

**Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
December 11, 2017**

Present: Selectmen: Chair - Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Kevin Robinson; Treasurer – Alyson Marcucci; Road Foreman – Ralph Staib; and Clerk – Kent Young.

Al Dupell called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Orders were reviewed and signed.

Modifications: The Selectmen added a change to the Selectmen's meeting schedule, the consideration of a loan to the Stratton School District and consideration of a letter of request for a permit for a peaceful protest.

Budget: Alyson Marcucci was present to participate in the preparation of the 2018/9 budget to be presented to Voters at the 2018 Town Meeting. Items of interest were 1) the increase of the Sheriff's expense to \$47,000.00 in anticipation of 1000 hours of service per year, as offered by the Sheriff's Dept.. The Selectmen want to negotiate the shift schedule before approving such a contract. 2) Discussion of a separate Article for the construction of a Pavilion at the Rec. Area was decided against upon review of the estimate by the Wadsworth Co. of approximately \$290,000.00 for this project. The Selectmen agreed instead to add \$5000.00 to this line item in the budget and postponed presenting a project to the voters for another year. 3) The Selectmen agreed to budget \$200,000.00 for the purchase of the old Town Common and Cemetery from the School District, which shall be presented in a separate Article for Town Meeting. The Highway Budget proposals include \$110,000.00 for new equipment, which includes truck replacement and a potential Town Garage generator replacement. The Road Foreman will work up an estimate for paving of approx. one mile of the Strat.-Arl. Rd., west of the Town Hall. The Selectmen also agreed to include \$20,000.00 for culverts.

Appropriations Requests: The Selectmen reviewed new requests from Deerfield Valley Rescue Inc. for \$1,500.00 and from Gerda's Equine Rescue for \$100.00. The Selectmen agreed to add Deerfield Valley Rescue, as it provides services to the south part of Town; however, they denied to include the request from Gerda's Equine Rescue, as they are unaware of horses being kept in town at this time and, therefore, the request does not meet the statutory requirement for appropriations. Chris Liller so moved. Larry Bills seconded. All agreed.

Road Crew Issues: Winter Schedule: Ralph Staib presented the winter call-in schedule.

School Loan: The Selectmen authorized to loan the Stratton School District \$130,000.00 to pay for tuitions of new unanticipated students this year. Greg Marcucci so moved. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred and signed the loan agreement.

Meeting Change: Greg Marcucci moved to change the next meeting from December 25, 2017 to December 26, 2017. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred.

Security Systems: The Clerk reported that George Wilson of Low Voltage, Inc. has had problems with the phone service for the new systems. He had suggested considering local alarms only. The Selectmen disagreed and want to maintain the alarm services provided. The Clerk stated that the Town Office and Town Hall system will require two new dedicated phone lines, as the new system does not work well using the same line with internet or the fax line. Mr. Wilson also recommended replacing all old heat sensors that are not within code. The Selectmen agreed.

Minutes: Greg Marcucci moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of November 27, 2017. Kevin Robinson seconded the motion. All concurred and the minutes were approved.

Peaceful Protest: The Selectmen reviewed a letter from Newt Scatchard requesting a permit for a peaceful protest in Town, protesting Stratton Mountain School. The Selectmen are unaware of any Town Ordinance that addresses this issue or that provides a permitting process. The Chair suggested that the

board has no opposition to such a protest. The Clerk said he had forwarded the letter to the Town Attorney for his advice. Additionally, the letter appeared to include a public record request for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Co.. Al Dupell said that it is a corporation separate from the Town. The Town has no authority in regard to their affairs.

Adjourn: Greg Marcucci motioned to adjourn at 9:15p.m.. Chris Liller seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young