground. One solution could be to

post Thetford/Strafford town line signs so first responders would know where the road numbers will change. There are more than 100 residences that could be affected by a change in road numbers. Board agreed that a town line sign is the best course of action right now.

Lisa also brought up the issue that a number of roads in town that have residences that are labeled on one road but are actually located on another one. The town plows, grades, and maintains many of these roads, which are essentially private driveways. This would affect approximately 16 residents. Discussion ensued about throwing up these roads vs changing the street numbers and 9-1-1 addresses—cost to homeowners, cost to the town, inconvenience, etc. Pat will drive around town and check to see who has signs up and who doesn't, and report back to the board.

Town Office renovations financing

Lisa presented financing data from other towns who have gone through similar renovations. Borrowing statutes of five years or less requires voter approval at an annual or special town meeting. Five years or more requires annual or special town meeting and must be by Australian ballot. The board is waiting for the structural engineering report and then will determine next steps for the project.

Other

Town Office is still having issues with the septic system; they are trying to resolve the smell issue.

Liaison Updates: Conservation Commission provided an update on their activities. Board reviewed the update regarding adding historic panels near the mine. Board reiterates that nothing can go in the town right of way without permission.

Unlicensed Dogs: Some people have gotten their dogs licensed. Several dog owners still have not licensed their dogs; the board will send letters to these residents letting them know their dogs can be impounded.

No other business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk

