

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard meeting
January 27, 2016

Approved

Members of the public body present: Brent Cadwell, Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Brain Johnson, Stephen Marx

Other active participants: Chris and Steve Gex, Jeniffer Brown, Ken Alton, Janet Cavanagh, Nellie Pennington, Lisa Kendall

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.

Correspondence: The board signed a quitclaim deed for the leased land on Alger Brook Road. John Echeverria submitted a request for all correspondences that are related to the project on Carpenter Hill Road. Dori Wolfe sent a request for the board to appoint Michael Scanlan as the alternate delegate to GUVSWMD (solid waste district) to replace Corky Scott. This appointment will take place shortly after town meeting when all other appointed positions are taken care of.

Minutes: Brent moved Steve seconded to approve the minutes of Jan 13. John pointed out that the comments made by Ellen should have appeared under correspondence not citizen concerns and asked for the change. Brian stated that he didn't refer to the word shall in our highway access policy, it was the word should and that The Vermont League Of Cities and Towns confirmed that this was not a term that means must. He asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this. Steve moved and Toni seconded to approve the minutes of Jan 13 with the amendments. All in favor
Toni moved and Steve seconded to approve the minutes of Jan 20. All in favor.

General: John made the motion and Brent seconded to adjust the agenda. All in favor.

The agenda was adjusted to allow Ken to speak about the new Strafford/Thetford community solar project. Ken stated that the proposed site would be located in Post Mills and that people from both towns would have the opportunity to buy into the project. John asked if the RECs would be retired in Vermont on this project and it was thought that they would but not certain. The board decided that if the proposal included retiring the RCs in Vermont that we would consider it. Janet stated that this project is modeled off of one that has been very successful located in Randolph.

Chris Gex wrote in with concerns that we had more than one version of our personnel policy and that one copy had a dollar amount and the other a percentage. Brent stated that the percentage figure and the dollar amount represent the same amount just written in different forms. The board stated that the personnel policy was going to be amended due to other changes and we would address this issue as well.

Toni moved and Brian seconded to eliminate the end of year pay bonus. Toni said that the town employees are greatly appreciated and this decision isn't due to lack of effort and stated that pay bonuses are not something many employers do any more. All in favor.

Lisa suggested raising the permit fees the town charges because we currently do not cover our costs. Steve suggested doubling all of the fees. Toni made the motion, Steve seconded to double all of the fees. John, Toni, Steve, Brian in favor, Brent opposed stating he agrees with commercial zoning but doesn't agree with residential zoning. Motion passed and the fees will be doubled starting February 15, 2016.

The 2016 budget was discussed and finalized. Brent moved and Brian seconded to approve the 2016 budget to be level funded to the 2015 budget which is \$1,005,766. All in favor.

The warning for the 2016 town meeting was reviewed. Brent moved and Steve seconded to approve the warning. All approved.

Positions that need to be filled are:

For a term of three years:

Selectman (paper ballot)

Lister (paper ballot)

Auditor (paper ballot)

Harris Library Trustee

Cemetery Commissioner

Selectman (paper ballot)

Auditor paper ballot)

For a term of one year:

Delinquent Tax Collector

Town Grand Juror

Town Agent

Agent to Deed Real Estate

The Selectboard Report was reviewed. Toni moved and Steve seconded to accept the Selectboard Report. All approved.

Town Highways: Brent stated there have been no major issues with the equipment.

Bridge #66 (Ward Bridge): Steve moved and Toni seconded to award the bridge contract to Hook Construction. All in favor.

Toni moved and Brian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Cadwell