

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard  
September 28, 2016

Members of the public body present: Steve Marx, Toni Pippy, Brent Cadwell, Brian Johnson, John Freitag.

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Jennifer Brown, Russ Farley, Chip Lewis

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens concerns- Russ is concerned with the shoulders and driveway aprons along the newly paved section of JMH. Brent said that the shoulders and aprons would be taken care of.

Correspondence-(copies are available at the Town Clerk's)- The board discussed an email from Bill Burden regarding his desire to hold a training on how to open, operate and close our emergency operation center at the town office. An email from Allan Wylie stating that the voter tabulation machine can be hacked and what we can do to prevent it? Lisa said she contacted the Secretary of State and since our machine is not hooked up to the Internet or anything wireless, they are confident in our system. Dori emailed in regards to the United Church of Strafford using the town common for a blessing of the animals. Toni moved, Steve seconded to allow the blessing to take place. All approved. Dori emailed about the timeline for construction on bridge 29 by Coburn's. Kathy Hardy asked if a flashing light could be installed or some other method to slow the traffic on JMH. John will contact the sheriff and request more patrols on the newly improved highways in town. Lisa and Regina went to the VT municipal clerks and treasurers' association conference. Regina is now certified as a VT treasurer.

Minutes- Brent moved, Steve seconded to approve the minutes of September 14, 2016. All in favor

Town highways- Brent reported the equipment is all good. The paving is done and the shoulder work will begin soon. Ward Bridge is complete as well.

Brent reported that he had called some of the residents of Sawnee Bean Road but couldn't get through to all. The people he talked to either had no opinion or were in favor of calling the road North Sawnee Bean Road if any change is necessary. John will contact Upper Valley Ambulance to see if this is a problem for ambulance response time before any action is taken.

General- an estimate was received from Green Lights Energy totaling \$3640 for the suggested changes in lighting near the school and gym. John suggested the cost be split 50/50 with the school and the town could use the Frank Brown Fund and Justin Morrill Fund to pay for it. Toni suggested that the cost be split proportionally to the school versus town budget and the same funds could still pay for the towns share. Toni moved, Brain seconded to pay a quarter of the cost and the school pay three quarters of the cost of the light repairs and changes. All in favor. Andy Coffin spoke with John asking if the tow would be interested in purchasing a 4 acre parcel next to the town garage that

includes the pond. John informed Andy that a special town meeting would be required for the Town to purchase the property with town funds. Other options are being investigated as well. The village center designation has expired (Sept 5). Because the town plan has expired, the village designation cannot be renewed. There is a 90 day suspension period that will run out on November 7. It is unlikely the town plan will be completed by that date but when the town plan is complete, the town can apply for the village designation again. Steve moved to approve the old town plan so this type of thing won't happen. The old town plan is incomplete which is why it has expired as well. There are two chapters that are now required for the town plan that have not been completed yet. After some discussion, Steve withdrew his motion. Brent moved and Steve seconded to appoint Rod Maclay to the Regional Planning Commission Water Quality Advisory Board. All in favor. Tom Scull could not make the meeting but has said he will be at the following meeting to discuss the employee insurance benefits. Jeanne Castro said she had 8-9 letters out for tax sales. The process will start in October and take about 2 months. She suggested getting legal advice on 2 of the properties.

Other- John signed a driveway permit for John Linehan to widen the driveway. John said the tennis courts are supposed to get paved on Friday. Brent asked if all of the money is with the treasurer. John said that Tom Scull still needs to drop off a check but it is all accounted for. The budget process is going to begin soon. We will be asking for budget requests for town organizations soon. Brent moved, Brian seconded to approve one more error and omission from the listers regarding the Essex property. All in favor.

Toni moved, Brian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Cadwell