

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

July 13, 2016

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

Other active participants: Road Foreman and Public Works Supervisor, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter, Ellen Langtree, Lindsey and Jim Evans and their two children, Steve Campbell, John Echeverria, .Russ Farley

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 6:00 p.m.

1) **Citizen Concerns:** There were no citizen's concerns.

2) **Correspondence (copies of these documents are available at the Town Clerk's Office) –**

An email from Karen Horn of VLCT, RE: E-911 Dispatch - Survey

An email from David Grant, RE: Governance Committee

A letter from the Elizabeth McLane for the Conservation Committee

A letter from Stefanie Johnston with suggestions for parking during events in the Upper Village

3.) Minutes –Steve Marx made a motion and Toni seconded to approve the June 22nd minutes. All approved.

4.) Town Highways - road and equipment update – The equipment is in good shape the dirt/gravel roads are being graded, ditched and chloride is being applied to keep the dust down. Ward bridge update- the project is moving along well and will finish on schedule. The Town received two quotes for the paving work; Pike Industries, Inc. was for \$61.47 per ton, total project amount \$197.409, Blaktop, Inc. was for \$59.30 per ton, total project amount \$192,121. A motion was made by Brent and seconded by Brian to give the contract to Blacktop. All approved.

Highway access – Old access permits - Jon reported back to the Board that he is inspected the driveways that had not been approved in the past due to a lapse in the paperwork. A motion was made by Toni and was seconded by Brent to approve these permits. All approved.

Carpenter Hill access approval. Brent recused himself from participating in this agenda item due to a conflict of interest. Jon reported to the board that he has examined the driveway and recommends that the Board approve the request. John Echeverria urged the Select Board to reject this application. Toni made a motion to approve the highway access permit and it was seconded by Steve Marx. John Freitag, Toni and Brian voted for and Steve Marx voted against. Brent (no vote) joined the meeting after this decision

Linehan/Black permit to proceed. Jon has granted a permit to proceed. Brent made a motion and Toni seconded to approve this permit to proceed. All approved

5.) General

Town Plan update – Steve Campbell updated the Board about the progress of the Town Plan. There will be two new chapters in the Town Plan covering future economic development and flood resilience. Two Town forums will be scheduled for presentation and discussion.

Vermont Appraisal Contract – Brent made a motion and Brian seconded to renew our contract with the Vermont Appraisal Company. This is an 18 month contract that starts 7/1/16 and ends 12/31/17. All approved.

Ned Coffin Gift to the Town – The Town has received a \$50,000 gift from the Estate of Edmund Coffin, Late of Strafford, Vermont. The funds will be placed in a public fund called “Community Building Award”. By

committee an award will be granted annually to recognize the efforts pertaining to “Community Building”. Steve Marx made a motion and Brent seconded that the Board sign the letter of acceptance of this generous gift. All Approved. A letter thanking the Coffin Family will be sent.

Two Rivers agreement to work on Erosion Road grant – Brent made a motion and Steve Marx seconded for the Board to sign the TRORC Agreement to assist the Town with Better Roads Project. All approved.

Appointment of Meg Albee to Recreation Board – Toni made a motion and Brian seconded to appoint Meg Albee to the Recreation Board. All approved.

Tennis Court update – We have received funds and pledges enough to begin the work on the tennis courts. Jon MacKinnon will be the Clerk of the Works on the project. John Freitag will coordinate with the Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing Company to go over the project along with the Recreation Board.

Town Office Upstairs heat issue update – A thermostat switch will be installed to regulate the air conditioner.

Dog kennel and dog licenses update – We are still pursuing the licensing of several dogs in town. Toni asked that the cover to the dog house be installed.

Town governance committee update – The Board agreed to table making decisions on the leadership of the committee until the end of August.

Conservation Committee Project - The Board received a letter from Elisabeth McLane of the Strafford Conservation Commission requesting permission and to accept funding for a project within the Strafford, VT portion of the Taylor Valley region to eliminate the invasive tree “glossy buckthorn” (*Rhamnus frangula*). Brent made a motion and Steve seconded permitting the project with the provisions that it would be with written permission from the landowners, not cost any town money, and that there be some safety orientation for volunteers. All approved.

6.) Other –

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Steve seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Special Board Meeting to set the Tax Rate, 7/20/16 at 6 p.m. at the town Office

7/27/16 Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m. at the Town Office

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Pippy