

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 13, 2015

NOTE: These Minutes are draft only and are not official until approved/adopted at a meeting of the Strafford Board of Selectmen.

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1) Selectboard meeting minutes include

- (A) All members of the public body present;
- (B) All other active participants in the meeting;
- (C) All motions, proposals and resolutions made, offered and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and
- (D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Although meeting minutes have complied with 1 V.S.A. § 312 (b)(1), any additional information is included as a courtesy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public body present:

Rod Maclay, Chair, Brian Johnson, Steve Marx, and John Freitag, Select Board Members.

Other active participants:

Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary, Jennifer Brown, Randolph Herald

Citizens present: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS CONCERNS: None.

MINUTES: Rod presented the December 17, 2014, January 5, 2015 and January 9, 2015 minutes to the Select Board for their approval

- 1.) December 17, 2014 minutes were approved with the following changes: The following line was deleted : "Brent wants the minutes to clarified to state the bid policy was followed for the purchase of the equipment replacement "
- 2.) Under the section Employee Compensation Decision the following was added: "John was in favor of continuing the same increases we gave last year. He felt that holding off on adding more hours or making other changes until after the Vermont League of Cities and Towns study on our employee compensation is complete would be a good course of action. He also felt that having the same increase as last year would be more in line with what we are giving the road crew."

Steve made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. Brian seconded. All approved December 17, 2014 minutes approved as amended.

Brian made a motion to accept the January 5, 2015 and January 9, 2015 minutes as written. Steve seconded. All approved the January 5, 2015 and January 9, 2015 minutes.

GENERAL:

Late Filed Homestead Declaration - John F. made a motion to change the late filed homestead rate to 3% which is the same as the non-residential rate. Brian seconded. Rod and Brian voted against. John and Steve voted in favor. Decision deferred to Select Board meeting when all 5 members are present. Lisa stated that it is a revenue loss if we change the homestead penalty to 3%. In 2014, the late homestead penalties assessed were about \$7100.00. Rod feels that we should keep the penalty at 8%, because it is revenue that goes to the town.

TOWN HIGHWAYS:

Agreement for Road Sand – Rod presented a contract to pre-buy road sand from Bogie Farms. Lisa indicated we have done this for several years now. Select Board discussed and determined it would be a savings of \$2000 to pre-buy. Steve motioned to accept the contract for road sand. Brian seconded. Motion passed.

Certificate of Compliance Town Road and Bridge Standards – Lisa stated that we have town road and bridge standards. We need to sign a compliance certificate every year so that we can apply for State grants and FEMA money. Steve made a motion to sign the certificate of compliance. Brian seconded. All approved signing the certificate. Motion passed.

Certificate of Highway Mileage – This certificate is to certify the number of miles of each class of road that the town currently has. No changes were made to roads and their classes in the past year. Brian made a motion to sign the certification. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

GENERAL:

Pre-Town meeting – Lisa discussed with Gigi Graner and we could have Pre-town meeting on Thursday Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. John F. suggested that Steve, as liaison to the School Board coordinate the Pre-town meeting with the School Board.

Paul Gilles reviewed the NorTRAX equipment proposal and he said that it is legally acceptable. Paul G. is writing an attorney's letter to accompany the proposal. John F. asked for an update on the total cost in the purchase agreement. Lisa reported that the updated total purchase price of the equipment is \$176,900. Lisa doesn't have the paperwork on the loan agreement.

Rod reported that we will need to put out to bid the mowing of the Evergreen Cemetery and the Town House and Common mowing.. S. Higgins has the contract for clean-up this spring. Lisa suggested that perhaps going forward, we should combine the spring cleanup

with the mowing of the Town House and Common into one bid. The mowing bid will be advertised in March.

Rod presented a letter from the State of Vermont on a Bridge Inspection of Old City Falls Bridge and erosion below the bridge. Rod stated that the Select Board needs to answer the letter from the State within 60 days stating when the town anticipates making repairs. Rod wants to table to discussion to a future meeting.

Lisa reported to the Select Board that she intends to run for re-election as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meetings; January 14, 2015, January 16, 2015 and January 19, 2015 and all are at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the budget. Steve Willbanks and Bob Johnston will attend the January 16, 2015 meeting to discuss Historical Society, Recycling/Waste Disposal and EC Fiber.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Prescott
Recording Secretary