

Minutes of the Strafford Select Board
February 28, 2018

Members present: Toni Pippy, Chair, John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Stephen Marx, and Kate Siepmann.

Also in attendance were Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, and Todd Binzen, reporting from the Herald

Others in attendance: Janet Cavanagh, Shawn Harlow, Steve Wetmore, and 3 bidders on the new fire truck, representatives from Desoucie/E-One, Shakerley, and Rosenbower.

1. Citizens' Concerns — None

2. Town Highways

- a. Toni read 3 letters praising the Road Crew for their work on the unexpected mud season that turned gravel roads into porridge.
- b. When asked what it would cost to recondition a section of gravel road with gravel and fabric, Jon estimated that, with materials and trucking, it would cost about \$25,000 per half mile.
- c. A ditch and driveway on Alger Brook Road are of concern since a logger filled the ditch for access to a wood lot. The ditch needs to be cleaned out in advance of the spring run-off. If it is not cleared, and that section of road floods, the land owner will be held responsible for repairs.
- d. In response to a request by David Lamb about erosion of the road by his mailbox, Jon reported that the mailbox is situated over two culverts which are covered by a large, flat stone. Brian and Stephen will meet with David to talk about solutions.
- e. The Board signed a Certificate of Compliance with Town Road and Bridge Standards, which will enable Lisa and Jon to apply for paving grants.
- f. The Board signed off on posting weight limits on roads for spring conditions.

3. Minutes—The draft minutes of the February 14 meeting were unanimously approved, with the single correction that Alex Buskey appeared as a member of the Alliance for Vermont Communities, not the Vermont Council for Rural Development.

4. Correspondence

- a. An email from Ed Hathaway from the EPA, advising that tree clearing will be conducted at the South Mine and the South Open Cut in March. This work has to be completed before April 15 due to restrictions protecting endangered bats. Copperas road will be closed to local traffic while the tree work is being completed from March 12 to 23 and March 26 to 28.
- b. Email from Sherry Merrick inviting any and all Strafford government officials to a special performance of 1776, with a discussion to follow the performance.
- c. A request for a reservation at the Old City Falls picnic area for a wedding on October 16 was approved.
- d. The board tabled the discussion of enrollment in the Vermont Statewide Parcel Mapping Program until such time as we can consult with Mike Hebb. Mike will be invited to our next meeting on March 14.
- e. We received a request from Meaghan Rafferty, a student at Keene State College, who is doing research on the effects of hurricane Irene. Lisa will contact her and offer what help she can.

f. The Board received an invitation to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Grant Awards Ceremony. The Town House received a \$20,000 grant toward the Steeple Renovation Project. Rocky Fuller will represent the Town at the ceremony on March 15.

g. Courtney Hardy wrote to express concern over the encroachment of the town road on her property on Stage Road. She will be invited to the March 14 Select Board meeting.

h. A note from Bob Johnston to say that he has completed the steps to proceed with the Certified Local Government status. Toni will meet with Bob to go over the application which should be ready for the Board's review and approval at the March 14th meeting.

i. The department of Public Safety sent an invitation to an informational session about a network of first responders. Vermont will benefit from more than 40 new sites improving coverages and services in emergency situations.

5. |Janet Cavanaugh presented a draft letter supporting the nomination for the Vermont Tree Steward's Award. Janet and John will work together on the final wording before the nomination is made.

6. Carol Munroe, CEO of ValleyNet, came to discuss the lane of conduit on Wetmore Road. Steve Wetmore agreed to walk the proposed route with ECFiber to establish the most appropriate siting of the line.

7. |Shawn Harlow opened 3 bids for the new fire truck slated for purchase later this year. The bids will be held until the Fire Department's careful review of exactly what is and is not covered in each bid. Shawn will appear at the next meeting on March 15, when the Select Board will decide which bid to accept.

8. Toni made available the dates for the Town Officers' Education Conference and the Select Board Institute. Kate, Toni, and Brian plan to attend the full day conference on March 24.

The board unanimously approved the propane contract with Irving Oil from March 2018 to March 2019. We agreed to put the propane contract out for bid next year.

9. The Board approved to allow the special collection of electronics at the Town Garage on May 5, requested by the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District. Four votes in favor, Brian abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Sincerely,

Kate Siepmann, Recording Clerk