

Strafford Selectboard  
August 28, 2019, 6pm at Town Office

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Members present: Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Lauri Berkenkamp, Patrik Kelly

Others present: Gil Robertson, Phyllis Harmon, Robert Campbell, Lisa Bragg, Ham Bone, Jennifer Brown

1. **Citizen Concern:** Rob Campbell and Phyllis Harmon came to express concern about Pennock Road ditching, particularly in winter. They are concerned about the safety of the road with the new, deep ditches that have narrowed the road significantly. Josh Kahan sent a letter also expressing the same level of concern. Phyl suggested that we put a marker on the road at the deepest part of the culvert in winter, so people could have a visual reminder.
2. **Town Highways and Equipment Update**
  - a. **Highway Department Projects:** Jon was absent due to illness, but Toni reported that all projects are moving forward. Robinson Road and Kibling Hill have not yet been finished. Justin Morrill Highway was finished today—the road was stabilized after the storm event. The Hug property has been cleared and the road crew will add gravel or pavement to the agreed-upon right-of-way. A temporary driveway permit was submitted for TH33 (Clover Hill property) for logging purposes. Board voted to approve the permit.
  - b. **New Truck Loan:** Board voted to sign a loan for 3.3 percent on \$168,050 to finance the truck. The town will then refinance \$110,000 with the state in October at 2 percent.
3. **Correspondence – 10 Minutes**
  - a) Email Josh Kahan, RE: Pennock Road  
Board acknowledged receipt. Please see above notes.
  - b) Email Steve Campbell, RE: Resignation from Planning Commission.  
Board acknowledged Steve's resignation. Steve also resigned from the Development Review Board. Lisa will advertise on the listserv and send an email to the chairs of both boards requesting suggestions for a replacement.
  - c) Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, RE: State Government Municipal Days 2019  
Board acknowledged receipt of email
  - d) TRORC, Dee Gish, Finance Manager, RE: Transportation Climate Initiative Stakeholder Meeting, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am Comfort Inn in WRJ  
Board acknowledged receipt of email
  - e) Vermont League of Cities and Town, RE: Town Fair 2019 October 2-3 Registration, Killington Grand Hotel, Killington Vermont  
Board acknowledged receipt of email. Board members are encouraged to go.
  - f) John Pomeroy, Consolidated Communications, RE: transfer of lines to new poles in South Strafford  
Board received several emails from a variety of people. Pomeroy said there is one place where VTel needs to transfer and they are looking into it.
  - g) Note from Ellen Langtree re: sign on Justin Morrill where it intersects with Carpenter Hill Road.  
Board acknowledged receipt and is looking into solutions with road foreman.
  - h) Announcement: 2020 Census new program webinar Board acknowledged receipt of email and will forward on to lister Tim Denny

4. **Approve Minutes of August 14th regular meeting**

Board approved minutes of August 14 with no changes. Please note that August 14 minutes indicate the new truck loan was at a 3.25 percent rate. The actual rate as of August 28 is 3.30 percent.

5. **Replacement for vacancy on the Planning Commission and Development Review Board.** Please see above note in Correspondence

6. **Town Office Repairs– next steps**

Board will compile a list of questions many people have asked about the project, get answers, and distribute them publicly before proceeding further. If townspeople have questions about the project, please send them via email to Lauri Berkenkamp at [lberkenkamp@straffordvt.org](mailto:lberkenkamp@straffordvt.org) or stop by the Town Office.

7. **Other – 10 Minutes**

**Liaison Updates**

- Dog officer responded to a witnessed incident of dog abuse.

Unlicensed Dogs Update

- Persistent problems with 2 dog owners and 4 dogs, 3 of which do not have rabies vaccines. Constable will be contacted along with county sheriff to make a visit to dog owners because they are now breaking state law.

9-1-1 address issues update

- Eight or 9 people came to the public meeting regarding re-addressing houses on affected roads. The general consensus was that people didn't like having to make the changes, but understood the need and are willing to do so.

Update speeding in South Strafford on Rte 132 around corner by Coburns, heading to Thetford.

- Waiting for traffic study results. The results were not available at the time of the meeting.

Asset Management of Paved Roads

- Further research is being done.

Town Office will be closed on September 12 and 13 so the Clerk and Assistant Clerk can attend a conference.

New fire truck has arrived and the fire department members are very happy.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp  
Recording Clerk