

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Members in Person: Toni Pippy, Kelly Harman, Andrew Duncklee, Jeff Solsaa  
Selectboard Member via Zoom: Mary Linehan

Participants in Person: Chris Behr, John Freitag, Josh Kahan

Participants via Zoom: Chris Boyle, Meredith Kendall, Judie Englander, Trudi Fondren

The meeting starts at 6pm.

Two changes to the agenda: 1. Freeman Road bridge agreement 2. Meyers driveway permit application review.

1. Public Comments: none
2. Highway:
  - Vacancies: no potential candidates yet.
  - Equipment: repairing loader and backhoe; set up depreciation schedule to understand life cycle of the equipment
  - Roads are posted.
  - Update on completion of the Town Municipal Impact Questionnaire for Kendal Act 250 Permit Application:
    - Solsaa walks through the various check points that are applicable (fire, police, road, EMT) and not applicable (sewer, trash, water). Will continue to reach out to the various departments for comment.
    - Act 250 Hearing is set for April 9. The questionnaire is to be completed prior to that date.
  - RFP for Brook Road and South Strafford paving:
    - Issue RFP next week with deadline and award by March 31, 2025
    - Solsaa motions to issue the RFP, Pippy seconds and all approve.
    - Emerson road to be included in the Brook Road paving.
  - Award Van Dyke and Ward Bridge Projects:
    - Accent Consulting is Project Manager: 2 bids received; the recommendation is to award the project to Northwoods.
      - Northwoods (adjusted - with contingencies) bid is \$368, 494; Markowski Excavating (adjusted with contingencies) bid is \$666,289.
      - Solsaa motions to award the bid to Northwoods; Pippy seconds and all approve.
  - Driveway permit on 205 Robinson Rd: Pippy motion to approve the Meyers driveway application, Solsaa seconds and all approve.
  - Freeman Bridge:

- Agreement between the Town and the CCS (contractor) for construction related to Freeman Bridge.
  - Solsaa moves to sign the agreement, Linehan seconds and all approve.
- 3. Approve the minutes of 3/13/25 Meeting:
  - Solsaa motions to accept the meeting minutes of 3/13/25. Duncklee seconds and all approve. Mary Linehan recuses.
- 4. Agenda Format and Possible Changes:
  - Josh Kahan: proposes that public comments be held during discussion of the agenda item with time limits on these comments. This is considered best practice by the Secretary of State. Then, any added items brought forth by the public might be placed at the end of the agenda.
  - Andrew Duncklee to take Montpelier Rules and Procedures from Montpelier and tailor it to Strafford.
- 5. Projects and To Do List for 2025:
  - Town Office Renovations, Highway, Capital Budget, 2026 Town Budget, Personnel Policy, Updating the Rules and Regs,
- 6. Other:
  - Solsaa contacted by Vermont State Police. Personnel changes are significant enough that the Sergeant has asked Jeff Solsaa to attend a meeting in person.
  - School - it has been requested that the School Board approach the Board if they would like the Board to consider helping with discussions regarding Vermont Rural School and Community Alliance
  - Pippy makes a motion to allow the DRB to continue to use the Town Attorney, Harman seconds. 4 aye, one nay. Approved to proceed.
  - Special Selectboard meeting scheduled for March 31, 2025, at 5pm.
  - The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be April 10, 2025.
- 7. Executive Session
  - Chair Toni Pippy moves to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the litigation and negotiation strategy related to the appeal to the environmental court of the Town DRB's decision in the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Solsaa seconds, and all approve.
  - Chair Toni Pippy then moves for the Board to enter executive session to discuss the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Harman seconds, and all approve.
  - The Selectboard goes into executive session at 7:30pm.
  - Selectboard comes out of executive session at 7:55 pm with no decisions made.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58

Kelly Harman, Recording Clerk