

Minutes of Meeting of Town Governance Committee
December 13, 2016

Present: David Grant and John Hawkins, co-chairs; John Echeverria, Therese Linehan, Russ Farley, Roz Finn, Art Hanchett

We compared notes on what we had learned from our interviews with current and former Town officials and employees. We identified several people in this category who had not yet been interviewed and assigned a committee member to each.

We looked at the data and written responses from 148 surveys of Strafford residents.

Based on what we had learned from interviews and surveys, we discussed what we should do next to fulfill the charge to our committee. We agreed there is no clear or consistent call for significant change to the structure of town government in Strafford – the general consensus is that given the limitations on resources and the realities of human nature, we are doing pretty well. But we did feel there was interest in knowing whether there were other reasonable options to consider and, moreover, that there were several questions that deserve further consideration, if only for clarity and better understanding of how things work, or ought to work at their best.

Next steps:

- 1) John and David will prepare a summary report of what we have heard so far, to share with the Selectboard and the Town.
- 2) We will make all the raw data from the survey available to anyone who is interested and has the stamina to read it.
- 3) We will finalize our list of important questions and schedule an Open Forum in January or February to explore these questions with a larger group.
- 4) Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10th.

Submitted on behalf of the Committee
David Grant and John Hawkins