

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

May 13, 2015

Members of the public body present: John Freitag, Steve Marx, Toni Pippy, Brent Cadwell, Brian Johnson

Members of the public body not present:

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter, John Linehan, Chris Gex, Steve Gex, Dori Wolfe, Recycling Committee and Wolfe Energy, Roz Finn, Marie Ricketts, Michael Scanlan, Recycling Committee, Thomas Kennedy, GUVSWD Manager, Zebulon Jenks, Northwoods Excavating Inc., Amy Metz, Strafford Conservation Commission, Ron Rhodes, The Connecticut River Watershed Council

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 6pm.

1.) Citizen Concerns: There were no citizen concerns.

2.) Correspondence:

Brent moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve a request to transfer The H.N. Mattison Fund whose purpose is to support the library the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library. All approved with the condition that the Library Trustees would continue to keep an account of this fund and how it is used.

John noted that since the last meeting the Board approved a time sensitive request for town sponsorship of a grant for a new sound system for the Town House. The grant was spearheaded by the Friends of the Morrill Homestead and required no expenditures of town funds.

Brent moved and Brian seconded a motion to approve a facilities use request for the Harpoon Point to Point bike fund raiser on August 8th to use the parking lot of the South Strafford Recreation area for a rest stop on their fund raising ride. All Approved.

3.) Minutes: Steve moved and Brian seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of April 22nd. Minutes were adopted unanimously.

4.) General:

Due to Tom Kennedy from the Solid Waste District being delayed the agenda was adjusted to address the following items first:

Emergency Operating Plan - The Board reviewed and signed the Emergency Operating Plan. Brian took and passed the ICS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System course.

Tax anticipation Note - Brent moved and Brian seconded a motion to approve and sign a Tax Anticipation Note which provides funding of public services until tax revenue for the year is collected. All approved. The fiscal/budget year starts on January 1, most revenue does not come in until property taxes are due on September 1 creating a need to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Shared Municipal Services - Toni received the power point presentation to the Shared Municipal Services Workshop by Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) in April. Based on a TRORC Survey, there is an interest amongst municipalities to share services. She urged the Board to continue looking into these possibilities as things arise in the future.

Audit – Lisa reported that the field work in the town office by outside auditors, Fothergill Segale & Valley, Certified Public Accounts, was completed and an audit of town funds will be finished this summer. This audit

was made necessary by our use of FEMA funds last year on bridge projects.

Budget – Lisa reported no unexpected expenses or revenues and will provide the Board with updated figures to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Dental Insurance Renewal - Toni reported that our Dental policies comes up for renewal effective July 1st. She recommended that the Board approve a provision that allows us to renew for six months. This would put the policy in alignment with our budget year as well as allow a review of what we offer in conjunction with the ongoing study on Pay and Compensation. Toni moved and Steve seconded a motion to renew the policy for six month. All approved.

EPA update on Superfund project at the Elizabeth Mine site - The Board decided that rather than have EPA and State officials meet with just the Board, to hold a public meeting at Barrett Hall to report on plans for work this summer and a new phase of the project for the Lords Brook area. John will relay this to project manager Ed Hathaway as well as to ask for the opportunity for a site visit for the public before the meeting.

Solid Waste options discussion in preparation for public meeting - Dori Wolfe , Chair of the Recycling Committee, and Tom Kennedy, District Manager, Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District reviewed and answered questions on a wide range of options to address the provisions of the Solid Waste Law, Act 148 that is effective July 1 and a collapsing recycling market. While the most economical recycling solutions required capital outlay it was noted that there are no funds in the budget this year for that purpose. The options that seem most practical for Strafford will be reviewed at the next regular Board meeting, in preparation for a June 1 Special Selectboard Meeting on Solid Waste which will be held at Barrett Hall on June 1 at 7 p.m. Date and time approved by the Board.

Steven Gex requested a comparison of the cost for picking up town waste when Durkee Rubbish Removal provided the service and the Cassela dumpster now being used at town garage. John will follow up on this request.

Conservation Committee culvert project - Ron Rhodes, The Connecticut River Watershed Council has secured enough funds to go ahead with a culvert replacement on Maple Hill Road. The project was put out to bid by the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Northwoods was the low bidder. A box culvert will be installed which is a modification from the original specifications that meets the approval of the State engineer. The project which is designed to allow better fish habitat upstream will also be an improvement on the existing culvert. The project is 100% grant funded and no town funds will be used on this project. Steve moved and Toni seconded a motion to approve The Connecticut River Watershed Council moving forward with this project. All approved.

Wolfe Energy Solar Project at Maclay property tax exemption/tax stabilization - After investigating the numbers and finding the costs of taxes for the project not that great, Dori decided to withdraw her request.

5.) Town Highways

Update - Brent gave an update on current road and equipment conditions. For the most part we are over mud season except in a few areas and even there things are much better. Equipment working well. Highway crew are now on their summer schedule of Monday – Thursday 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Farley Bridge - There is a hang up regarding moving of a power line pole which needs signed landowner approval. Brian and Brent will follow-up. Jon has or will be in touch with Russ Farley who was out of town a bridge meeting to update him on the project.

Linton Bridge – Brent reported on a meeting with State officials and landowners. Bridge replacement is now scheduled for 2017. Concerns from Roz Finn have been incorporated into the design and schedule of work.

6.) Other

Steve reported on when we can expect the activation of the cell phone repeaters and there is no new information on this. A cell phone repeater is a device used for boosting the cell phone reception to the local area and should not be confused with actual cell phone service.

The Town has been paying \$12,675 annually to GUVSWD as our share of the bond payment for a 40 acre landfill site and bridge. Toni moved and Steve seconded a motion to ask Steve Willbanks, Chair to the GUVSWD Board of Supervisors to investigate the option of selling the land fill portion of the GUVSWD site. All approved.

Toni made a motion to adjourn and Brent seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting May 27, 2015 at 6 p.m. Tentatively scheduled for Morrill Education Building (pending confirmation) to allow space for presentation of Dartmouth student project on Pay and Compensation Study.

Other Agenda items at that meeting will include: finalizing options for Solid Waste meeting and an update on the Wolfe Energy Solar Project at the Elizabeth Mine Site.

Special Selectboard Meeting on Solid Waste at Barrett Hall on June 1, 2015 @ 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Pippy