

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 11, 2024

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman; Chris Garcia, Brian Monahan
In Attendance: Don Clifford; Dan Conway

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen reviewed and approved the payment of bills and payroll. The minutes of the May 28th Selectmen's Meeting were read and approved. Two notices of pay rates were approved and signed for the Fire Department. Miscellaneous correspondence was read.

The Selectmen turned their attention to several matters at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. Recently the Center has incurred a large increase of volume. With the increase in volume, comes an increase in costs. Also, Northwood shutting down their facility on Saturday and Deerfield shutting down completely, the Selectmen found it necessary to implement a few changes in operation.

Selectmen Garcia suggested items that need to be addressed immediately. The first item is enforcing the current permit stickers be checked. The second part of this is that newly designed permit stickers be ordered. The new permit stickers should be affixed to the inside of the lower left windshield (driver's side). In order to obtain a sticker, one must have proof of residency or ownership, i.e. picture ID with Strafford address, tax bill with picture ID, utility bill with picture ID. The Selectmen agreed and approved new permit stickers be ordered. The permit stickers are to be issued starting July 8, 2024. The second item discussed was a revised fee schedule. The Selectmen reviewed surrounding towns and their fees and made the necessary changes. These changes are to go into effect on July 10, 2024. Strafford is one of the rare towns that still accepts construction debris/demo. A motion was made, seconded and voted on to start collecting a fee of \$25 for level loads (top of bed); up to \$40 for rounded loads; less for partial loads. All fees will be at the discretion of the Transfer Station Attendant and excessive loads may be turned away. It was reiterated that Strafford's facility is supposed to be residential only-no commercial trucks should be using the facility. The Selectmen also discussed having one day only for demo. This will be evaluated at a future meeting.

Long term goals of traffic flow and the overall layout of the facility were discussed. The goal is to ensure the safety of all patrons and to have a more natural flow in the facility's layout. The best case scenario would be to revamp the entire layout including permanent lines be painted once configuration is completed.

The Selectmen discussed a request from a property owner asking for multiple Transfer Station stickers for several seasonal renters. The Selectmen denied the request and suggested that the property owner rent a dumpster or hire a person to collect the renter's trash.

Don Clifford was in attendance to speak to the Selectmen. Mr. Clifford had volunteered his time at the 2021 Town Meeting to be on the Fire Department's Building Committee and was upset that he had not been contacted. Chair Sweet noted that Deputy Chief Johnson was aware of his interest. Selectmen Garcia, who is the Selectmen on the committee, added that no significant decisions had been made to

date. Mr. Clifford also voiced his frustrations with the expenditures by the Fire Department and needing to be more thoughtful in the future.

Mr. Clifford implored the Selectmen to sell several Town owned properties in order to collect taxes on those properties. The Selectmen informed Mr. Clifford of the RSA stating the Town has to wait 5 years after taking the property over by deed. After review of the properties, none qualified to be sold.

Mr. Clifford would like to have the tax credit for veterans raised and has researched several surrounding towns and what they offer. The Selectmen advised that this should be written and submitted to the Board as a warrant article to be voted on at Town Meeting. The Selectmen also suggested the math be done on how raising the credit would impact the taxpayer.

Mr. Clifford briefly discussed a sign violation on Ridge Road. The Planning Board has sent a letter in regards to the large flag-type sign.

The Selectmen were also asked when lines would be painted on some Town roads. This will be discussed with the Road Agent.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted on to approve a new private road name of 'Stonewall Drive'- this is off of Second Crown Point Road.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted on to approve a new private road name of 'Searcy Way'-a way that is in Strafford but can only be accessed through Northwood.

A legal matter was tabled until the June 25th meeting.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.