

## **Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

May 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

Justin Morrill Education Center and via Zoom

Members present: Toni Pippy, Patrik Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan

Others present: Lisa Bragg, Jon McKinnon, John Freitag, Jennifer Brown

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

### **Public Concerns**

None

### **Emergency Management COVID 19 update.**

Toni gave an update on the EM team activities. A new Health Screening is required for Town employees (office and road crew), as required by guidelines from OSHA and VLCT.

### **Town Highways and Equipment Update**

Jon MacKinnon noted that the Town Garage is locked when staff are not there, and access is restricted as required by VCLT safety guidelines.

- Grant applications are ready to be sent in for 2 sections of Miller Pond Road and Bridge 23 (Morrill Highway). Once grants are approved, jobs will send out for bid to get lowest estimates
- Sand contract update. Jon has reviewed the situation with the vendor, and our contract will continue to be delayed because vendor is not ready yet due to COVID delays.
- TRORC TAC meeting via Zoom 5/14/19. Toni, Jon and Rett not able to attend.
- Grant projects have been approved for go ahead by state. We have received go ahead from the state to proceed with the Municipal Roads General and Vermont Better Roads grants.
- Annual financial Plan-Town Highways was reviewed and signed
- Lisa will post a request for proposals for the purchase of a 10-wheeler tandem axel vehicle

### **Correspondence**

- Daily email updates from the State Emergency Operations Center Situation Reports, RE: COVID 19, Vermont Department of Health. We also receive regular emails from The Office of the Governor, TRORC, VLTC, Jim Masland and Tim Briglin
- Email from Brent Cadwell, RE: Miller Pond Paving. Rett will follow up with Brent.
- James Nadeau, US Geological Survey and FEMA, New England Water Science Center, RE: Discovery Meeting invitation to Town of Strafford for White River Watershed. Toni will attend the May 26 meeting.
- Victoria Littlefield, Regional Planner, TRORC, RE: Regional Energy Coordinator Meeting – Scope of Work zoom meeting. Toni will attend the meeting planned for May 20.
- Rita Seto, TRORC, RE: Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. Toni will try to attend part of this meeting May 14 at 9 am.
- Letter from Brian Johnson, RE: resignation as of 5/13/20. Resignation accepted. Position will be posted in website and listserve.

- Tom Kennedy, District Manager, Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, RE: No tipping fee waiver for Green Up Day Trash. Town pays \$150-75/ton and drivers need to know the contents; fees are based on kind of waste. Pat will check on current safety guidance. Green up day is May 30, 2020.
- Scott Traudt RE: budget.

Minutes approved for the April 22 regular meeting. Pat Kelly voted aye via zoom.

### **Town Office opening and safety preparation**

Lisa noted that VLCT has provided Workplan to comply with reopening (safety for employees), with a few outstanding items that need to be addressed. Pat will assist Lisa and Jon with completing it this week. Lisa will send to VLCT and keep on file.

Two thermometers are on order for use in Town Garage and Town Office. Gloves, masks, sanitizer are available; plexiglass screens have been put in place. As of May 15, municipal offices can open to the public, and people can come into the Town Office by appointment but must follow social distancing guidelines.

### **Emergency Management, FEMA reimbursement and team pay rate**

Motion passed to set an hourly rate of \$15/hour for qualified workers of the Town's Incident Command System and sub-sections, to be reimbursed by FEMA. Pat Kelly voted aye via zoom.

### **Orange County Sheriff**

Rett proposed that we consider reducing the amount of time on the contract with the County Sheriff. John Freitag explained that Ed Eastman has no enforcement capability, and in recent years we have needed the County Sheriff as back up for complaints (speeding, noise) and break-ins. Noted that Strafford's allocation for the Sheriff is modest and has been effective in the past. Rett and Pat will coordinate with Ed on possibly re-focusing on specific issues and track the cost and use of this service for this year.

### **Dog Licenses update**

Motion passed to extend the May 15 deadline for an additional 30 days (June 15) to allow dog owners to obtain a rabies vaccine. Dog owners are advised to check with their vet to see what kind of options are available. Lisa will send notices to delinquent owners. New and updated dog ordinance is now in effect and fines have been increased. Ordinance is posted in the Town website.

### **S.344 – A bill passed by the House Government Operations Committee discussion**

Discussed new legislative bill under discussion by state for COVID 19 impact on cities and towns.

### **Liaison updates**

Green-up day. Becky Bailey is chairing the effort. Pat will ensure that safety measures are implemented.

Amy Huyffer requested use of the Red Barn parking lot for tomato plan sale on Saturday. Pat has confirmed that proper safety measures will be in place.

Board of Civil Authority will meet on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom meeting or Call In. Purpose of the BCA meeting is to establish a Strafford School District voting location and time. Lisa will oversee the vote.

**Other**

Rett reported that the road crew is considering purchasing an excavator rather than contracting out the work. May reduce costs to the Town and should be considered, and compared to cost of leasing for the summer, and contracting out the work.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk