

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
September 27, 2017

Members of the public body present: Toni Pippy, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, John Freitag

Other active participants: Town Clerk/ Administrative Assistant Lisa Bragg, Road Foreman/ Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon, June Solsaa

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

- 1.) Citizen Concerns – There were no citizen concerns
- 2.) A motion was made, seconded, and all approved to go into executive session at 6:05 to discuss a personnel issue. The Board voted to exited executive session at 6:20pm with Brian dissenting and all other Board members in favor. No action taken
- 3.) Correspondence - The Board reviewed correspondence regarding a series of incidents at the Town House and how best to handle policy questions. John will send out a letter explaining proper procedure to the party involved.
- 4.) A motion was made and seconded to approve Minutes of September 13, 2017. The minutes were approved by all without changes.
A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Town Plan Hearing on September 13, 2017. The minutes were approved by all without changes.
- 5.) Town Highways
 - a.) Road and Equipment update: Jon updated the Board on road and equipment. It was noted that John Thorp had sustained an injury at home on the weekend of September 17 and 18 and will be out of work until cleared by a doctor to resume his regular duties. All equipment is operational and regular maintenance and stockpiling of sand ongoing. Work on armoring the area around the Old City Road Bridge near nature preserve still to be done this fall by Northwood's. The replacement of the bridge on Old City Road near Kendall Road will be put out for bid this year with the work to be done next summer.
 - b.) Bridge sign off – It was moved and seconded to sign off on the completion of the State bridge project between Coburns Store and the Catholic Chapel. All approved.
 - c.) July 1 storm and FEMA update - Jon reported that the sections of Rte. 132 affected by the storm have been repaved. Final work on edges still to be done. Three of the contractors who were selected to do the repairs to be covered by FEMA are now at work in town. Toni brought up that unlike Hurricane Irene where the Town had extra help with the FEMA paperwork, Lisa was doing it all herself this time and it has required a good deal of extra work. The Board agreed to have the hours covered by FEMA funds that Lisa has put into this project which are reimbursable to be paid in addition to her regular salary. The Board also approved having retired state highway engineer Rod Maclay who has been assisting Jon MacKinnon and whose time is reimbursable to be paid for the hours he has put in as well.
 - d.) It was brought to the Board's attention that a series of hearings on a new law regarding Storm Water Discharge for Municipal Roads are being held around the state.
- 6.) General

- A.) Dog Officer update and concerns - Dog Officer Janet Hardy reported on her efforts to trap feral cats. She has been working with Lucy Mackenzie Animal Shelter to place the cats and kittens. This has been an extremely labor intensive effort. While all cats and kittens that have been trapped have found homes, it has taken a good deal of time and gas on her part as traps need to be checked on a 3 hour basis and then trapped cats taken to shelter. The Board agreed with Janet while there is still a need the Town cannot afford to do any more this year. The Board asked that Janet submit a bill for her efforts this year and agreed to use what money there is in a reserve fund to help cover the costs. The Board also recognized that Janet does an outstanding job of dealing with both dogs and cats and there will be a significant increase in the amount in the budget for next year.
- b.) Home burials – It was noted that June Solsaa recently had a burial plot put on her land for the ashes of her late husband Larry. June went through all the needed procedures which are outlined in a booklet put out by the state.
- c. Adopt Town Plan - It was moved and seconded to adopt the Town Plan as presented at the September 13 Town Plan Hearing. All approved. Stephen Marx took the opportunity to express his appreciation to all who worked on the Town Plan and the way the Selectboard part of the process was handled with the guidance and hard work of Toni Pippy and the public outreach by Kate Siepmann.
- d.) Senior Center Appointment - The Board all agreed to appoint Susan Coburn as Strafford's representative to the South Royalton Senior Center for another 3 year term.
- e.) Errors and Omissions: The Board approved an Error and Omissions finding on property owned by Dick Josler and all voted to reimburse him for an overpayment and adjust his property taxes for this year.
- f.) July 1 storm loan: The Board signed a previously approved loan of \$500,000 from Mascoma Savings Bank to cover the payments for repairs for the July 1, storm event. The cost of the loan at 1.5% interest will be reimbursed with FEMA and other federal and state funds except for the 12.5% town share as projects are completed and get final approval.
- g.) Elizabeth Mine: The Board received notice that an adjustment in a small portion of the fence around the solar project at the Elizabeth Mine Solar project has been made.
- h.) Constable Contract: The Board approved a new contract from the state for monitoring of the Morrill Homestead by Constable Ed Eastman.
- I.) Special Town Meeting; The Board approved and signed the Warning for a Special Town Meeting at the Town House on November 7, 2017. It is needed to renew the tax exemptions for Barrett Hall and the Fire Department buildings.
- j.) Liaison updates: John reported that Lisa and Kate and he are finishing up work on a Historic Preservation Grant for the Strafford Town House and it will be done before the deadline of October 2.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:25 pm and all agreed

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, Substitute Secretary