

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard
December 13, 2017

Members present: John Freitag, acting chair, Toni Pippy, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann

Also present: Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk an assistant to the Select Board; Jennifer Brown, correspondent for *The Herald*

Members of the public: Sean Harlow, Craig Allen, representing the Strafford volunteer fire department; Bob Johnston reporting on progress toward establishing a Certified Local Government; Tim Denny representing the Board of Listers

John called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

1. Citizen Concerns:

Christy Coburn had a concern about her driveway where it meets the highway.

2. Town Highway/Road equipment/personnel update.

All work on July 1 recovery has been completed and contractors have been paid.

The highway department has two trucks out for repair.

A motion was made and seconded to state that the Town not be required to accept the low bid on all contracts under bid. Motion was withdrawn without a vote.

It was stressed that there is a need to document procedures for accepting bids to ensure that contractors are held to equal standards in the execution of contracts. AOT in FEMA standards must be upheld in order for the Town to get reimbursed.

John Freitag reported on a conference about the use of road salt that he attended in place of Jon MacKinnon. Among other things, he learned that it is preferable to pretreat roads before a storm. Seven times more salt is required when treated from the top down versus the bottom up. He promised to have the PowerPoint presentation made at the conference available to Board members and Jon MacKinnon.

John Thorp has been cleared to return to work from a medical leave. He reported for work today.

3. Correspondence:

The board approved a letter of appreciation to Rod Maclay for his contribution to settling road work issues as a result of the July 1 washouts. Once more, Rod's long experience has come to the aid of the community.

4. The minutes of the meetings of November 22 and December 6 were unanimously approved.

5. General

*Certified Local Government Ordinance process and Historic Preservation Commission appointments. The Board unanimously voted to adopt the ordinance that will initiate the process of becoming a member of the certified local government (CLG) program.

Bob Johnston, who will serve as the chair of the new Historic Conservation Commission required by the CLG, gave the Board list of 10 townspeople who might serve. The board agreed to vote on the candidates by paper ballot. Votes will be counted at the next regular select board meeting.

* Representing the board of Listers, Tim Denny described the process of participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) as preparation of the 2020 US Census. Given Tim's observation that he could find no downside to participation in the review, the Board voted

unanimously to join the program. At least two people, including a member of the Select Board, will conduct the confidential update.

* Fire Truck Replacement

Shawn Harlow and Craig Allen reported on the extensive research (with help from Toni) into the costs of purchasing a new fire truck. A national search of a very limited field of used trucks was considered and abandoned. Given factors of the trucks' bells and whistles, interest rates, the need to rotate equipment over a ten-year span, it was decided that the most prudent course would be to invest in a new truck. In dire need of replacement is the 28-year-old Engine No. 1, that recently failed a pump test and is in no condition to be used as a primary vehicle. The Board agreed to come before the Town with a request to replace the aged and unreliable Engine 1 with a new, more highly advanced vehicle that will outperform any of our current equipment. The Town would purchase the new engine and lease it to the Fire Department until such time as the loan is paid. It is estimated that the payments would be \$35,000 per year for 10 years. Toni is already at work figuring out ways to help defray the cost to the Town and minimize the effect on taxes. It was also noted that Toni would like to join the Fire Department so she can drive the truck.

* 911 Road name

A new, private road off Rogers Road giving access to three houses needs a name for 911 identification. The Board approved the name agreed by the homeowners: Sugar Grove Lane.

* Energy Committee revitalization

Since the Energy Committee was never officially disbanded, the Board will appoint the names of people who are interested in serving. Janet Cavanaugh would be the person to contact for all interested. The Committee can create its mission statement and by-laws with the full support of the Board.

* Liaison Updates

John reported that the Rec Board is considering moving the ice rink to Murray Field and that Jason Loomis is the point person for location and construction methods.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be December 27 at 6:00 pm in the Town Office.

Faithfully submitted,

Kate Siepmann, recording clerk