

**Strafford Selectboard Meeting
10-24-18**

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp

Others present: Gil Robertson, Jennifer Brown for *The Herald of Randolph*, Janet Cavanaugh for the Energy Committee, Bill Burden

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizens Concerns:

No citizens' concerns

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update:

- a) Grant proposal was put together by Lisa Bragg and Jon MacKinnon for storm water management on Pennock Road. Board voted to approve the grant application.
- b) Sand and gravel budget: Board working with road foreman to determine how much sand and gravel town has bought for future budgeting purposes.
- c) Truck bid: Board will discuss this at the next meeting
- d) South Strafford sidewalk snow removal: Sidewalks are exhibiting some damage due to the current snow removal method. Brian will discuss with the contractor responsible for plowing to let him know he shouldn't use a pickup truck to clear sidewalks. Board will review dates of contract.
- e). Letter from Sulynn Brown re: Van Dyke Road and scheduling road repairs. Board acknowledged receipt of the letter and John Freitag will respond.

3. Approve Minutes of October 10 and October 11:

Board moved, seconded and voted to approve minutes of October 10 with minor edits.

Board moved, seconded and voted to approve minutes of October 11.

4. Correspondence:

- a) Email from John Schmeltzer, Tyson Bridge inspection. Bridge will be inspected.
- b) Email from S. Cloke re: grass status. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- c) Email from Mike Sacca re: Ashley Community Forest. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- d) Email from Nadia Lugo at VTrans re: EV charging equipment at municipal park and rides. Board forwarded the email to the Energy Committee
- e) Email from Ed Hathaway re: public information meeting about progress at Elizabeth Mine at Barrett Hall on November 28, 7 p.m. Board noted the information.
- f) Email from Mark Castro re: sale of trailer. Board acknowledged receipt of email.
- g) Email from Mike Hebb re: Furnace Flat/Whitcomb Hill right of way. Tree branches are encroaching on the right of way to Whitcomb Hill and causing safety concerns. Recommendation by the Conservation Commission is to cut down overhanging limbs in the right of way. The board will tell the road crew to trim the limbs. Regarding Stoklas Road: A

member of the Conservation Commission noted that the road was blocked by tree limbs. The board will contact property owners to remove the barrier.

h) Email from Steve Willbanks clarifying above email. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

i) Email from Steve Willbanks re: maintenance plan for Whitcomb Hill. Board acknowledged receipt of email and plan and will discuss at the next meeting.

j) Email from Tori Lloyd re: granite curbing. Board acknowledged receipt of email.

5. Budget 2018

2019 Benefit Credit decision: Board moved, seconded, and voted to apply a 3 percent increase in the benefit credit.

Bridge 19: documents for reimbursement have been submitted. Some of the FEMA payments were received for work done by the town. Northeast Resource Recovery Association agreement for recycling contract for 2019 was received by the board. The cost of recycling will go up by approximately \$3,000 next year. Board moved, seconded, voted to sign the contract.

6. ButtonUp Hero Level: Janet Cavanaugh presented Efficiency Vermont's ButtonUp program. They are offering free house walkthroughs to assess energy efficiency and can provide estimates for weatherization. The kickoff event will take place at Barrett Hall on November 8 at 7 p.m., where people can sign up for the walkthrough assessment and receive information for heat saver loans. Residents can also sign up online through December 8 at www.buttonupvermont.org.

7. General:

a) Liaison updates: no updates to report

b) Onboarding new hire process: board discussed various items regarding the new hire.

c) General election—November 6: board will participate as members of the Board of Civil Authority

d) Update on pole removal: email received from EC Fiber CEO Carol Monroe regarding poles.

e) Letter to GMP from Bill Burden, Emergency Manager. Bill Burden wrote a letter to GMP, thanking them for their quick response to the recent power outage.

8. Other:

There is a tree in the river in the Upper Village that is causing concern about spring flooding. Jon MacKinnon will talk to Pat Ross at the Agency of Natural Resources to determine next steps for removal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.