

Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2023  
Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger  
Via Zoom- Ed Huang

Meeting called to order 6 pm

1. Guidelines for Selectboard conduct read
2. Public Concerns- none
3. October 12th minutes with edits approved by Hannah, Jeff, and John

#### 4. Town Insurance

VLCT insurance for the Town sent a letter explaining the increase in both coverage and cost incurred by the Town. The previous coverage had been for \$250,000 and the new coverage would be for \$10 million; there would be a \$400 increase in cost for the Town. Brian moved to adopt the new coverage, all in favor.

#### 5. Highways

The road crew passed a class and are now certified for flagging.

OSHA has recommended that the road crew uniforms have more high visibility. The uniforms are currently contracted through UniFirst and Jeff will speak to them about updating the uniforms and the cost for that.

Doug Dutelle is working on figuring out the road crew radios which might be an easier fix than anticipated.

PD is reaching out for a quote on Mundell bridge. More research is needed on the Freeman bridge and Stephanie will put out an RFP.

The Town Garage needs a better camera for documenting work for FEMA with the SLocator app. John moves to buy a refurbished iPhone for \$799, Jeff seconds the motion. Hannah, John, and Jeff vote for, Brian votes against. The motion passes.

ATG supplied a dump truck that the Town had bought, but there continue to be issues with the new truck. Jeff has a meeting set up with ATG to figure out how to get the truck that was actually purchased.

The Town Garage has a lot of returnables and they need to be taken to a redemption center with all money from the returnables going back to the Lion Club. Jeff moves to allow one of the town trucks to take the returnables down to Springfield VT and pick up gravel on the way back. All in favor.

Gravel is being stockpiled for winter and the road crew has been touching up the roads to get ready for winter.

The Board approved the clarifying letters that John wrote to the contractors who did work for the Town in the flood recovery effort.

#### 6. Unified By-Laws and Flood Hazard Ordinance

The Board read and discussed Tim McCormick's letter regarding wetland distinctions in the Unified By-Laws. Jeff moved to approve the amendments put forward by Donald Graham.

1. Amend the cover sheet on the By-Laws to state "Approved by the Strafford Selectboard on 10/25/23"
2. Amend Section 3.16 paragraph 2 line 3 by changing the word "or" to "and", paragraph 3 by adding "or this Unified Bylaw", and deleting paragraph 4.
3. Amend the definition of wetlands to state: "Wetlands: A Class I or Class II wetland as defined in the Vermont Wetland Rules, effective February 10, 2023 or thereafter amended".

4. Amend Section 5.6.4.2 by correcting the referenced section to read "Section 7.7.3" instead of 7.7.4

The amendments to the Unified Bylaws passed unanimously.

Ballots for the Unified By-Law and Flood Hazard Ordinance vote have been mailed by Lisa Bragg and Regina Josler with volunteer support from Shelby Coburn, June Solsaa, and Rebecca Seibel.

The informational hearing will take place at 5pm on November 8th at the Town Office.

Discussion about selectboard representation at informational meetings regarding Town business, moving forward there should be at least a quorum of selectboard members present.

#### 7. Budget Letters

The Board moves to give Lisa Bragg the authority to send out the budget letters.

#### 8. School and Town Agreement regarding South Strafford Recreation Area

The Rec Board wrote and sent a memorandum of understanding regarding the shared recreation area.

The School Board needs the legal approval to snow plow the driveway at Tyson Gym so that they can have a lease with Preschool. Brian moves to accept the Temporary Use Agreement put forward by Sarah Root, Hannah seconds the motion, all in favor. The motion passes.

#### 9. Town Office

John met with Tom Otterman on Monday. The wastewater exemption has been signed and Tom will drop off the mylar and finalized subdivision zoning permit when he can.

#### 10. Grant Updates

The Board moves to approve the Town Garage energy audit.

Stephanie continues to work on the Municipal Planning Grant and a TAP Grant for Bridge 30. Jeff will put Stephanie in touch with Rita regarding a small grant for safety equipment for the Town Garage.

#### 11. Dog rabies and license update

There are still two parties who have not vaccinated or licensed their dogs. John moves to set the impounding fee for animals at \$35 per day, Jeff seconds, all in favor. The motion passes.

#### 12. Liaison Updates

None

#### 13. Correspondence

None

#### 13. Zoning Violation

Discussion on a zoning violation on Miller Pond Road. The Board will invite Steve Marx and the property owner to the next meeting.

#### 14. Executive Session

The Board moves into executive session at 8:07. The Board moves out of executive session at 8:17. Jeff moves to give John the authority to contact the owners of the property in question. Brian seconds the motion, all in favor. The motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Levinger