

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD SELECTBOARD

November 23, 2015

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

Absent: Brian Johnson

Other active participants: Jon Mackinnon, Road Foreman, Road crew members Dan Prescott, P.D. Hardy, and John Thorp

Meeting called to order in the Town Office at 7:45 a.m.

Brent moved and Steve seconded to go into executive session for annual personnel reviews. All Approved.

The Board met individually with the road crew members. Brent moved and Stephen seconded to go out of executive session at 8:45 a.m. All approved. No action taken

The Board then met with the road foreman and crew for a general discussion on pay and benefits. Board members expressed appreciation for the work and dedication of the crew and acknowledged the difficulty of being on call throughout the winter months. It was brought to light that there needs to be more communication from The Board with regard to what it entails to keep our winter roads clear and to remind people of the need to use caution and to give plow truck drivers enough room and space to do their jobs.

It was noted that a decision was made at the November 18 meeting to level fund the town contribution to health benefits. The town employees will be paying the difference due to increases in cost. Toni outlined the increase for each type of plan. The Board discussed the possibility of a pay increase to help offset the increased health plan cost and for a pay adjustment to reflect another crew member becoming a proficient grader operator. No final decisions will be made until more information is gathered about the FY16 budget and we will work towards making a pay increase decision before Christmas. The Board also committed itself to working more closely with employees as there are likely to be more changes in how we provide benefits in future years.

John asked the Board for permission to put together a request to the Newton Funds for lids for new recycling containers and explore possibilities of finding funds to buy to larger bins that would reduce our recycling expenses. Board members agreed to have John proceed.

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Stephen seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni M. Pippy