

Selectboard Meeting
August 9, 2023
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Jeff Solsaa, Hannah Levinger

Other participants in person- Phoebe Mix

Participants via Zoom- Lisa Bragg

1. Meeting called to order 6:00 pm

Guidelines for Selectboard conduct read

2. No public concerns- Note: if you have concerns that should be discussed at select board meetings, please send an email to a selectboard member or come to a meeting via zoom or in person.

3. Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

July 19th minutes could not be approved because not enough selectboard members were present to vote on it.

Jeff moved to approve the minutes from the July 26th selectboard meeting, Brain seconded the motion. Jeff, Brian, and John voted to approve the minutes and Hannah abstained.

Jeff moved to approve the minutes from the August 2nd special selectboard meeting, Brain seconded the motion. All present voted aye.

4. Highway Update

The project on 132 is going well. Jeff met with Jon Lemieux from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to discuss the ongoing projects in Strafford. Jeff also met with a bridge engineer who discussed Bridge 14 (the Barrett Memorial Bridge) in South Strafford and the damage it sustained recently. Jeff and Lisa are waiting to have a meeting with a FEMA agent to have more information on FEMA funding for the road projects.

The Kibling Hill project is going out to bid as well as some additional bridge projects which will also be going out to bid soon.

The drop inlet behind the Red Barn will be added to the Highway contract rather than having the Rec Board be in charge of cleaning it regularly.

The Board would like to appreciate Jeff, Lisa, and Regina for all of their hard work along with the road crew for their time and energy.

5. Town Property Sale

The Blanchard Road property has been sold. The Board agreed to have any revenue after expenses be added to the Town Municipal Fund.

6. Budget Update

The Board looked at the quarterly budget prepared by Lisa Bragg. No action taken at this time.

7. Bridge 30

The Bridge 30 project has received funding from a TAP grant and a grant from the State of Vermont. John Echeverria suggested that a letter be sent to Northern Borders Regional Commission notifying them of this grant award. The Board approved and John Freitag will send it. NBRC will be awarding their grants at the end of this month and the Town has a \$300,000 request in to them for the Bridge 30 project.

8. Unlicensed Dogs

Courtney Hardy is doing a great job- there are only a handful of unlicensed dogs left in town and she is working on resolving each of the issues quickly.

9. Town Office Project

The Board has decided to hold off on a vote until after getting more information about how much money could be gathered from various grants. Jeff is meeting with ECFiber to discuss updating the hub on the back of the Town Clerk's Office.

10. Flood Hazard Ordinance/Unified By-Laws

This agenda item has been postponed until the next Board Meeting.

11. Old City Falls Project

The Rec Board has \$300 in their budget to work on the outhouse and trails at Old City Falls, but estimates that the work will cost closer to \$500. The Board decided to grant the additional \$200 to complete the project.

12. Correspondence

There were no correspondences to discuss

13. Liaison Updates

The Board discussed the possibility of adding a handicapped parking space in front of the Historical Society in South Strafford.

14. Executive Session

Brain moved to go into executive session at 7:29 to discuss a right of way dispute, Jeff seconded the motion. The board came out of executive session at 7:41- no action taken.

15. Executive Session

Hannah moved to go into executive session at 7:41 to discuss a personnel issue, Brian seconded the motion. The board came out of executive session at 8:10- no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Levinger