

Minutes for the Strafford Select Board Meeting  
November 22, 2017 5:30 PM at the town office.

Members present: John Freitag, acting chair; Toni Pippy, Brian Johnson, Stephen Marx, and Kate Siepmann; Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk and assistant to the Select Board.

Also in attendance for part of the meeting Jon MacKinnon, Road Foreman, Bill Burden, Director of Emergency Services, and Tim Brigland, State Representative.

John called the meeting to order at 5:26 PM. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to enter executive session at 5:27. Executive Session was concluded 5:58 PM. No action was taken.

The regular meeting of the select board was resumed at 5:58 PM.

**1. Citizen concerns**

No citizen concerns were brought to the board's attention.

**2. Town highway**

Road/Equipment/Personnel update— Jon reported no specific problems with the roads. Regular maintenance, including the first sanding, is ongoing.

July 1 storm repair and FEMA update — Jon reported that all repairs from the July 1 event have been made except for a culvert on the Lower Dodge Road. Lisa will finalize the paperwork for FEMA once all the repairs have been approved.

Work on the 1927 bridge on Kendall Road will be put out to bid to get a solid figure for budgeting purposes. Work on the bridge will begin in the spring.

**3. Correspondence**

Letters in support of the Town becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) were received from the Echeverrias and the Dycuses.

A second letter was received from Dori Wolfe concerning large stones at the base of her driveway/culvert and her concern that the stones appeared as a result of Town road grading. She asserted that the conditions would be fixed by a private contractor and that she would forward the bill to the Town for reimbursement. The situation had been investigated and photographed by the Road Foreman, and by selectmen Brian Johnson and Stephen Marx. All agreed that the large stones came from the header on the culvert, not from the roadway. Stephen moved and Brian seconded that, based on discussion and review of the photographs, the Board will not accept responsibility for the bill. All approved. Brian will follow up with Dori.

An exchange of letters with Mike Hebb about a neighbor's barking dog appears to indicate that an agreeable outcome will result from an amicable resolution between the neighbors. The Board expressed its appreciation to all parties, including Dog Officer, Janet Hardy.

The Board received notification from the Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) that the Town Plans of Strafford, Tunbridge, and Vershire have met all the tests and shall be confirmed.

Toni related a telephone call she received from a municipality in Connecticut regarding Lee Vormelker's volunteer service to that community. Bill Burden acknowledged that he had given a

favorable recommendation and that he hoped to encourage John Lloyd to succeed Lee as Deputy Emergency Manager.

#### **4. Minutes**

The minutes were approved with the addition of the following wording as the penultimate sentence in the section "Employee Compensation and Insurance:" This will be applied as an across-the-board \$0.57 hourly increase for all employees."

#### **5. General**

Certified Local Government /Historic District—The Board unanimously agreed to proceed with the steps necessary to pursue a CLG designation. This will involve adopting an ordinance for the establishment of an Historic Preservation Commission, to be chaired by Bob Johnston, with four additional members to be named by the Select Board.

Orange County Sheriff Contract—after some discussion, the Board voted 4 to 1 (Stephen opposed) to level fund the Sheriff's contract. Ed Eastman, our Town Constable, requested level funding for his services, with an additional \$500 for miscellaneous items like speed sign batteries and traffic cones.

GreenUp Day 2018—John will check with Becky Bailey to confirm her ongoing involvement. There was some discussion about warnings for the handling of suspected drug paraphernalia that could be dangerous for volunteers.

2018 Budget—while Toni and Lisa are constantly vigilant, the actual work on the budget will begin in mid-December.

Board Vacancies—Sean Lewis has been appointed to fill out the term of John Echeverria on the Planning Commission. Jason Loomis has been appointed to fill a spot on the Recreation Board. Both appointments were unanimous.

Liaison Updates—John, as liaison to the Recreation Board, reports that they are requesting level funding for budget purposes, but that they would like to reinstate a \$500 stipend for the maintenance of the South Strafford recreation area.

#### **6. Other**

State Representative Tim Brigland came to report that he has proposed a bill in the House (suggested by Stephen Marx) to address the fact that Strafford's the only town in the district that receives no VTRANS plowing.

Faithfully submitted,

Kate Siepmann, Recording Clerk