

Minutes  
April 5, 2023 Strafford Selectboard Special Meeting

Selectboard members attending in person: David Paganelli, Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, Rod Sloat, John Freitag

public attending in person: David Grant, Susan Cloke

public attending by zoom: Peter Jeffries

Called to order at 6pm by Chair Freitag, Reading of Guidelines for Selectboard Conduct

1.) A motion was made and seconded to give the highway department permission to purchase re-occurring needed items between \$1,000-\$5000. Highway liaison Solsaa explained due to the new purchasing policy adopted 2/22/23 this was necessary for the effective functioning of the department. All voted in favor.

2.) Town Office compliance with viloations listed by Fire Marshal. Johnson updated Board on work done to make downstairs compliant. Lister Tim Denny updated the Board on what was being done to move the Listers Office to an office in the South Strafford home of Lister Ross Gortner as Fire Marshal has closed off the upstairs of the Town Office. A motion was made and seconded and all approved of proceeding with lining up work needed and creating a lease to rent this temporary space. It was noted that further work needed at the Town Office was allowed to be put off as long as the plan for renovation and addition is proceeding.

3. Bridge 30 - There was a discussion on how to proceed after the award of a \$300,000 Transporation Alternative Grant for the Bridge 30 project which would use re-furbished trusses for the sides of this compromised bridge. There is a problem in that the papers that need to be signed start the process and the Town has not authorized funds for the \$75,000 match for this grant or the rest of the estimated \$900,000 needed to complete the project. There was a motion made and seconded to seek an extension on the award until the fall when we would know if other grants have been awarded that would take care of most of the costs of this project. All approved. The Town will proceed with talks with the State on the extension and the storage of the trusses which need to be moved from Ludlow.

4.) There is a 2024 structures and paving grant deadline coming up on April 15. Solsasa said the needed preliminary work has already been done for the first one mile of Miller Pond Road and the Board all approved going forward with making that our paving request. Solsaa listed bridges in town that were a priorities. Bridge 30 is one of the top ones. It is one of the only ones that has the preliminary studies done. This \$200,000 grant is a part of the grants needed for the truss project to work. The Board all approved making Bridge 30 our choice for the 2024 structures grant.

5.)There is a dispute over the Stanley property line and driveway with a neighboring property on the Mine Road. The Stanley property was acquired by the Town in lieu of taxes and no one interested in purchasing it. While there is an EPA survey showing the property line, the neighboring property has put vehicles and a structure on it and is disputing ownership. After discussion a motion was made to seek the help of the Town attorney to resolve the issue. All approved. There was further discussion on whether to seek the advice our attroney on the possibility of an out of court settlement. Vote was in favor with Pagenelli, Solsaa and Freitag voting yea, Sloat and Johnson nay.

6.) Mud season update – Solsaa updated the Board as to conditions. So far better than last year though some bad areas through out the town. Solsaa also brought up the need for tree trimming for visability at four intersections in town . Paganelli will contact one of the owners, Freitag 3 owners.

Motion made and meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John Freitag