

## **Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard July 25, 2018**

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Members present: Jon MacKinnon, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp, Lisa Bragg

Other citizens present: Annie Peyton, Blythe Davis, Andy Milne, Brad Atwood, John Sakalowski, Allan Wylie, Tim Briglin, John Stableford, Dierdre Dennis, Jennifer Brown for the *Randolph Herald*, Mike Hebb, Shawn Harlow, Andrew Lane, Lianne Thomashow

### **Citizens' Concerns:**

Allan Wylie is concerned that the temperature in the listers' office is excessive. EC Fiber wants to put an air conditioner in the closet where the computers are located. Listers would like the town to consider partnering with EC Fiber to put in air conditioning in the listers' office, which would benefit both. Alan and Lisa Bragg will work with EC to determine their needs and the cost to install and run air conditioning in the office.

### **Town Highways and Equipment Update:**

Crew has been grading, adding chloride, cold patching when necessary. Jon reported that the EPA has replaced two culverts on the Mine Road and will do one more and pave over all three before winter. Bids for the tractors are all in; one is not valid because it doesn't adhere to the specs submitted. Best bid is still \$139,000, which includes the attachments needed as part of the bid (blower, street sweeper, and mower). Motion was made to approve the bid with the proviso that the interest rate will be no higher than 4 percent. Motion was carried. Jon M. has specs for the new plow truck and will put the truck out to bid. The truck will not be available until next year. Motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Board approved the placement of an employment ad for a new road crew member. Ad will be in Better Backroads, *Valley News*, and the listserv. Applications are due August 8.

### **Approve Minutes of July 11, 2018:**

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of July 11 meeting. Board approved.

### **Correspondence:**

Email from Mike Sacca re: Ashley Community Forest. The Board agreed to sign the letter of support for the Ashley Community Forest.

Email from Ed Hathaway, EPA re: trucks hauling topsoil from I89. Toni will contact Ed to determine a count of the number of trucks.

Email from Paul Costello re: Vermont Leadership Summit on October 1. Kate has offered to attend.

FEMA updates: Our town-wide project has been approved and will go through the queue for reimbursement. The last 2 went in to the CRC (Central Resource Center) for processing.

**Furnace Flat/Whitcomb Hill:**

Noted in the minutes that the board received emails from the following people regarding this issue:

Robert McAllister; Peter Orgain; John Reese; Anne Peyton; Phyl Harmon; Marianne Wakerlin; Morgan Smith; John Eccheverria; Silas Treadway; Ellen Langtree; Blythe Davis

Discussion over whether or not town will continue work on a turnaround on the Class 4 section of Furnace Flat Road. Landowners whose property the road abuts made statements to the board outlining their concerns about the turnaround. A representative from the conservation commission explained the rationale for the turnaround. Landowners presented TH14 as a precedent for making their road a trail. Other residents of the road also weighed in on the issue. Landowner agreed to allow vehicles to turn around on the right of way if the board agreed to take two signs down (one at top and one at bottom). Motion made not to do a turnaround and put up a sign that says, Caution: Road Not Maintained. Park here. At the top, the current sign will stay. put another sign with appropriate wording for that area. Motion was seconded. Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**Set 2018 Tax Rate for Billing:**

Motion was made, seconded, and approved a tax rate of .6563, prepared by Lisa and verified by Toni. Details: the total Grand List amounts to \$1,830,627. The total tax rate for the town went down from .6699 in 2017 to .6563.

**GMP Power Poles:**

GMP still has not removed poles from Barrett Hall to the mine. It is holding up the town's ability to widen the road and they are unsightly. John will draft a letter to GMP for Toni to sign, asking for a schedule of when the poles will be removed.

**General:**

Liaison updates: none

Governance Committee: John wrote an article for the Strafford News and listserv on the responsibilities of the selectboard.

**Other:**

Furnace Flat signage: End of Furnace Flat Road sign will stay as is. The board has not and will not authorize use of surveillance cameras on town property. A motion was made and seconded that the town will not allow the use of any surveillance/game cameras on town property. Board unanimously approved the motion.

Thank You Gathering: the gathering has been postponed, but the thank yous are genuine. The board appreciates all the hard work of volunteers in town.

Donation: the board accepted a \$500 donation to Trustees of Public Funds with gratitude.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauri Berkenkamp

Recording Clerk