

Strafford Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes February 17, 2024

The Strafford Selectboard held an Informational Budget presentation at the Newton Elementary School in South Strafford. The meeting was warned for and started directly after a School Board informational meeting in the same location that started at 11 am and ended around noon.

Attending the meeting were Selectboard members David Paganelli, Brian Johnson, Jeff Solsaa and John Freitag

Members of the public present in person: Mary and Bill Thompson, Susan Hodges, Tim Denny, Marty Frank, Glenn Wylie, John Echeverria, June Solsaa, Toni Pippy, Noah Chute, Anni Praetorius, J.T. Horn, Sarah Root,

Members of the public attending remotely: Sarah North, Dorian Yates, Lisa Durstin, Tom Cecere, Suzanne Liepmann, Thomas Bossert, Rock Fuller, Lisa Bragg, Leslie Berger, Karen Odell, Karie Bushway, Rebecca Siebel, Cindy Stableford, Dustin Ray, Mary Neuman, Anita Onofrio, Jessica Tidman, Alan Wylie.

The Guidelines for Selectboard Conduct were read.

Selectboard Chair John Freitag made some opening statements regarding the overall budget than commenced on a section by section review of the budget. Selectboard Highway Liaison Jeff Solsaa talked about the highway expense items and in particular the Freeman bridge project, Selectboard member Brian Johnson who also serves as Zoning Officer added comments on Zoning and Development Review Board items and Selectboard member David Paganelli who is the Orange County Forester spoke on the effects that we will experience due to the emerald ash bore killing most if not all the ash trees in town.

After the budget discussion there was a chance for candidates to introduce themselves and speak to why they are running. Letters were read from Andy Sillovich who has felt the need to withdraw from the 2 -year contested Selectboard seat and Kelly Harman who could not be present at the meeting due to a family obligation. Toni Pippy and John Freitag then both spoke on why they had put their names on the ballot for the three year Selectboard position.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 2:23pm

Respectfully submitted,
John Freitag, minute taker for this meeting

A link to this meeting has been posted on the Town website.