

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting August 13, 2019

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott, and Scott Young
In Attendance: Building Inspector Dave Copeland, JoAnn Brown

Appointments Scheduled: 6:00 JoAnn Brown

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM.

Appointments

6:00 – Jo Ann, President of Strafford Historical Society, attended the Selectmen's to speak with board members about the Historical Society's plans for the Town's Bicentennial events in 2020. The week of events will begin on August 15, 2020 with an opening ceremony and parade. Some ideas for events for the week to follow were presented as well. Mrs. Brown is working on a budget and would like residents to know that she is heading up the Bicentennial plans. She will request funds from the Town at the 2020 Town Meeting. She would like all insurance, parade releases and bills to be handled through the Historical Society. The Board suggested encouraging donations for the event from residents and especially local businesses. That might also bring about increased interest and participation. On the 22nd of August a barbeque, along with a quilt show in the barn, will be held at the Kitz farm on Parker Mountain Road. Tickets will be sold ahead of time. The next meeting of the Bicentennial Committee will be held on September 22nd at 4:00 at Austin Hall.

Continuing Business

Board members reviewed correspondence from Town of Northwood, pursuant to RSA 674:53. The Town of Northwood has no comment relative to the construction of a single family home in Strafford which will be accessed through Northwood.

The Selectmen reviewed an affidavit prepared by the Town attorney for the purpose of securing an Administrative Search Warrant.

The Selectmen reviewed photos sent by Barry Schraufnagel as a follow-up to Mr. Schraufnagel's discussion with them at the previous meeting. It was agreed that the photos depicted quite a bit of ice and water flow. Greg Messenger had reported that the clear cut lot has back filled in a bit and does not believe it is significantly adding to the problem.

New Business

The Selectmen reviewed and approved payment of payroll and bills. An Intent to Cut Timber (M7 L2) and Yield Tax Warrant were reviewed and signed. A notice of pay rate for a new EMS personnel was signed.

Tax Collector Judy Dupré confirmed that payment agreements had been sent out by certified mail. Deed notices will be sent out mid-September; a friendly reminder has already been sent. Board members reviewed the report of properties with 2017 tax liens and progress on lien payments. The process for proceeding on two particular properties was discussed, one whose owner is deceased with no heir and another which has come out of bankruptcy.

The PTO will host a yard sale on the Town Hall property on Saturday, August 17th. The PTO will provide generators for any necessary electrical needs and a portable toilet for shoppers and vendors. Trash removal will be the responsibility of the PTO and individual vendors.

An appointment slip and contract for newly hired police officer Forrest Stickney was signed.

The Selectmen reviewed a proposal for the purchase, staging and installation of 3 new computers, replacing three 7 year old computers used by the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. The Selectmen's Office will make inquiries to answer some specific questions about the computers themselves before the Board approves the proposal.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet and seconded by Bryant Scott to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Roll call was taken as follows:
The Board entered non-public session at 6:42PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet to leave non-public session and seconded by Bryant Scott to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young - Aye

Public session reconvened at 7:02PM.

No votes were taken during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Scott Young and seconded by Bryant Scott to seal the minutes of the preceding non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

Lynn Sweet – Aye, Bryant Scott – Aye, Scott Young - Aye

With the completion of the new electrical shed at the Recycling Center, Board members discussed the reinstallation of the land line there. The Selectmen's Office will contact Consolidated Communications to arrange for them to assess the situation. The Selectmen's Office will also contact the electrician to arrange for the street lights to be manually shut off.

Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Whitehouse will be attending the next School Board meeting to discuss with them the necessary repairs to the dam at Kent Pond which is on the property owned by the School District at the bottom of Mile Hill. Should it fail, it could possibly wash out the portion of Route 202A; funds from FEMA had repaired it before, but will not again.

David Copeland updated Board members with regard to situations he has been addressing. He has issued a permit for a small structure on Lakeshore Drive. A gazebo was damaged in the summer of 2018 and he had issued a permit to rebuild. At the property owner's request, he permitted the building site to be moved 50 feet further back from the water. The project has come to a standstill due to the concern that the building is on jurisdictional wetlands. Mr. Copeland is unable to verify that; he is not a qualified soil scientist. He pointed out that there is an old septic plan on file for that property.

There being no further business to conduct, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.