

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 6pm,
Strafford Town Office

Present: Toni Pippy, Mary Linehan (via zoom), Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, David Paganelli

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, John Freitag, Stuart Crocker, Mary Thompson, Greg Colling

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Organization of Board.

- Election of Officers, Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Clerk. Motion passed to elect Toni Pippy as Chair, Mary Linehan as Vice Chair and as Recording Clerk.
- Review and sign Selectboard Rules of Procedure. Motion passed to sign Selectboard Rules of Procedure.
- Review and sign Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct for the Town of Strafford.
- Appoint Board members to be authorized to approve and sign orders for payroll and operating expenses for the period March 2, 2022 to March 10, 2023. Motion passed for Brian Johnson and Toni Pippy to authorize and sign orders for payroll and operating expenses for the period March 2, 2022 to March 10, 2023.

2. Public Concerns. None

3. Town Road Crew, Highways and Equipment Update.

- a. Brook Road Bridge Railing Repair. Jeff Solsaa reported discussions with Winterset, who advised that nothing can be done to repair the guardrails that will bring the bridge up to AOT standards. Ballpark estimate to repair and replace with metal band is \$25,000; \$50,000 to repair the concrete pillars that have been damaged. Emergency grant funds may be available. Insurance claim is being submitted. Winterset will be requested to submit a formal quote.
- b. Bids to construction for ditching and culvert replacements on Miller Pond Road and Old City Falls Road. Meeting with contractors was held. Blue Mountain had the lowest bid and was selected for the work. Jeff will seek an additional quote for a mud hole that occur each mud season near the intersection of Old City Falls and Van Dyke Roads to redirect the water.
- c. BR#23 bid due April 13 and letter to landowner for temporary by-pass 8025-9040. Landowner has been contacted and has indicated willingness to allow by-pass. Contractors Northwoods and Daniels have done a site visit. Clarification is being sought re: terms of the contract. Jeff will contact Chris Bump.
- d. FY23 Structures Grant and Paving Grant to decide. Have not yet submitted the grants. Proposed that a bridge on Taylor Valley be the site for the Structures Grant. Paving grant site is TBD. Discussion of how to find funds for Brook Road repairs, which as a Class 3 road is not eligible for these grants.
- e. Mud Season, post gravel roads and use of gravel. Road crew is trying some new mitigation strategies for managing the mud, including grading prior to big snow fall to get ahead of the situation. Jeff Solsaa road along with the crew on a 4-mile early

- morning plowing session recently, covering 14 miles, and reported that he developed a greater understanding of the challenges the road crew faces, and greater appreciation for their skill and dedication. Chair reports that there is currently \$15,000 available for additional gravel and PD should be informed that he can purchase the gravel he needs.
- f. Motion passed to sign the road posting for vehicle weight restriction.
 - g. Equipment grant for \$6,000 for grader roller attachment has been previously discussed, however, the total cost of the attachment is \$36,000. Discussion about various equipment that the grant can be used for. Grant needs to be spent by June 2022. Further consideration required to finalize optimal choice of how to use the grant.
 - h. Motion passed to sign the annual financial plan for the town highways.
 - i. Andrus Road will not be added to Town highway mileage at this time. Additional research is required.
4. Approve minutes to the February 23, regular meeting and February 19th Informational Hearing. Motion passed to approve the February 23rd regular meeting and February 19th Informational Hearing minutes. Brian Johnson and David Paganelli abstained.
 5. Review letters of interest and appoint 2 volunteers (1 for two years and 1 for 3 years) to serve on the Ashley Community Forest Board. Motion passed to appoint Anne Penfield for the 3-year term and David Paganelli for the 2-year term.
 6. General Correspondence.
 - a. Ed Hathaway, EPA, RE: Elizabeth Mine
 - b. Geoff Martin, RE: IREC February Progress Report
 - c. Roz Finn, RE: Our Community
 - d. Rita Seto, TRORC, RE: Municipal Complete Streets Reporting form
 - e. Mike Hebb, RE: Please preserve the O'Neil Trail Access
 - f. David Lutz, RE: Brainstorm idea that I want to share for town office
 7. Junkyard Ordinance Update. Attorney for the Benjamin and Clark junkyard citations has provided letters notifying the Town that privacy fences will be put in place by June 2022. The two other non-compliant sites continue to be pursued.
 8. Liaison Updates
 - a. Planning Commission Vacancy. Steve Wilbanks and Jason Schumacher will not continue on the Planning Commission. Two vacancies will be posted.
 - b. ECFiber 2nd alternate. Tabled.
 9. Other.
 - Discussion re: sale of town properties and re-evaluation of assessment values.
 - PACIF grant of \$2,500 has been identified for ergonomic office equipment (desk and chair) and an additional \$2,500 for safety equipment for the Town Garage. Lisa will move forward on these grants.
 - Liaison Updates for Emergency Crew, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Development Review Board--Brian Johnson; Recreation Board, Conservation Commission--David Paganelli; Town House Advisory Board--Lisa Bragg; Health Office Support--Jeff Solsaa. All others stayed the same.

- Open Appointments. Reviewed all current and open appointments for committees and commissions. Motion to reinstate all appointees whose position is up for consideration except for the Zoning appointment. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion to appoint Brian Johnson as Zoning Administrator. All in favor, Brian abstained.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk