

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Agenda-DRAFT

May 27, 2020

Justin Morrill Education Center and via Zoom

Members present: Toni Pippy, Patrik Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan

Others present: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, Jennifer Brown, Cameron Speth, Susan Hodges, Katrina DeCoff-Webster

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Public Concerns

Cameron Speth asked for clarification of who monitors the water courses in town and polluting activities. Steve Marx is the Health Officer, and has worked on river clean-up in town. No specific concerns were noted, just a general question.

Emergency Management COVID 19 update

The ICS is meeting every other week now. Shawn Harlow has agreed to be deputy to the Safety Officer, Patrik Kelly, to support for fielding the numerous questions coming to the team about safety issues related to COVID re-openings.

Town Highways and Equipment Update

- Sand and gravel contract update. Jon McKinnon reported that the Road Crew is hauling gravel this week. About half of the order has been hauled up to the garage; Jon is working with Lisa to monitor the order. The Town is getting one dollar off per ton on gravel (\$8/ton) and one dollar off per ton on sand (\$6/ton). Quality of material is very good. Lisa has prepared new contracts for sand and gravel orders; checks not yet written for the contracts. Motion passed to sign both of the contracts.
- Road equipment is fine
- Summer Projects list - Jon and Rett will prepare a list of projects so they can be tracked
- Green Up Day is May 30th. Jon is ready to deliver the collected waste to the Lebanon landfill. Need to track what is in the truck, sort the waste for the landfill.
- Grants for highways are delayed due to COVID pandemic

Correspondence

- Daily email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, RE: COVID-19, Vermont Department of Health. Also receive frequent emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC, VLTC, Jim Masland and Tim Briglin
- Letter from Emme Doyle, RE: Road Concern. Graded roads get bigger over time as grader operators try to retrieve material. Road Crew is aware and planning to narrow them as possible to make it better. Jon will call Emme and explain.
- Chris Kendall called Rett about excessive road dust. Jon is aware of the situation and the Road Crew is planning to address it tomorrow with chloride.
- Email from Stu Johnson, VT-LOCALROADS, RE: Vermont Emerald Ash Borer Update and reminder. Discussion about possible mitigation of insect invasion by taking out some trees

preemptively, as proposed by Conservation Commission. Town has \$5000 to spend. Pat will talk to Dave Paganelli to discuss options.

- Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, RE: Soliciting Public Comment on the East Central Vermont Economic Development District, 2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – comments accepted until Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Lisa will forward to the Planning Commission to review and provide comments.
- Susan Hodges, RE: the letter on Climate change (see below)
- Heather Law, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, VLCT, RE: COVID-19 Municipal Fiscal Impacts Survey. Toni completed the survey with best information available, Selectboard concurred with the input.

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the May 13th regular Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard vacancy

No one has come forward, so we will extend the vacancy announcement.

Climate change letter

Susan Hodges presented a proposed letter drafted by the Strafford Climate Action Group, which urges Gov. Scott to act on climate change issues, and which is consistent with the Town Meeting resolution of March 3, 2020. Motion passed to sign and send on Town letterhead, the proposed letter to the governor (cc: Sen. Tim Ashe and Rep. Mitzi Johnson).

Update Regional Energy Coordinator

Toni participated in the meeting for the job description and intermunicipal agreement on the Regional Energy Coordinator. The draft agreement needs to be reviewed by all seven town attorneys. Motion passed to send the draft agreement to Town attorney for review.

Signing Orders

Motion passed to appoint Toni Pippy and Mary Linehan (alternate) of the Selectboard to be authorized to approve and sign orders for payroll and operating expenses for the period May 27, 2020-March 15, 2021.

Liaison updates

Brush fire was reported last weekend. Shawn Harlow has proposed that a fine be instituted for people who burn without a permit and require the Town fire department to use materials to respond to the fire. Discussion ensued. Selectboard suggests that Fire Dept provide better public education about how to get a fire permit and clearer guidance about when fires are not allowed as a first step.

Sherry Duvencneck sent an email suggesting that use of jake brakes is increased and may warrant some control. Pat will talk to Ed Eastman to see what might be done.

Other

The Strafford Selectboard does not condone use of any language which might be interpreted as hate speech, or of an inflammatory nature, by any governing body of the town.

Toni went to the discovery meeting of the White River Watershed—a large project that will take many months to re-do the flood plain maps. Small portion of the intersection of Strafford and

Sharon, Tunbridge feeds into the White River, and input on the process is requested. Last flood plain maps are from 1990. Toni will contact the Conservation Commission regarding this initiative.

Toni will contact VLCT to provide training for new Selectboard members, to strengthen knowledge and skills for all the roles and responsibilities of Selectboard members.

Lisa noted that there is a proposal for the state to take over the billing, collection, penalties and interest for school taxes. Town clerks are concerned about the impact on tax collection for towns.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk