

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 6:00pm, Strafford Town Office

Members participating: Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, Sue Coburn, Calvin Benjamin, Josh Kahan, Jennifer Brown, Rebecca Emeny, Anne Peyton, Mike Davey, Geoff Martin, Sherry Duvenek.

Meeting called to order at 6:00

1. Public Concerns - Calvin Benjamin related that he was doing some work at a residence on Miller Pond Road and was yelled at by a member of the road crew over an issue of a vehicle turnaround and whether this is an official town truck turnaround or private property. Mary asked Jon MacKinnon to look into it and clarify.
2. Town Highways and Equipment Update - Jon reports that the planned start date for the paving of Route 132 from Barrett Hall to the top of Sharon Hill is in the last week of August and he is hoping to have all the striping and crosswalks painted before the start of school.

The town has received one application for the vacant town road crew position and the liaison will schedule an interview along with Jon.

Lisa informed the board that the town has received a state grant to do bridge repair in the amount of \$200,000 and that the funds will need to be spent in the next 2 years. The board voted to accept this grant.

Josh Kahan has applied for a highway access permit for his property on Pennock Road. Jon has visited the site and recommends that the board approve the permit and the selectboard voted to approve the highway access permit.

3. General Correspondence :
 - a. Email from Michael Stoffel and Rebecca Emery, RE: Speeding in South Strafford - this is addressed in item 5 below.
 - b. Email David Harris, RE: Speeding in South Strafford, item 5 below.
 - c. Geoff Martin, RE: IREC July Report - see item 6 below
 - d. Email from Jackie Chase, RE: Chickens - Liaison has contacted her and advised as to how to proceed with concerns.
 - e. Ed Hathaway, EPA, RE: Elizabeth Mine Update for July 2021 - acknowledged.
 - f. Richard Watts, Director, Center for Research on Vermont, RE: Town internship program with UVM – next steps - This item was tabled until the next regular meeting
 - g. Thomas Kennedy, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, Executive Director, RE: City of Lebanon Municipal Solid Waste Agreement between City of Lebanon, NH Agreement is a redo will explain at the meeting - This item was tabled until the next meeting.
4. Approve minutes to the July 28th regular and July 30th special meetings - The board voted to approve both minutes.
5. Traffic safety concerns, South Strafford village, 6:30pm – Rebecca Emeny spoke of her and some of her neighbor's continued concerns about speeding in South Strafford village. She said she appreciated the radar speed sign being placed in the village but is asking for more to be done to try to calm the traffic down. This is a congested area with many children and adults crossing the street and on sidewalks. Sue Coburn spoke as a resident of the village for 30 years and said that a solution is hard to find as this is a through road and many drivers are from out of town and that a certain amount of noise and inconvenience is to be expected

when living on Main Street. Jon reported that there are crosswalk signs available that are placed in the middle of the road but that they need to be put up and taken down daily. Pat has looked into the costs of solar powered radar speed signs that are used in other parts of the state with good results and suggested we revisit the traffic study that was done 2 years ago. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting when the full board is available.

6. Energy Services Performance Contracting -Town Garage, EEI Evaluation and proposal - Geoff Martin joined via zoom and introduced a presentation on energy savings at the town garage. Mike Davey from EEI has done a no cost walk through energy audit at the town garage and submitted a proposal for energy efficiency upgrades to the building. He focused on the town garage as it is the biggest town owned user of energy and uses over 3000 gallons of propane annually, he looked at heating, ventilation, and power usage as well as what kinds of equipment upgrades to recommends. EEI is a smaller local company that is independent of any equipment manufacturer and would guarantee energy savings, Mike toured the building with an engineer and a roofing consultant. The proposal recommends moving away from propane heat and installing an electric heat pump system along with a smart monitoring and control system. Also mentioned were weatherstripping doors and replacing the few remaining light fixtures that are not LED. His proposal totaled \$106,000 and the estimated energy savings would be \$3500 annually, although a large benefit would come from the opportunity to switch over to a carbon neutral fuel source. Many questions were asked by the board and there was a concern that the problem of condensation in building was not being addressed and that this would be a costly fix. The board will look over this proposal and address this at a future meeting.
7. Town Office Planning Committee Update – Mary reports that the committee has pretty much finished up their work and is compiling all the input and research that they have done and will make a report to the selectboard at a future meeting.
8. Ashley Forest updates – Pat reports that the most recent draft of the Conservation Easement and Interlocal Agreement are being completed and that they will be ready soon for review by the town attorney and for a final selectboard vote.
9. Junk Yard Update – Jeff reports that he is working closely with the Orange County Sheriffs and that some citations were issued for non-compliance according to the town ordinance and that he is available for any communication to find solutions and that he is hopeful that we can get resolution.
10. Liaison updates – Rett reports that he continues to try to get the old power poles removed from the roadsides.
11. Other – Lisa reports that just over \$50,000 in ARPA Funds have been received from the Federal Government as part of the recently passed American Recovery Act. This money has restrictions on what it can be used on, there are no plans yet on how to use these funds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kelly
for the Recording Clerk