

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STRAFFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 11, 2015

Members of the public body present: Rod Maclay, Chair, Brent Cadwell, John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Steve Marx

Other active participants: Lisa Kendall, Town Clerk, Jon Mackinnon, Road Foreman,

Rocky Fuller, Town House Advisory Group Chair, Bill Burden, Emergency Management Director, Ron Rhodes, Ct. River Watershed Council, Jennifer Brown, Herald of Randolph Reporter

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 7 p.m.

There were no citizen concerns

Minutes for January 9, 13, 14, 16, 19, 23, 26, 27, 28, and 30 were reviewed and some minor corrections made to names and time. Minutes of January 23 had added that “stipend checks were reissued to John Freitag, Brian Johnson, and Rod Maclay. The Motion made by John Freitag at the December 10th and January 19th meeting to adjust the amount paid is against the state statute that was noted by Lisa. John Freitag and Steve Marx donated their checks back to cover the recording clerk fees”. Motion made by Brent to approve minutes as corrected, seconded by Brian and all approved.

Rocky Fuller presented a revised procedures and rules for the Town House for 2015. He felt these were simpler, more flexible, and encouraged both the use of the Town House and its proper care. After some questions from Brian and Steve, Brent moved to adopt the new procedures and rules for the Town House. Brian seconded and all approved.

Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon spoke about calls regarding mail boxes being damaged by snow plows. He wanted the public to know that they are plowing in the same lines as always but the large amount of snow on the roads at times can cause problems with mail boxes being damaged. Jon and Brent also brought up the fact that the Thetford section of Rte. 132 is for a variety of reasons not being well taken care of this year. This section of road is being contracted out to Northwood’s and they feel that Northwood’s does not have the size of trucks and plows needed to properly take care of the road and that it was dangerous at times for people from Strafford going to work or school. Jon and Brent suggested that the Town of Strafford might want to offer to the Town of Thetford the option of Strafford taking care of the Thetford section of Rte. 132 for the rest of the winter. It was felt that this would only work if Strafford roads were taken care of first, the extra work did not put a burden on the Strafford road crew, and that the Town of Strafford would be properly compensated for the work. Jon and Brent will work up a proposal with costs and if the Town of Thetford is interested, a meeting between the Strafford Selectboard and representatives from Thetford will be arranged. Lisa will check to make sure there are no insurance liability issues, although this should not be a problem as Thetford and Strafford have exchanged work in the past.

Ron Rhodes updated the Board on a culvert replacement on Maple Hill Road. He had been able to secure grants of \$125,000 for the project. The latest estimate is that the project will cost \$140,000. Rod reminded the Ron and the Board that the project which would allow for better fish habitat was to be fully funded with grants. Ron and the Conservation Commission are still looking for other funds to complete the project which if successful may be done this summer and require a detour while work is being done. Jon, Brent, and Rod will review the proposal to see if cost savings may be had.

Rod brought before the Board a request from the Planning Commission for a Selectboard member to serve on a committee regarding Hazard mitigation. Brian will look over the paperwork as well as Emergency Management Director Bill Burden.

There is still a need for a Recording Clerk for the Regular Selectboard Meetings. Brian noted that it pays \$55 for each meeting. Lisa will re-post on the Strafford Lists and Town Website.

Rod informed the Board that appointments to the Ordway Committee and Harris Library Trustee would take place in March after Town Meeting.

The need to either repair or replace the generator for Barrett Hall was discussed. Jon will get to Bill Burden the name and contact number of the technician from Yankee Generator who services the Town generators to discuss questions regarding repairs. Brent will look into a grant possibility for a new generator.

The Board revisited the HS-122 Late filed homestead penalty. State law has changed to allow Towns to set their own penalty up to 8%. John made the motion to change the residential penalty from the current 8% to 3%. The 3% is currently the penalty for non-residents. Lisa said that the 3% covers the time involved and that there is no revenue budgeted from people not filing on time. Steve seconded the motion and all voted in favor and the motion passed.

Due to a prior commitment, Brent requested that Pre-Town Meeting be rescheduled to Monday February 23 at 7 p.m at Barrett Hall. Town Reports will be mailed on February 18 and insert could be included on the new time for Pre-Town Meeting. All agreed. The new time will also be posted on the lists, the Town website and in notices around town. Brent will be presenting the highway portion of the budget and John the general fund portion. They will meet with Town Clerk Lisa Kendall and Auditor Nellie Pennigton next week to go over figures and prepare for their presentations. Steve will check with the School Board to see if they will be having a public meeting regarding their portion of Town Meeting Day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Freitag, Acting Recording Secretary