

Selectboard Meeting August 14, 2019

Board members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present:

Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk; Jon MacKinnon; Ham Bone; Gil Robertson; Phoebe Mix; John Echeverria; Nick Clark; Marcia Bushnell; Curt Albee; Doc Bagley; Kevin Grady

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizen Concerns:

John Echeverria expressed his concerns about the appearance of the new electrical panel on the Common. Board acknowledged his comment but has no plans to change anything.

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update

Highway Department Projects update

Town Trail parking lot has been completed. Hug's property—trees have been removed. Paving update: Blaktop is planning on paving Justin Morrill Highway in September and Jon is getting a price for the turnaround around the Common. Crack sealant is completed but they are coming back to do some touchup. FEMA projects: Robinson Road and Kibling Hill still need to be completed. New town truck will be delivered within a week or so.

Lisa would like to move forward with the Mascoma loan for 3.25 percent to finance the truck and then refinance in October at 2 percent with the state.

Jon talked with Ed Hathaway at EPA—they will rebuild the road next year. Jon told them town would touch up the culvert near Wilsons.

Cleaned up much of the material near Jill Michaels

Toni let Brett Tofel know the town's policy on rights of way.

Town graded and put chloride on Justin Morrill Highway to reduce the dust.

Town also received Municipal Roads General Program funds for ditching Freeman and Kendall roads. Town needs to put in 20 percent but can use in-kind labor.

Finally, line striping and crosswalks are done.

Asset management: spreadsheet hasn't changed but will be updated to include what we will be paving.

3. Correspondence

a) Elizabeth Mine monthly summary for July: board acknowledged receipt of email

b) Email Steve Willbanks re: Whitcomb Hill mowing. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

c) Email Jill Michaels re: dust. Please see above.

d) Email from Brett Tofel re: use of right of way. Please see above.

e) Email from George Spaneas re: grading road. Road crew graded and dropped chloride.

f) Email from Ann McLaughlin re: ATV travelers. ATV are not supposed to be on private property or roads. There is no designated ATV travel in Strafford unless riders are on their own private

property. If a rider does have permission from a private landowner, they must have a written note on their person.

g) Email from Dee Gish at Two Rivers re: Regional energy plan implementation grant. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

h) Email from Dori Wolfe re: Elizabeth Mine solar back in the “news”: Board acknowledged receipt of email.

i) Email from Bob McAllister. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

4. Approve minutes of July 24 regular meeting

Board voted to approve the minutes of July 24. Pat Kelly abstained from voting because he wasn't at the July 24 meeting.

5. Add soil and plant grass in some of the current parking area in from the Historical Society and put an 8-foot-tall fence between the brick store and town office—Phoebe Mix.

Board reviewed the property and the plan. Board moved, seconded, and approved the plan to add soil and plant grass. Board has no comment on the fence.

6. Information Nick Clark's Regional Energy Coordinator

Nick Clark presented a proposal to establish a regional energy coordinator, with costs to be shared by seven towns. This position would be a Two Rivers employee. The rationale for a position like this is to share efficiencies among towns and streamline tasks, grant writing, etc. Dog Bagley, speaking as a member of the energy committee commented that towns they see who have energy coordinators are getting a lot done and paying for themselves. He would like to see how the numbers play out for Strafford, but it would help programs currently in place and enable the town to enact more. Kevin Grady mentioned that he hoped a position like this would help enhance collaboration among towns. Energy committee members said that a consolidated regional approach would be a good idea. Questions arose regarding costs to the town and possibility of recouping the investment.

7. Energy Committee update on Windows

Energy Committee approached Window Dressers in Maine, who makes insulated window inserts. Each of the inserts saves \$27 per window per year. A group of volunteers will measure windows for people in town, give the homeowners a price for the inserts. The average cost per window is \$40, but the committee has flexibility regarding income sensitivity with the project and is also working on finding funding to cover the costs for low-income families. Group is also trying to get people to participate in community building projects to make the windows. Town could set up a revenue account for the Energy Committee to receive grant funding and donations.

8. Town Office Repairs—structural report—next steps

Structural report: Curt Albee reported that there were no structural roadblocks to the proposed renovation, and that the engineer said that removing the outside staircase, chimney, and side porch would benefit the building in the future. Engineer's general assessment was that the

second floor could carry the load required for the renovation. The board will put the project on the agenda for the next meeting to continue discussion.

9. Budget, Endowments, Audit results, Fire Truck loan

Nothing surprising in the budget.

Endowments and Frank Brown Fund: Lisa spoke with Punka Brown regarding the Frank Brown Fund. Punka agreed to turn management of this endowment to the Trustees of Public Funds. Board moved to move the \$33,069 in endowment funds from the management of Mascoma Savings Bank to the Trustees of Public Funds and their investment tools.

Audit results: Fothergill audited town balances and the town made two adjustments: one for deferred revenue and one for loan proceeds. Neither affects the bottom line.

Fire truck loan: Board voted to approve to increase the loan for the fire truck for \$806 more due to a typo in earlier minutes.

11. Other

Liaison updates: none

Unlicensed dogs: Lisa will contact the Orange County Sheriff's Department to deal with unlicensed dogs that don't have rabies certificates

9-11 meeting: August 22 at Barrett Hall at 6 p.m.

Route 132 speed study: counters have been reset. Board should have information by the end of August.

Town boundary signs: Kate has offered to determine how many signs the town needs.

No other business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk