Strafford Selectboard Meeting Minutes
4-25-18

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm
Selectboard members attending the meeting: Toni Pippy, Kate Siepmann, John Freitag, Lauri Berkenkamp. Absent: Brian Johnson

Others: Town Clerk Lisa Bragg, Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon, Janet Cavanagh from the Energy Committee, Robert Wilson, Town Tree Warden, Orange County Forester David Paganelli and Jennifer Brown reporter from the Herald of Randolph

1. Citizens Concerns:
Jennifer Brown had a concern over a dead tree in the town right of way on her property that may be a hazard to the public.
Mike Hebb had a concern over a continued dog barking problem. Toni will schedule a hearing on the issue to coincide with the next Selectboard meeting on May 9.

2. Town Highways:

a) Equipment - Jon MacKinnon is working up specs for the bidding process for a new tractor with mower.
b) Roads - continue to be worked on as mud season comes to an end
c) Board signed the annual financial highway plan
d) Board discussed Bridge 14 near the exit for the school on Rte. 132. Jon will work to get in on the state list of bridges to be repaired. Toni will be in touch with the State and remind those interested in this long-term project that the proper process is to first come to the Selectboard with their concerns before contacting state officials in order to keep understandings and communication clear with the Agency of Transportation.
e) Based on the recommendation of Jon MacKinnon, the Board appointed P.D. Hardy as Assistant Road Foreman

3. Approve Minutes of April 11th:
Board approved the minutes with a minor name change.

4. Farmer's Market:
Shannon Varley investigated the viability of a farmer's market on the Common. This will require significant administrative organization; Shannon projects working on this for a possible launch in 2019.

5.Emeral Ash Borer:
Dave Paganelli and Bob Wilson explained the implications of the emerald ash borer infestation recently discovered in Orange, Vermont. The infestation is localized right now, and logs are quarantined in the counties in which the infestation is occurring. Bob Wilson and Dave Paganelli

will do an informal survey of the ash along public roadways in Strafford, and will work with the Board over time to create a plan to deal with the future likely death of many ashes bordering public road rights of way.

6. Correspondence:
a)2018 Vermont Tree Steward Award Recipients: Wally and Barbara Smith are the 2018 recipients of the Vermont Tree Steward Award for their outstanding work on the South Strafford Pocket Park.
b) Vermont Statewide Belling Ringing: Board has been approached by the Four Freedoms Festival, which wants to have town bells ringing at 4 pm on July 20 for four minutes to honor the four freedoms depicted in Norman Rockwell's paintings. Board will pass on the information to the Town House Advisory Group for their consideration.
c) Vermont Council on Rural Development: Kate Siepmann and Toni will represent the Board at the meeting, and will recruit a Planning Commission member to also attend.

7. Elizabeth Mine Project:
a) Email Ed Hathaway from the EPA—the revised estimate for trucking loads will be 1250 trucks this summer, from May 15 to September 30, with an average of 16 trucks per day. Ed has informed the Board that the same safety procedures used in the past will be put in place for the trucking this year. On May 23 the EPA will conduct a public forum at 7 pm to address public concerns.
b)Email John Smeltzer—Tyson Bridge. The last inspection was conducted in 2016. The Town has the authority to allow trucks over the posted weight limit. The Board will require a bridge inspection before and after the trucking begins to ensure no damage will result.

8. TAN—Tax Anticipation Note to be signed by the Board
Board voted to sign a tax anticipatory note for $750,000 to stay current on bills and expenses.

9. General:
a) Liaison updates—Energy committee has asked the Board to fill out the energy survey. John will work with Janet Cavanaugh and will contact Steve Campbell about contacting the energy committee and conservation commission who are interested in coordinating implementation of energy portions of the Town Plan.
b) Governance Committee Recommendations—John submitted an article on the website to the Strafford News and will post on the listserve.
c)Playground Draft Agreement between Town and preschool—Board must approve the Recreation Area Manager position as proposed by the Recreation Board. Board will forward copies of the proposed edited preschool playground agreement to the Creative Pre-School, Recreation Board, and the Town insurer for review, then will look at final agreement at the Board's next meeting.
d) Historical Society agreement—Mini Town House—Board approved a proposed agreement with the Strafford Historical Society on the model of the Town House.

10. Other

a) Trees—Phoebe Mix responded to Lisa in an email saying she agrees with removing the trees on the side of the Town Office. Board will reply with confirmation and move ahead.
b) Septic—Septic survey company inspected the system. Recommends replacement and is coming up with a design. Cost for the design is $1,000. Cost estimates for the work is estimated at approximately $2500. Board agreed to move forward with this project.
c) Tax sales—Board discussed tax sales on various properties in town. Toni will follow up with delinquent tax collector.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Berkenkamp
Recording Clerk