

## Emergency Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5:00 pm  
Strafford Town Office and via Zoom

Present: Brian Johnson in Town Office, Toni Pippy, Mary Linehan, Jeff Solsaa via zoom

Others participating: Asa Manning, Josh, Steven Pyle, Roz Finn, ST, Jason Schumacher, Rett Emerson, Simone

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. Asa Manning explained to the board his sap transportation process from where it is collected to the sugar shack on Robinson Road. Asa has been made aware of the concerns of citizens living on the road as well as the road crew and the selectboard for the damage to the road this is causing. The town has closed the road to only local traffic and because this is considered Asa will collect the sap in the morning when the road is firmer. Agricultural businesses need to comply with rules and regs, but there are some exemptions for agricultural vehicles. Chair requested consideration for neighbors and appreciation for attendance. Jeff will follow up to further discuss to make sure damage to road is minimized.
2. Roads and Mud. Jeff Solsaa reported on work of Road Crew. Spreading gravel where they can get onto the roads, but 20 tons of gravel makes it difficult to get to many of the roads. Colder temperatures over the next 2 nights should help the crew get to some of the roads not yet reached. So far 60-70 loads have been dropped, and the crew is working around the clock. The gravel previously purchased has not been crushed, so we had to buy more. Costs have increased for fuel (hauling charges). Current need is for 1,000 tons of 1½ gravel and 4,000 tons of hard pack. Suggested that we stockpile gravel now to rebuild the damaged roads; we have not been providing enough funds in the budget for gravel in many years. Motion passed to use \$87,000 of the \$98,000 paving budget line item for 1,000 tons of 1½ inch stone and 4,000 crushed stone base.

Chair spoke with Newton School principal. Clarified that while some kids may miss school, school will not be canceled unless 51% of kids are unable to attend.

A request for emergency support was sent to Tim Briglin. No indication yet that the state legislation intends to do so.

Road closures for tonight: Turnpike Road and Robinson Road (open to local traffic only). The crew will work hard to get roads passable, including using short term contractors with their own equipment, fuel and insurance coverage. Brent Cadwell will spread material on Miller Pond Rd. (\$700/day); Matt Barker has offered to use his equipment to support Maple Hill, Orchard Road to Alger Brook Rd. (\$85/hour). Motion passed to hire Cadwell and Barker to provide contracted services for up to a combined expense of \$4600. Crew is working hard to make a single lane open on Turnpike Rd. Robinson Road is closed to reduce damage and cost of repair, estimated at tens of thousands of dollars. More roads may need to be closed as determination is made on the costs of repair. Noted that Thetford has closed 8 roads as of yesterday.

Chair reported receiving calls from residents with health concerns. Advised those concerned to contact Shawn Harlow. Jason Schumacher requested to provide EMC communications about which roads are closed on listserv and website, and advice for accessing emergency services, and information to ease concerns about readiness of EMC. Thetford mutual aid is willing to respond on ATVs. Jason will prepare notice, share with board, and post on listserv, town facebook.

The selectboard and road crew want to thank the many citizens/neighbors on these bogged down muddy roads who have pulled vehicles out of the slime and for assisting their neighbors.

- Jackie Chase, RE: Kibling Hill Road
- Sean Lewis, RE: The Gravel Roads
- Icena Heart, RE: Miller Pond Road mud
- Merideth Kendall, RE: 2 cars stuck by Melendy flat
- Michael Gaffney, RE: Turnpike Rd
- Susan Hodges, RE: Redden Road - mud and RUTS!
- Joey Hawkins, RE: mud
- Charles Denton, RE: Taylor Valley Road - just about impassable
- Shawn Harlow, Chief, Strafford Fireman's Assoc, RE: Road Conditions
- Jason Schumacher, Strafford Emergency Director, RE: Road Conditions

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk