

Town of Strafford Informational Meeting
February 22, 2025
Town House, 12 Brook Road, Strafford, VT 05072

Selectboard present: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Harmon, Andrew Duncklee, Mary Linehan via ZOOM

Others present: Michael Baker, Kate Bass, Christopher Behr, Claudia Binzen, Joanne Blais, Lisa Bragg, Maria Cabri, Kira Meyer Campbell, Lisa Carlson-Freitag, Matthew Christie, Mark Chute, Noah Chute, Shelby Coburn, Maria Cunningham, Margaret Curtis, Michael Curtis, Timothy Denny, Donna Derenthal, John Echeverria, Thomas Essex, Charlotte Faccio, John Freitag, Rockwell Fuller, Tracy Gillespie, Daniel Gottlieb, David Grant, Nancy Grant, Arthur Hanchett, Kathryn Hardy, Paul Harwood, Joanna Hawkins, John Hawkins, Nathan Hine, Susan Hodges, Edmund Huang, Amy Huyffer, Robyn Jacobs, Thomas Jacobs, Joshua Kahan, Meredith Kendall, Paul Kifner, Ann Kraybill, Kimberly Lakin, Kate Lalonde, Ehrin, Lingeman, Jason Loomis, Eric Lopez, Kayla Lopez, Raul Lopez Linehan, Kevin Lynch, Jane Mann, David McWilliams, Kathy Menard, Laureen Mikusa, Patti Morgan, Anita Onofrio, Nellie Pennington, Lauren Phelps, Anni Praetorius, Carin Pratt, Elizabeth Randall, Deborah Richie, Sharon Risso, Gretchen Rittenhouse, Sarah Root, Michael Scanlan, Jason Schumacher, Rebecca Seibel, Charles Sherman, Andrew Silovich, June Solsaa, Elizabeth Spriggs, Kyle Spriggs, Jonathan Stableford, Meghan Teachout, Diane Tensen, Mary Thompson, William Thompson, Jessica Tidman, John Tholiz, Micaela Tucker, Any Tuller, Martha Walke, Jenevra Wetmore, John Whelihan, Jonathan Wilder,Carolynn Wilson, Glenn Wylie

Meeting called to order at 10am.

Moderator David Grant opened the meeting by acknowledging the Town Report dedications to Rose Silloway, Barbara Murray, Denny Preston, and Hazel Lewis.

Grant then proceeded to open discussion for Article 5 regarding the election of the following Town officers:

- Selectboard Member :3 years, 2 years, and 1 year to complete a 3-year term.
- 3-year terms: Lister, Auditor, Cemetery Commissioner, Trustee of Public Funds, Harris Library Trustee
- 1 year term: Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Agent to Deed Real Estate

Grant then proceeded to Article 2, the Budget

- Pippy presented the Budget for approval:
 - The budget was broken down into 3 categories:
 - FEMA Projects: Freeman Bridge, Van Dyke Bridge, and Ward Bridge
 - Structures and Better Roads Projects: Kibbling Hill Culvert, Bridge 30, and Ayres Road
 - Paving Project: Brook Road, South Strafford Village. The paving project will cost approximately \$750K, of which the Town will borrow \$475K. The loan will be paid back over 4 years.
 - Several questions were asked regarding other options than paving. One question was asked about whether the Town needed to approve the loan.

Grant then proceeded to open discussion about Articles 6-10 that deal with bringing all or pieces of the Town Meeting back.

- A number of people were in support of bringing the Town Meeting back citing the importance of face-to-face meetings. Other folks were in favor of keeping the Australian ballot citing far greater numbers vote when ballots were issued.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Kelly Harman, Clerk