

**Draft**  
**Strafford Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 27, 2022  
Strafford Town Office

Members present: Brian Johnson, Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, David Paganelli

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, John Freitag, Mike Hebb, Tyler Barnaby

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Public Concerns: None

2. Highways:

a. Jeff discussed recently completed work by Blaktop, Inc., on Route 132. They added additional pavement to crown the road properly and to extend aprons at the school, the town garage and Old Moses Road. Jeff is satisfied that the work done adequately rectifies previously noted deficiencies. There is no additional charge to the town for this work.

b. Jeff will respond to an inquiry from Orange County Sheriff Bohnyak requesting permission to install a radio repeater tower at the town garage. The board is in agreement that we should grant permission.

c. Discussion of concerns expressed by David Grant that a blocked ditch on Brook Road is resulting in excess wetness in his field. Brian stated that the ditch routinely clogs with debris and that this has been noted as a problem in the past. Jeff will talk with PD to clean the ditch.

d. Bid decision for Justin Morrill Bridge #23 will be postponed to the next meeting when the full board is expected to be present.

e. Tyler Barnaby expressed his intent to install ECFiber cable in conduit, across Kibling Hill Road to his home. The Chair confirmed that he had met the requirements to do so and that he may proceed. The work is planned for Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Barnaby's intention is to maintain one lane of the road open during the installation so as not to unduly impede traffic.

f. Tyson Bridge #61 painting bids were opened. Three bids were received. **Toni made a motion** to accept the bid from Tristate Painting of \$212,442 with the condition that Jeff will seek a negotiated reduction in the bid by Selectboard allowing the bridge to be closed during the work. **Jeff seconded the motion** and the motion passed 4-0.

3. Toni made a motion to accept the minutes from the 7/13/22 regular meeting. **Brian seconded the motion**, and the motion passed 4-0.

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes of the special Selectboard meeting on 7/19/22, seconded by Jeff. Motion passed 3-0 with David abstaining, since he was absent from that meeting.

4. Meghan Ashbury was not able to attend the meeting due to Covid exposure. Toni gave a brief overview of recent activities of the 4-Town Coalition and informed the board of an upcoming 4-Town Coalition ice cream social on August 10<sup>th</sup> in South Royalton.

5. Approval of Procedures and Rules for the use of the Strafford Town House was postponed until the next meeting.

6. Acknowledgement of Correspondence without further discussion.

7. Liaison Updates: None

8. Other Business:

a. David offered a motion to reinstate Zoom for the public. Motion seconded by Brian. Discussion included the benefits to the public of enhanced access to Selectboard meetings, and the technology training and equipment deficiencies currently in place that have made Zoom awkward for the Selectboard. The Chair made the point that Zoom may not actually increase attendance enough to be worthwhile. Ultimately, the Selectboard agreed to delay a vote on the motion until the next meeting when the full board is expected to be in attendance.

Toni left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and Jeff assumed the duties of temporary Chair.

b. Mike Hebb raised ongoing issues with the entrance to his driveway, which passes through town land and is sometimes obstructed by the neighbors' parked vehicles. He asked the Selectboard to place No Parking signs so that the offending vehicles might be ticketed. David made a motion to put up No Parking signs to maintain clear access across town land to Mr. Hebb's driveway. The motion was seconded by Jeff and passed 3-0.

c. David raised the matter of conformance with 24 VSA Section 1061 as it pertains to the conveyance of real estate owned by the town. A reading of the statute is interpreted that we should advertise our intent to sell certain parcels of town-owned land, and then if an agreement is reached with a potential buyer, post the terms of the proposed conveyance for the evaluation of the public. The Selectboard has previously agreed to sell the O'Neil parcel (Parcel ID: 01.442) and the Miller Pond parcel (no assigned Parcel ID) and directed the Town Clerk to post the Selectboard's intent to do so. The Town Clerk will also notify Bonnie Bergeron of Marth Diebold Realty that the town would like to formally list the O'Neil parcel for sale with them.

d. Subsequent discussion ensued about whether the other two parcels of excess town land, Blanchard Road (Parcel ID: 59.011) and Freeman Road (Parcel ID: 22.007) should be sold or retained by the town. No conclusion was reached and further information is needed on possible deed restrictions for the Freeman Road parcel. The Town Clerk will provide a copy of the deed for that parcel to David and he will review restrictions and report to board at our next meeting.

Jeff offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by David. Approved 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

David Paganelli  
Acting Secretary