

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
September 10, 2014

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, Brent Cadwell, and John Freitag, Select Board Members

**Other active participants:**

Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary, Jennifer Brown, Reporter Herald of Randolph

Citizens present: Janet Hardy, Dori Wolfe (departed at 7:34), Rocky Fuller (departed at 7:10). Marie Ricketts, Lee Vormelker arrived at 8:18 p.m.

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

**CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Rocky Fuller brought 2 items to the Select Board on behalf of the Town House Advisory Group. 1. Kendall Mix' memorial service will be on 9/21/14. Kendall's' daughter contacted Rocky and the family plans a catered reception and they would like wine to be served at it. The current policy in rental agreement says no wine can be served at events at the Town House. The THAG is asking the Board to consider an exception to the policy for this event and to allow wine to be served. Rocky stated that Mrs. Mix contributed greatly and provided a lot of service to the town. Rocky feels that as a town, we should show gratitude to the Mix family and honor their request. Rocky is requesting that the town cover the cost of the insurance as a thank you to family and all the contributions Mrs. Mix made to the town. Rocky also stated that the family asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are made to the Town House. Lisa will contact the league to ask for prices and coverage. Rocky also suggested that we need to look at the possibility of serving alcohol in the future. 2. Lisa contacted Rocky re: historic preservation grants with an application deadline of October 30. THAG is trying to decide if they should apply for a grant, which is a matching grant. THAG needs to know where the matching funds would come from. As far as he knows, no money has been set aside in town budget. Also, THAG has its hands full with work they are doing on the back house. Rocky will report on THAG progress at the next meeting. The Select Board will get back to Rocky on these decisions.

MINUTES: August 27, 2014 minutes. The following edits to the minutes were noted; Steve Marx will talk with Blake Spencer re: insulation in town garage – NOT heating. Brian got a quote from Ben – NOT Ed at AHT. Brent moved to accept minutes with the noted edits. Seconded by Brian. August 27, 2014 minutes approved by everyone with noted corrections.

Lisa wanted to comment on the minutes of 8/27/2014. Paul Perkins asked about the posting of the agenda since the law changed. Lisa confirmed all agendas had been posted in compliance with the law, except for the August 27, 2014 agenda, which did not get posted due to Lisa having family issues. Regina posted the August 13 meeting agenda. Places the agenda is posted are; post office in Strafford, town clerk's office and Coburn's store. The 8/27 agenda was not posted on the website. There weren't any motions that were made at the 8/27 meeting, other than approving the minutes. Lisa stated that previously on the website, she would post the new agenda and remove the old agenda. Now, all agendas will be posted on the website in pdf format.

## GENERAL

Solar Project Update – Wolfe Energy got certificate of public good to install solar panels near Strafford Saddlery. The fence that surrounds the panels will be 70' x 30'. Dori committed that the project will not cost any more to Select Board. The energy produced by the panels will be used to power Newton School, Barrett Hall, the library and some other non-profit buildings in town. Cost of project is \$300,000 and Dori is still look for short term investors.

Rod received a call from a taxpayer who wanted to know if there is a similar site anywhere so they could know how it will look. Dori stated that Farmway in Bradford is a similar solar array. Another taxpayer called with concerns about hazardous materials and wanted to see the MSDS sheets. There are no MSDS sheets because there are no hazardous materials in the panels. John F. asked if there is a glossy plan similar to the pocket parks. Dori stated she will make a glossy plan when she knows she has funding. John stated that usually a large project like this gets presented to the town. Dori stated that she did present it at a Select Board meeting, which is a public meeting, but as a developer, she prefers not yet to present in a public forum.

Strafford Energy Committee Update - Dori Wolfe stated the Committee received a \$10,000 grant. The Chair of the Committee discussed with Lisa Kendall things that might need to happen at the Town Clerk Office. The Committee got estimates for energy efficiency updates to Town Office Vault and spoke with Blake Spencer who agreed to do the work. Efficiency Vermont insisted on VPI certified person overseeing the project and the Committee asked Brent Mellon to be a consultant and he agreed. The \$10,000 grant will come directly to the town. Dori is proposing that we put together an understanding of scope of work on letterhead for Spencer and Mellon. The bid from Spencer and Mellon for the work is \$10,250.00. Dori is now asking for Select Board to help with a suggestion on how to fund extra \$150.00. Dori also felt that they could renegotiate the prices with the contractors. Lisa said the town budgeted \$10,000 in municipal repairs for town clerk's office and there is a remaining \$5000 in line item on the budget. The town spent \$4091 in the spring on fixing the septic and fixing the bathroom in the Town Office. John's concern – he stated that it would be wise in the future to keep the Select Board in the loop. In the future, Dori asked if the Select Board would like the Energy Committee to present their meetings to the Board. Steve Marx is the liaison to the Energy Committee and he will report to Select Board. Brent said he felt renovations around the outside of the vault is a very valid use of money. Blake also said they may

need a dehumidifier in the summer time. Brent moves that the town give the energy committee up to \$250 to fund the contract and accepts the contract as written. Seconded by Brian. All in favor.

Dog Officer Vacancy – no ideas from the Select Board

Budget/Town Garage Heaters – John Freitag stated we are going to have to find \$9000 to pay for the new heater in the town garage this fall. John's preference is to use funds that were saved on personnel costs due to being short staffed this summer. Rod stated we would put the cost in the budget where it belongs and at the end of the year, we will have some extra money that we didn't spend and it will cover the cost. John suggested not spending in other areas because we know we will have this unbudgeted expense and to be careful about spending. Lisa stated the Town Garage heaters would be in the general fund, not the highway fund. The Select Board then discussed the humidistat and humidity controls in the town garage. It was determined that the humidity controls are not working. Rod will get in contact with the people who designed the garage and inquire about the humidity control system. Janet asked whose responsibility it was to make sure contractor followed through on making sure garage was properly installed. Karl Johnston was head of Committee and on Select Board during time, as well as Steve Willbanks. Lisa suggested looking in past minutes to learn the history and that the Select Board tried to fix the problem. Rod will call the guy who designed the humidistat system and see if he can get anywhere with him. John suggested the Select board members continue to talk with insulating contractors to see about insulating the town garage. Brent suggested talking with Eric and Jeff Solsaa. Rod stated the insulation problem is going to be hard to fix.

Municipal Planning Grant – TRORC wants to work with the town. Select Board members discussed and decided to invite them to attend the 9/24 meeting. Lisa will email Samantha Holcomb and invite her to the meeting.

## TOWN HIGHWAY

Road Salt – Jon MacKinnon updated. Due to the work of Rod and his contacts with the state, he was able to negotiate the price of salt down to \$75.00 per ton. We use an estimated 700 tons of salt per year. Salt is only used on our 11 miles of paved roads. Current budget is \$50,000 for winter salt. Chloride is for summer dust control and comes out of summer budget. Chloride budget was \$20,000 last year due to dust problems on Justin Morrill Hwy. Usually the road crew only put chloride on a road once or twice a year. Chloride is not used in the winter. The road crew is now using "ice be gone" with the salt and the cost of the ice be gone comes out of summer budget because we pay for it in the summer. Ice-be-gone mixes with salt and makes salt effective to -20 degrees. It also makes the salt less corrosive and does not harm vegetation and it makes the salt stick to the road. This winter, the road crew may trial treating the pavement on Judd Hill before it starts snowing with the ice-be-gone to see how that works. The town is cutting down on salt by using the ice-be-gone. As a rule, the town crew does not mix sand with salt because it significantly decreases the effectiveness of the salt. There are costs to all benefits. Jon stated that our roads are clearer due to the use of the ice-be-gone. John F. wants people to know the cost and benefit of clear roads.

Tyson Bridge Report – The state wants the town to fix the guard rail cables and extend them higher. Rod wants Jon to get an estimate from Lafayette for the price to fix this bridge. Lisa suggested budgeting for fixing the Tyson Bridge next year. Lisa stated we still have \$28,000 of bond money to

use. Jon M. got prices in the past but the Select Board didn't approve the bridge to be fixed. John F. wants Jon M. to ask Lafayette if they can fix the bridge this fall. The work Lafayette would do, would meet the state's requirement to fix the bridge. Jon M. will bring price to next meeting.

Farley Bridge - We will put a design and build contract together for Farley Bridge this year. Rod feels that given the climate in Montpelier that we put the Farley Bridge out to bid. Lisa & Jon need to fill in template  
Brian - Municipal Budget Workshop. Brian and Steve will attend. Lisa will sign up  
Brian & Steve.

Town House Fund – it was set up by Kendall Mix. Steve suggested paying for insurance from the fund. Lisa will call the league to see if they have a problem with alcohol being served at the Town House. Lisa will email everyone once she finds out.

Jon MacKinnon stated someone is looking to buy 15 acres for sale on Carpenter Hill Road. It's a Class III road and if the person buys the property, the town will have to fix up and maintain the road.

The Select Board received a letter from a taxpayer asking for a waiver to a fee she was assessed for late filing of her homestead declaration. Lisa clarified the policy. If the homestead declaration is not filed on time, town can assess a penalty of either 3% or 8%. Rod wants to clarify with the taxpayer the actual penalty and work with the taxpayer and let them know also about other local resources.

Lisa stated that on the Watson Bridge, Joe Delfino's attorney has reviewed the deed and is sending to Joe for his signature.

Van Dyke Bridge is done.

Brent made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Brian. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday September 24, 2014

Respectfully submitted by

Jane Prescott, Recording Secretary