

Selectboard Meeting Minutes
March 13, 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, Rob Townsend (engineer for Rachel Kendall)
Participants via Zoom: Josh Kahan, Chris Boyle, Karla Bushway, Chrissy Jamieson, Rachel Kendall, Meredith Kendall

Technical issue delay: Meeting starts at 6:22 pm

Chair Toni Pippy opens the meeting by saying thank you to the Strafford voters for their overwhelming approval of a solid 2025 spending plan.

1. Organization of the Board:

- Solsaa nominates Pippy for Chair. Duncklee seconds and all approve.
- Harman nominates Solsaa for Vice Chair, Duncklee seconds and all approve.
- Pippy nominates Harman as recording clerk. Solsaa seconds and all approve.
- Pippy motion to sign Selectboard rules of Procedure. Solsaa seconds all approve.
- Review and sign Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct for the Town of Strafford. Pippy motions for the board to sign. Solsaa seconds and all approve.
- Appoint Board members to be authorized to approve and sign orders for payroll and operating expenses for the period March 11, 2025, to March 2, 2026. Pippy moves that Solsaa is primary signatory and Duncklee is secondary. Harman seconds and all approve.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Highway

- Vacancies: with only two road crew members, plan is for Alan Rowell to assist while PD is away. Shawn Ward, Danny Prescott, and John Daniels have offered to help. Northwoods (assist in ditching prep for Brook Road)
- Equipment repair: major repairs to the Loader and Backhoe.
- Mud season awareness: Message to the town reminding them to reduce delivery of packages and when feasible stay off or reduce travel on gravel roads during mud season.
- Complete Municipal Impact Questionnaire for Kendal Act 250 Permit Application.
 - The Fire Department does not believe there is a problem. The sheriff's department will need to weigh in on any issues with the application. Impact to road needs further discussion on any monetary requirements. Pippy motions to sign the Municipal Impact Questionnaire for Kendall Act 250 Permit Applications. Solsaa seconds and all approve.
- Annual Financial Plan: Pippy motions to sign the AFP, Solsaa seconds and all approve.

- RFP for Brook Road– still needs some additional information and editing.
4. Susan Knapp: Would like to propose Little Free Library on the green.
 - Ms. Knapp offers to pay for and maintain the box to house the books. The Board is generally in favor of the free library. Placement to be determined. Ms. Knapp to return with alternate ideas for the placement and further discussion.
 5. Brooke Hague Trottier, attorney, representing Coburns store present to discuss the Right of Way for the oil tanks.
 - Request for easement for oil tanks currently in the right of way. Lack of easement represents a defect on the Title.
 - The Town will work with Ms. Trottier on the appropriate language to grant permission rather than an easement.
 6. Approval of Minutes for 2/27/2025: Solsaa motions to approve the minutes with the exception of edits to the Correspondence. Duncklee seconds and all approve.
 7. Selectboard assistant: Mary Linehan to coordinate hiring with the Town Clerk.
 8. Appointments:
 - Solsaa motions to reappoint those who are currently serving for another appointment term, and to fill any vacancies as people step forward and volunteer. Andrew Duncklee seconds and all approve.
 - Pippy motions to approve Jeff Solsaa to the Greater Upper Valley Waste District board. Duncklee seconds and all approve.
 9. Acknowledgement of correspondence
 10. Other:
 - Ed Hathaway passed away and the Town would like to make a contribution to the Memorial as a remembrance and in appreciation for all his work for the Town. Pippy makes a motion to purchase three trees for this tribute. Solsaa seconds, and all approve.
 - Grant for ash trees
 - Status of grant for the Town Office. Stephanie Slayton to verify the notification received is final approval of the grant.
 - Selectboard will meet next Thursday 20th instead of the following week.

Meeting adjourns at 8:20

Kelly Harman, Recording Clerk