

## **Strafford Selectboard Emergency Meeting Minutes**

Friday, December 10th, at 8:30 am

Strafford Town Garage

Members participating: Toni Pippy, Rett Emerson, Jeff Solsaa, Mary Linehan

Others participating: Lisa Bragg, PD Hardy, Danny Prescott

Meeting called to order at 8:40 am. This emergency meeting was called to discuss plans to support the Highway Department, which is currently short two members, and to ensure that town roads are plowed and the Road Crew is protected from additional stress. The Selectboard stated its appreciation for the hard work of the Road Crew and its commitment to do whatever is necessary for the crew to function successfully going forward.

Motion passed to begin advertising for the vacant road crew position.

Extensive discussion about road crew staff coverage for the winter season. Road Crew noted that they have been starting early (3:00 am) to get the roads plowed and have hired Shawn Ward to assist with the workload. Strafford, like many other towns, is experiencing a shortage of labor and a challenging hiring environment. The Selectboard promised to work with the Road Crew to make plans for how to meet the demands of the coming months, including necessary surge support in advance of winter storms.

Urgent tasks:

- Create culvert priority list with input from PD, Danny and Rita Seto, including update of inventory for Alger Brook, Turnpike and Redden Roads
- Acquisition of two 50-ton air jacks needed in the Town garage.
- Selected hand tools are also needed; Jeff will look into prices and ordering.
- Lisa Bragg will contact the school district to ensure Road Crew notification of school delays and closings
- Advertise for one open position for Road Crew member, to be posted on list-serve and Valley News on Monday
- Cancel email access of former employees
- Hire contractor as soon as possible for plowing services at the Park & Ride, Town House, Recycling Center, Fire-Sub Station, and to provide sand at Barrett Hall. To be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting.
- Educate the town of the difficulties faced by the Road Crew, and request that all complaints and concerns about the highways be directed to the Selectboard.

The Selectboard asks that the Strafford community avoid making aggressive, disparaging, and unproductive remarks on social media, especially during what is likely to be a challenging season for this hard-working Road Crew.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Recording Clerk