

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 6:00pm, Strafford Town Office

Members participating: Toni Pippi, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Jeff Solsaa,

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Susan Hodges, Andy Behrens

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **Public Concerns:** A resident has mentioned the issue of continued dog barking on Hemenway Road, the board discussed its options with the town Dog Officer and Lisa will follow up.
2. **Town Highways and Equipment Updates:** Jon replied that he will get the grader out on Dodge Road as soon as he is able. The TriValley Transit sign was approved to go up near the Park and Ride with guidance from the liaison. The new system of time sheet data entry for town employees is underway and will be implemented soon. Route 132 paving project is completed with the shoulder work being done last week.
There was continued discussion about the cause of the cost overruns from the contracted work on Alger Brook Road and how it got approved in the first place. The public works liaisons are working with Jon and the Contractor to understand the nature of the overage charges in the invoice.
Jon anticipates difficulties finding motor oil and tires this year due to supply chain issues.
3. **Approve minutes to the October 25th special meeting with Sharon Selectboard and October 27th regular meeting:** The board voted to approve both minutes.
4. **Town Office Immediate Repairs:** The report detailing the necessary repairs from the structural engineer has been completed and Jeff will find a contractor to do the necessary work.
5. **Budget vs Actual 2021 and begin 2022 budget process:** The 2021 Town budget is generally on track with some line items coming in over expectations and others coming in under. Work is beginning on the Town budget for the year 2022.
6. **Benefit Credit 2022:** Health insurance costs for the upcoming year have not increased like they have been doing in the recent past, the board voted to keep the employee benefit the same.
7. **Ashley Forest updates:** Updates from the work that was done since the last joint selectboard meeting with the Town of Sharon include an updated version of the Interlocal Agreement and a revision to the Conservation Easement that had not been reviewed in time for this meeting. There was discussion about when to schedule a final vote on these two documents and a time has yet to be finalized.
8. **Junk Yard Update:** The efforts to clean up certain properties is continuing with assistance from town volunteers. A boundary dispute has been clarified regarding the town owned Stanley property.
9. **Liaison updates:** The vacancy on the Conservation Committee will be posted on the list serve and on the town website, interested community members are encouraged to contact the town office.
10. **General Correspondence:**

- a. Email Rocky Fuller, RE: THAG Meeting Minutes
- b. Geoff Martin, IREC, RE: IREC FY23 Program
- c. Charles Denton, RE: Dog Ordinance Enforcement
- d. Judie Englander and John Echternach, Lori Mikusa, Laura Ogden, Stephanie, and Robert Johnston, Rockwell Fuller and Cindy Binzen, John Reese, Gus, and Cameron Speth, RE: Ashley Forest Support

The board acknowledged this correspondence.

11. Other:

- a. Green Procurement Policy: The board discussed this revised policy that has been proposed by our Energy Coordinator and endorsed by the Climate and Energy Committee and voted to adopt it.
- b. 350VT letter to Vermont Climate Council: Susan Hodges was available to clarify the intent of the 305VT letter and to ask the board to sign on to it either individually or as a board. The individual members of the board decided to sign the letter.

12. Executive Session: The board voted to go into executive session for personnel issues at 8:04 and came out of executive session at 9:15 with no action taken.

13. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kelly
for the Recording Clerk