

Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Highway, Strafford Vermont 05072

Selectboard Members in Person: Toni Pippy, Andrew Duncklee, Kelly Harman, Mary Linehan

Town Clerk in Attendance: Lisa Braggs

Assistant in attendance: Chris Behr

Participants in Person: Aaron Dotter

Participants via Zoom: John Freitag, Rett Emerson

### **Budget 2026 - (a) Strafford Fire and FAST Squad – Aaron Dotter**

With Aaron present, Toni decided to start with this item. The fire department budget was submitted with the dispatch as the only change from using the Hanover dispatch, which has a few issues. The board agreed to the change in principle and would like to see the agreement. The dispatch will have its own budget line so future changes in cost are monitored.

### **1. Highway**

a) Equipment and roads - Nothing to report

b) Annual Stormwater Review – PD is aware of the required maintenance

c) Projects Update on outstanding items. A few items remaining: guardrails for Van Dyke Rd, culvert for Kibling / Brook Rd, repair on Freeman Rd. Once these are completed, the State will sign off.

d) Purchase speed sign for upper village - To be reviewed with Jeff Solsaa.

e) Speed Study

Mary stated that we missed the window for striping the crossing by the church and the work will be done next Spring.

Mary also stated that the preschool asked for a "School" road sign. The Selectboard agrees in principle, and will check regulations to verify if other permissions are required.

A brief review of the [speed study analysis](#) followed. Chris will follow up with a list of steps necessary to lower the speed limit.

Rett Emerson voiced his support for lowering the speed limit.

f) Illegal Dumping- Old City Falls Road - nothing to report

### **2. Draft minutes approval**

Approval of the November 11 Dog Hearing minutes requires Jeff Solsaa's presence and is tabled.

Andrew Duncklee moved to approve the minutes of the November 13 Selectboard meeting. Kelly Harman seconded. All approved.

### **3. Budget 2026**

- (a) See above
- (b) Health Credit benefits decision was given to Lisa. For the compensation, wait until the full board is present.
- (c) Outstanding budget requests - Lisa to follow up with a letter.
- (d) Brief discussion about the attorney fees increase

### **4. Property Sale**

Tabled until Jeff Solsaa is present

### **5. Liaison Updates**

a) The lister position vacancy is still open. Tim Denny took the training and performed the work to update the parcel maps, and is asking for reimbursement. Toni moved to release \$1,000 of the existing allocation for Tim Denny's training and work to update the parcel maps. Mary Linehan seconded. All approved.

A report about appointees and the other vacancies:

- b) Ned Coffin Building Communities Committee vacancy
- c) Town House Advisory Committee appoint Welly Ramsey and Lori Mikusa
- d) Ashley Community Forest Board vacancy
- e) Development Review Board vacancy
- f) Tree Warden vacancy
- g) GUVSWD – Strafford Representative at monthly meetings (Jeff Solsaa may have a suggestion for this vacancy)

### **6. Other - None**

### **7. Executive Session**

Toni Pippy moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the litigation and negotiation strategy related to the appeal to the environmental court of the Town DRB's decision in the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Mary Linehan seconded. All approved.

Toni Pippy moved to enter into executive session to discuss the appeal of Rachel Kendall's application for a conditional use permit under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Mary Linehan seconded. All approved.

The Selectboard moved into executive session at 6:40pm.

At 6:55pm, Toni Pippy moved to exit the executive session with no decisions made. Mary Linehan seconded. All approved.

At 6:59pm, Andrew Duncklee moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Linehan seconds. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.