

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 19, 2014

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1) Selectboard meeting minutes include

- (A) All members of the public body present;
- (B) All other active participants in the meeting;
- (C) All motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and
- (D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Although meeting minutes have complied with 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1), additional information is included as a courtesy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public body present:

Rod Maclay, Chair, Sally Hull and Victoria Lloyd, Members

Other active participants:

Bill Bohnyak, Orange County Sheriff; Ed Eastman, Strafford Constable; Bill Burden, Emergency Management Director; Rocky Fuller, resident; John Frietag, correspondent for the Randolph Herald.

Motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and disposition of same:

Citizen concerns – None.

2/5/14 Minutes – Approved (M/S, Tori/Rod. All in favor.)

Orange County Sheriff's Department – The Selectboard reviewed resident concerns about speeding in town. Tori will post Bill Bohnyak's phone number on the listserve so he can directly address citizen concerns and will review the schedule and placement of deputies for speed enforcement. Bill has applied for a grant to purchase a speed cart, like those in place in villages elsewhere in the region, for use in Strafford. The Selectboard also discussed local interest in establishing a Neighborhood Watch, and the Sheriff reported that training is available to support this effort. Since break-ins are on the rise in town and in the area by people seeking cash, jewelry, guns, and prescription medications, the Sheriff advised residents to lock their homes and report suspicious activity (get a license plate number or describe the vehicle or driver) to the Sheriff's office. "See something, say something" is a good rule of thumb – it's best to err on the side of caution and make a report. The Sheriff's office has a listserve that residents can join, and there is an anonymous tip line on the Orange County Sheriff's website.

Town House – The THAG met on 2/18/14, and voted on officers as follows: Rocky is the Chair, Kurt Albee, Vice Chair, Paul Kifner is Overseer, Lori Mikusa is Secretary, and six other regular members were named. The group is working on a new brochure with better pictures, and will place an ad in the Valley News bridal section. A cleanup day has been scheduled. As the first weddings of the season approach, brides are looking for a local place to dress for their weddings. Work on the backhouse has paused for the season. More than \$2,700 has been raised by the recent appeals letter sent, but more is needed given the budget cuts at the town level. One wall of the Town House should be painted this year to maintain progress at a reasonable cost; a town endowment request may be made for this purpose.

Clothing policy – The Selectboard reviewed and approved a list of clothes the road crew may purchase with its allowance. (M/S, Sally/Tori. All in favor.).

Constable's stipend – Ed and the Selectboard discussed the schedule for payment of the Constable's stipend.

Bridge 29 – Sally reported she called Rita Seto, Senior Planner and director of the Transportation Planning program for the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, to discuss local concerns about the width of the bridge, sidewalks, and speeding. Rita concurred with the 26 foot wide bridge designed by VTrans' bridge engineers. This size bridge, with 10 foot travel lanes and three foot pedestrian and bike lanes, is consistent with goals of Vermont's Complete Streets law that mandates safe passage for pedestrians, bikes and vehicles on transportation infrastructure. A narrow bridge would risk public safety, which has been a concern expressed at several public meetings on this bridge in Strafford among residents and VTrans. The bridge must be built to last 80 years, and following the state bridge engineers' design would improve the lines of sight for the bridge's immediate neighbors. She stated that speed reduction cannot be engineered, though speed bumps are effective at reducing speed in villages. Since the Town owns Route 132, we have greater flexibility in traffic calming measures that can be used. Rita offered to do a speed study in the spring, and she can also help the town implement initiatives under the Safe Routes to School program. The Selectboard reviewed a letter from the Planning Commission in support of reducing the width of the bridge to maintain the village's character. Tori reported that she, Rod and Sally had each called Chris Williams at VTrans separately. While funding for the bridge from the State is not in jeopardy, Chris stated, delays in schedule to accommodate additional local meetings were not factored into the schedule for building the bridge. The State has asked to hear affirmatively from the Selectboard before they will continue to work and finalize the bridge's design. The Selectboard discussed waiting to vote on a possible change to the bridge's design until after Town Meeting; since the current members are fully informed on the issues, each having attended the three public meetings held with VTrans and two having attended the recent local meeting, the Board agreed to vote at this time. By a two to one vote, the Selectboard approved the VTrans recommended bridge design for a 26 foot wide bridge (M/S, Sally/Rod).

Executive Session – Members entered an Executive Session at 8:40 and ended Executive Session at 8:55.

Compensation of Assistant Town Clerk – A motion was made to reduce compensation of the Assistant Town Clerk because she will now be enrolled in healthcare insurance provided by the Town. Town policy has been that employees who do not avail themselves of Town health insurance received a wage increase. Employees who participate in Town health insurance forfeit the wage increase. (M/S, Sally/Tori. All in favor).

Results of any votes (1 VSA Section 312(b)(1)(D)): No votes taken.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m. (M/S, Tori/Sally. All in favor.)

Next Scheduled Meetings:

February 28, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Pre-Town Meeting, Barrett Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hull, Recording Secretary