

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
April 12, 2017

Members of the public body present: Toni Pippy, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepman, John Freitag

Other active participants: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Beverly Bilsky, Scott Traudt, Steven Willbanks, Tom Kennedy, Michael Scanlan, John Lloyd, John Echeverria, Tori Lloyd, Russ Farley, Allan Wylie, Tom Scull, Calvin Benjamin, Sarah North

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

1.) Citizen Concerns - Scott Traudt came to the Board with concerns regarding New Vista and publishing the names of delinquent taxpayers in the Town Report that he was unable to express at Town Meeting due to not being able to attend. Beverly Bilsky expressed her concerns over the yield sign at the intersection of Rte. 132 and Brook Road. Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon will follow up getting advice from our regional planning commission's traffic consultant.

2.) Town Highways

Jon reported on status of roads and equipment. The Board discussed ways to deal with safety concerns with truck traffic on the solar project and bridge project. John felt that with the upcoming truck traffic for the solar project the Board should approve a sum of money not to exceed \$3,500 to be used to purchase a radar speed indicator sign to help with traffic calming. Brian moved and Kate seconded that we wait until we get a price before allocating the funds. Brian, Toni and Kate in favor, Stephen and John opposed and the motion passed. Toni updated the Board an upcoming appreciation dinner for the road crew put on by Newton School students on May 19. The Board signed the highway funds certification document required by the State.

3.) Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District update. Tom Kennedy from GUVSWD and Steve Willbanks, Strafford's representative to the District update the Board on a potential composting operation at the site and a recent proposal to have a 5 megawatt solar project on the land that had been purchased for a landfill by the GUVSWD but never constructed. Bonds for the landfill and a bridge over Interstate 91 which need annual payments until 2030 and for which Strafford's share is around 6% continue to be cost for towns in the District. The solar project would help lessen the bond payments. Brian brought his concern over the cost involved with the whole project and what benefit the town the town has received. John asked whether the renewable energy credits (REC's) would go towards meeting Vermont's ambitious goal of 25% of its energy coming from renewable sources in eight years and 90% by 2050. Tom said that the allocation of the REC's would be up to GMP and would most likely be sold out of state where they could get the highest price. John moved and Stephen seconded that the Strafford Selectboard position be that the renewable energy credits from the project be phased in to meeting Vermont's renewable energy needs. Stephen and John in favor, Toni and Brian opposed, Kate abstained, and the motion failed.

4.) Brian moved and Stephen seconded approving the minutes of March 22, 2017 All approved. Brian moved and Kate seconded approving the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting. All approved except Stephen who abstained as he was not at that meeting.

5.) Correspondence – A letter from Bob Murray with his concerns over the Mine Road was reviewed. The Board signed the liquor license application from Stone Soup. An email was received from Tori Lloyd requesting time a Selectboard meeting.

6.) Tori Lloyd made a presentation on her concerns on conditions on the Mine Road since being turned back into gravel as part of the 2012 Highway Reconstruction Project. She had brought many of these same concerns to an earlier Board meeting on October 19, 2016. Allan Wylie and Tom Scull also brought up negative impacts on their property of this project. Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon has been trying to and will continue to address these concerns as best he is able. The long term solution may be to repave this section of road. A challenge is not only limited fund and competing needs on other roads in town, but the fact that the Mine Road which is a Class 3 Road is not eligible for paving grants which cover the bulk of the cost of our paving projects. The Board is and will continue to work with our legislators to try to be able to use paving grants on Class 3 roads. Another option would be to try to get the Mine Road made a Class 2 Road but Tori was not in favor of that.

7.) Budget Review - Lisa presented the Board with updated budget figures. It was noted that the first three months of the year used up almost all our \$50,000 salt budget and the crew had used most of their 200 hours of budgeted overtime dealing with multiple ice and snow storms. John said that Jon MacKinnon once all the bills from January through mud season were in, would take stock of where we are and make recommendations to the Board on where we could adjust what we could do this summer to stay in budget. John said that we need to figure that at least one quarter of what we spend dealing with winter conditions takes place in November and December.

8.) Town Plan draft – The Planning Commission is having their final hearing on the draft Town Plan on Thursday April 13. Planning Commission member John Echeverria said he was unsure of whether the Planning Commission would make changes based on public input or pass on the draft plan to the Board. The Selectboard has scheduled a Public Hearing on the Town Plan for May 24, 2017. John Freitag, who recently attended a workshop on Town Plans put on by the Regional Planning Commission, said that one of the major take a way was the need for public involvement in the plan as this was the document is the vision for what we want our community to be. It provides guidance for changes in zoning regulations and has an impact on property owners as well as the entire community. Toni Pippy on behalf of the Board expressed appreciation for all the work the Planning Commission has done to date. The Selectboard will decide how best to proceed with their part in the process depending decisions made by the Planning Commission after their public hearing.

9.) General

Town Office -repairs and rug replacement. The Board reviewed quotes from Green Horse Flooring on options for rug removal and either putting in or refinishing the existing wood floor. Kate will take the lead along with Lisa on working up a plan for short and long term improvements to the Town Office which will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Suggestions on needs should be sent to her or Lisa. Any large project on the Town Office would be put out to bid.

Liaison expectations and updates - the Board reviewed and approved a description of liaison expectations drafted by Kate. Stephen updated the Board on what was going on with our Emergency Services.

Owens -Insurance claim update. Lisa reported that our insurance carrier would not cover flooding experienced by Kate Owen. Kate Owen has not submitted any bills to the town.

Stanley and Lord -Delinquent Taxes - the Board discussed and approved a letter to be sent to our attorney Paul Gilles asking for guidance on resolving how to deal with these properties one of which is part of the Superfund site and one adjacent to it. At this point there are delinquent taxes on both and no

clear owners and Jeanne Castro our Delinquent Tax Collector has requested legal help on these two sites with complicated issues. Kate as liaison to the Delinquent Tax Collector will be the Board's point person on this. Calvin Benjamin who was at the meeting with his attorney Sarah North, expressed his continued interest in the Stanley property as a potential storage site for his construction equipment. Kate moved and Toni seconded tabling the rest of the agenda at this point due to the lateness of the hour. Kate and Toni voted in favor, Brian, Stephen, and John voted against and the motion was defeated.

EPA work on the Copper Mine in 2017 - John has shared email correspondence with Ed Hathaway indicating the EPA will be doing limited work this season.

Open Meeting Law review - Toni reviewed the Open Meeting Law with the Board and reminded members of how we need to comply with this legislation.

10.) Other

John updated the Board on a recent Recreation Board meeting. One of the things that came up was a request from some mothers looking to have a week long "Jedi" camp for six to ten year olds be sponsored by the Recreation Board. The Recreation Board would like to have the Selectboard check with our insurance carrier. This will be done once details regarding the camp are sent to John to forward to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Brian moved and Kate seconded to adjourn, all approved and the meeting ended at 9:07 pm
Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, acting recording clerk