

Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 6:00 pm
Strafford Town Office

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Mary Linehan, Jeff Solsaa, Rett Emerson, Pat Kelly

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, Jon MacKinnon, John Freitag, Tom Jacobs, Tom Kennedy, Chris Behr, Greg Lewis, Susan Hodges, Kerrie Bushway, Tim Denny

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns

- John Freitag expressed concern about capital budgeting and offered his assistance. Selectboard noted that there is an up-to-date inventory of prioritized road work.
- Greg Lewis reported that Town Health Officer is known to be unvaccinated and is not adhering to State COVID precautions, specifically masking and social distancing in public settings. Town Health Officer confirmed that in his official capacity for the Town he will remain masked in all public settings and will not enter homes and will comply with other precautions as required by the State.

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update. Jon reported that new paving should begin next week. Miller Pond turn around issue requires more clarification; Jon will go out and investigate.

a. Highway Correspondence:

- Greg Colling, RE: Brook Road Bridge
- Update on vacancy. Road Foreman has interviewed for the vacancy. Selectboard will conduct follow-up interviews.
- Project updates. No update at this time.
- Energy Services Performance Contracting -Town Garage, EEI Evaluation and proposal- next steps. Selectboard is not ready to move forward at this time.
- Sidewalk plowing bid edits. Modifications will be made to previous bid request to fix problems encountered during previous contract, including clarification of specific plowing responsibility, coordination with Road Crew. Town Road Crew will take over plowing for Park and Ride as part of their responsibilities.
- Behr – Highway Access Application Furnace Flats Road. Jon has reviewed the application and has approved the road improvements on Furnace Flats and new access road. Motion passed to approve highway access application.

3. General Correspondence

- a. Email from Hope Haviland, RE: speeding in Strafford
- b. Rocky Fuller, Town House Advisory Group minutes
- c. Email from Mike Hebb, RE: Junk yard dogs
- d. Email from Mark Chute, RE: Speed Limit

- e. Holly Hayden, Vermont Local Roads, RE: AOT announces FY2022 Grant Funding for Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation, application deadline 10/1/2021.
4. Approve minutes to the August 11th regular meeting. Motion passed to approve August 11th meeting minutes.
5. Thomas Kennedy, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, Executive Director, RE: City of Lebanon Municipal Solid Waste Agreement between City of Lebanon, NH Agreement. Lebanon is upgrading its system to a card-based pass linked to a credit card or account. To use the landfill site, Strafford will need to sign a new agreement. If we do not sign the agreement, no commercial entity in Strafford will be allowed to bring waste to Lebanon. Other towns are signing Option B, which requires individual residents to gain personal access. Termination of the agreement is possible. Strafford will incur no costs but will be required to report recycling rates. Motion passed, with one opposed, to sign the Municipal Solid Waste Agreement, selecting Option B.
6. Barrett Hall, Emergency Shelter Upgrades discussion. Steve Marx and Jason Schumacher reported that recently the western US has experienced 117-degree temperatures. In Strafford there are no cooling stations. Barrett Hall, the gym and the school are designated shelters but have little in the way of emergency materials and supplies. EMD will conduct an inventory of emergency supplies, clarify where they are stored and make recommendations to the Selectboard.
7. Motion passed to allow use of Murray Field on Sept 18 4:00-7:00 pm for a dance.
8. Parcel mapping project update. Kerrie Bushway presented the parcel mapping update project being undertaken over the last year. Uses free open-source data platform, allows up to date digitized information for all parcels, FEMA flood plain information, easements, history of subdivisions and aerial views. Allows visualization of properties, and identification of types of properties (woodland, farm, etc). Expected that it will be available for public access early next year, contingent on State updates of Grand List data base, which has been delayed.
9. Loss Control Follow-Up, VLCT, Risk Management Services action needed. Skate park identified as high priority. Lisa will notify PACIF notified that plans for the skate park are delayed till 2022.
10. 2021 Budget to actual. Budget reviewed and spending is on track.
11. Town Office Planning Committee Update. Mary reported that a draft report is being drafted and should be presented to the Selectboard by the next meeting.
12. Ashley Forest updates. Pat noted selected issues, and suggested we pass this to the town attorney for review. The board approved Pat contacting the town attorney, Paul Gillies, and Joe Ronan, Sharon Selectboard Chair for further review and input.
13. Junk Yard Update. All outstanding property owners have been issued a violation notice by the Orange County Sheriff. Jeff is working with one property owner to obtain assistance to assist

with clean-up of the site. Funds from Neighbors Helping Neighbors are being made available to support this effort. No word has been received from other site owners.

14. Other

- Motion passed to sign the agreement from TRORC, to provide \$3,271 for the road erosion inventory list, the balance remaining from VT Better Road grant of \$9,521.
- Jeff spoke with Kelly Hull who reported that he has been unable to mow at Town House or soccer field, due to property being in use. Lisa will provide the schedule of planned events so he can better plan his time, as he works around weather conditions. For any unplanned events, Kelly is authorized to ask users to temporarily leave the field when he arrives to mow.
- Toni will be out of town Aug 26-31.
- A tree fell across the road at the common, taking down several power poles, including one that landed on the stairway behind the town office. Additionally, water is now draining from the sidewalk under the foundation of the town office, further adding to the Town Office structural issues that need to be addressed.

Mary moved to find that premature general public knowledge of attorney client communications between the Selectboard and Town Attorney as to matters for which legal advice is sought would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing privileged communications and attorney-client privilege. Seconded. Motion passed.

Mary moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the Selectboard's discussion of pending litigation would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage because of the potential for disclosing the Selectboard's internal views about claims and defenses. Seconded. Motion passed.

Mary moved that the Selectboard enter into executive session for the purposes of considering attorney-client advice that has been shared with the Chair and for discussion of pending litigation. Seconded. Motion passed.

Entered into Executive session at 8:37 pm. Executive session adjourned at 9:27 pm. No decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan
Recording Clerk