

## **DRAFT Strafford Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 6:00 pm

Town Office, 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, 05072

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Jeff Solsaa, David Paganelli

Other participants in person: Lisa Bragg, Curt Albee, Phoebe Mix

Via zoom: David Humphrey, John Freitag, Rocky Fuller

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Public Concerns. None
2. Highway.
  - a. Discussion of plowing damage to signs at historic marker on Mine Road. Jeff will request an on-site meeting with Steve Wilbanks and PD Hardy to learn the facts and discuss solutions.
  - b. Vacant position. An applicant will be interviewed tomorrow.
  - c. Jeff asked Lisa to verify that the repair work on Danny's truck, and the towing charge, is covered by warranty.
  - d. Lisa reported that PD proposes to split the sand purchase this year roughly evenly between Bogie's pit and Pike. Jeff made a motion to approve the proposed purchase contract from Bogie's for \$18,000. Toni seconded. Approved 3-0.
3. Motion by Toni to approve the minutes of the 12/28/22 regular meeting and the minutes of the 1/4/23 special meeting. Jeff seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.
4. Town Office Renovation project update from Curt Albee. Curt has drafted a document that clarifies certain terms and that better explains budgeted costs that are proposed. David asked for selectboard support to investigate funding options and for the Town Office Committee to appear before the Development Review Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> to investigate the potential for lot line adjustment and zoning variance for the project on behalf of the town. David made a motion that the Selectboard will support the Town Office Committee seeking DRB review of the project. Seconded by Jeff. Approved 3-0. Toni made a motion of support for Lisa and the Town Office Committee to investigate potential funding sources through the Vermont Bond Bank, USDA Rural Development, or any other source. Jeff seconded the motion. Approved 3-0. John Freitag volunteered to represent the town at a meeting of the Preservation Trust with other Strafford interests on January 27<sup>th</sup>. John has been very active in investigating potential grant funding for the project. The selectboard accepted his offer of representation at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and expressed appreciation for his ongoing efforts. John also suggested hiring a grant administrator as soon as possible, as certain grant applications are under development already and if we wait until March or April, we may be getting a late start that disadvantages us. There was discussion that even if the project is approved by voters and the architect completes final drawings ahead of schedule, it is unlikely that the construction would advance much beyond installation of the foundation for the new addition during 2023. Most of the construction and cost is expected to be incurred during 2024, so if we were to hire a grant

administrator in early 2023 we should be well positioned for 2024 grants. No firm conclusion reached.

5. Toni presented the board with a revised version of the budget. Brief discussion of highway costs and proposed EMD budget. Toni wonders if the potential replacement of the generator at Barrett Hall might be funded using ARPA monies. No conclusions reached. Discussion tabled. Corrected budget numbers will likely not be available until late in the month, so the previously scheduled special selectboard meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> will be postponed with the new date determined at the regular selectboard meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
6. David Humphrey thanked the Selectboard for thoughtfully working through various issues.
7. The selectboard decided to accept the 2023 contract option to have Eric Thorp Diversified mow at the price quoted in the 2022 contract. \$15,400 for mowing and \$1,600 for cleanup in Spring and Fall. Total contract price is \$17,000.
8. Liaison Updates.
  - David Taplin has informed the town of his intention to resign from the Recreation Board and asks that Ed Huang be appointed to replace him. Toni made a motion to appoint Ed Huang to the Recreation Board. Seconded by Jeff. Approved 3-0.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Solsa. Second by David. Approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Paganelli