

**Selectboard meeting
September 26, 2018**

Members present: Brian Johnson, Kate Siepmann, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp
Also present Jon MacKinnon, Lisa Bragg, Gil Robertson, Jennifer Brown, Dierdre Dennis, Randy Merchand

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

1. Citizen Concerns

There were no citizens' concerns

2. Town Highways and Equipment Update (TK)

- a. Reuben Hook will help with the culvert on Old City Falls
- b. Hiring: one application is in; 2 more are expected. Deadline for applications is October 1.
- c. Signage on Furnace Flats Road: the sign is ready, and Jon MacKinnon will collect the sign and work with Dierdre Dennis to place it.
- d. Old City Falls update: please see Budget line item below
- e. Request Tyson Bridge inspection: when the trucking for this season is complete Town will request inspection.

3. Approve Minutes of September 12

Minutes were approved.

4. Correspondence

Email from Byron Reese re: speed in Strafford village. Ed Eastman did a traffic study of the speeds during key commute times during the day and has placed mobile "your speed" alerts all over town.

Email from Jill Remick, Director of Property Valuation and Review Division, Vermont Dept of Taxes re: land use change tax reminder. Email noted.

Memorandum re: Dental Group plans. Dental rates for 2019 have been posted. There will be an increase of 2.9 percent in 2019.

Email from Gus Speth re: climate change. Poem received.

Email from Ecogy Solar, RE: Billing process starting with August 2018. Notice received.

Email from Richard Amore re: Strafford and South Strafford villages are designated as Village Centers for the next 8 years. The Board would like to thank the Planning Commission for their hard work in achieving Village Center designation.

Emails from Justin Merchand re: road/property line issue. The Board apologized for not getting on the issue sooner. Jon MacKinnon explained how the work that was done greatly improved the road. Brian will check out the work on the road.

5. Budget

a. 2018 Town Highway Budget. Budget is solid. Estimated to end year with some savings. Projects for rest of the year include a culvert on Old City Falls Road, a culvert on Moody Hill Road, and a header on Alger Brook Road. Road crew will contract out these services at a cost of \$8,000.

There is some savings in the budget due to the vacancy on the road crew. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to put \$15,000 saved from the road crew vacancy and put it into road improvements, with the priority being to use existing fabric to cover problem spots on Old City Falls.

b. 2019 Budge Preparation Plan. Board is beginning the budget planning process and will reach out to all Town organizations in October.

6. Personnel Policy revisions: start date for benefits. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to amend the Personnel Policy to reflect that new employees are eligible for insurance benefits on the first day of the month following the first day of employment.

7. General

a. Liaison Updates:

Brian reported that the Development Review Board upheld his decision regarding a zoning appeal. No other liaison updates to report at this time.

b. Removal of utility poles. John F. has been corresponding with utility company regarding removal. EC Fiber lines are on the old poles and must be removed before any action can be taken by Consolidated. Because EC Fiber lines must be moved from old poles, the project will not be complete until 2019. Toni will follow up with EC Fiber.

c. Extend the maturity date on the flood loan until March 2019. Because neither state nor federal agencies have reimbursed the Town for FEMA claims, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to extend the flood loan at 1.5 percent interest for six more months. Board signed the document.

8. Other

Authority to bid tax sale/location 237 VT Route 132. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize Lisa Bragg as the agent of the Town to bid on the property on the day of the sale equal to the amount of back taxes and costs owed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk