

Stafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 6:00 pm at Town Office
227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan, David Paganelli

Other participants in person: PD Hardy, Rocky Fuller

Other participants via zoom: Shelby Coburn

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. None.
2. Highway
 - a. Roads and equipment. PD Hardy reported that he has received an estimate of \$262,000 for paving for Miller Pond. It should be amended focus on Rte 132. Ditching, sloping, and tree removal should also be done; shouldering should also be done in sections. We have a grant for \$199,800 Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program-FY23, and a 20% match from the Town. Preliminary ditching estimated cost is app. \$10,000 for 1 mile near Whitcomb Hill Road. Chair made a motion to amend the use of the grant to use the funds to focus on Rte 132 instead of Miller Pond Road. Mary seconded. Unanimously approved. After approval for the grant modification is approved, the job will be posted for bids. Chair confirmed that there is a budget line item for temporary support for spring grading.
 - b. Vacancy. Mary made a motion made to enter executives to discuss potential new hire. Toni seconded. Entered Executive Session at 6:21 pm. Exited Executive Session at 6:35 pm. Chair made a motion made to authorize PD to proceed with hiring negotiations with the identified candidate. Jeff seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - c. Discussion re: inviting Sherriff and Constable for meeting to discuss services. PD Hardy reported that Ed Eastman is requesting radio installation in his new truck.
 - d. Approve the minutes of the 1/25/23 regular meeting and 1/30/23 special meeting. Mary made a motion passed to approve the minutes of the 1/25/23 regular meeting and 1/30/23 special meeting with agreed changes. Unanimously approved.
3. Town Office Committee update. David Paganelli and Rocky Fuller presented an update on how to get a building permit given the challenges to getting a zoning variance. Instead proposing a perpetual easement, which will not require a variance. Proposed engaging a lawyer to draft easement documents in order to negotiate a perpetual easement with Morgan Smith. Mary Linehan noted that these incremental costs could be covered by a Municipal Planning Grant. David Paganelli made a motion that the Board authorize the Town Office Committee to identify lawyers and to negotiate an easement on the property of Morgan Smith for the Town Office, for expansion up to \$4,000. Toni seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. FEMA audit documents policy updates. Mary and Lisa provided an update on the new Procurement Policy, Conflict of Interest and Model Contract documents that are being negotiated with the State FEMA auditors. New procedures will make the town compliant with federal funding requirements and will increase oversight of service agreements and procurement.

5. Australian Ballet information mailer to voters updated. Reviewed the document, Chair made a motion to accept the mailer, Jeff seconded. Document will be mailed to all voters.

6. Acknowledgement of Correspondence
 - a. 2023 PACIF Coverage Documents
 - b. 2023 PACIF Grant Award – Strafford,
 - c. John Freitag, RE Notes on Friday January 27th grant meeting
 - d. John Freitag, Fw: Follow Up with VCHB (Preservation Trust of Vermont), Ben Doyle, President, RE: Projects in Strafford
 - e. VLCT, RE: Reminder: Important: Temporary Laws for Town Meeting and Open Meeting Law Re- Adopted which will be in effect until July 1, 2024
 - f. Darren Marcy, White River Valley Herald, RE: Town Meeting
 - g. Chris Bump, Project Manager Vermont Agency of Transportation, RE: Strafford FY24 Town Highway Grants, District
 - h. Martha Walke, Planning Commission, RE: Response to Draft minutes 1/25/2023

7. Liaison Updates
 - Planning Commission is delaying their next meeting till March
 - Bob Wilson will not continue as Tree Warden
 - Rabies vaccine clinic will be on March 11

8. Other.
 - LHMP update. Chair spoke with Kyle Katz, TRORC, re status of hazard mitigation plan. Chair made a motion to sign the Certificate of Adoption for the Strafford Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mary seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - David Paganelli will prepare the agenda for the first meeting of the Selectboard after Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk