

# Town of Stratton Selectmen's Meeting

December 8, 2014

**Members present:** Selectmen: Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Kevin Robinson; Treasurer – Candie Bernard; Transfer Station Attendant – Roger Schultz; Residents – Rob Giunta and Ellen Giunta; and Clerk – Kent Young

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

**Agenda Modifications:** The Chair reviewed additions to the agenda and agreed to modify it to include discussion to abolish the Recreation Committee, Recreation Area reservation request and Town Hall reservation request. All concurred.

**Budget:** The Selectmen commenced their annual budget discussion. Rob and Ellen Giunta were present to ask that the culvert on County Rd., at the Pikes Fall Rd. intersection be replaced, since the existing culvert is not long enough for the road. Ralph Staib said that it was on the schedule for the coming year and that he had a hydraulic study for this project. Al Dupell added that it has not yet been permitted by the State and they now seem to require box culverts for these bridges, which will be expensive. If it is too expensive, the Town may have to postpone it so that funds can be raised over two or more years. The Selectmen cautioned that the permitting process may also prevent the project from proceeding this summer. The Giuntas offered to help expedite the permit in any way they could. The Selectmen agreed to keep their offer in mind. Ralph Staib will contact VTrans about this project and get estimates based on their input. At this point, the Giuntas left the meeting. The budget meeting recessed to discuss the Transfer Station with Roger Schultz.

**Transfer Station:** Roger Schultz attended to discuss implementation of the new legislation requiring the Town to charge for refuse disposal. Kent Young explained that the Town may be able to shift the trash disposal by Property Managers over to the Resort as we had previously discussed, without paying the resort to take it. All Haulers, which include Property Managers, will be required to be licensed by the State. He found that these Haulers will be allowed to hire dumpsters directly from Waste Management companies, as long as they provide the required Recycling services as well. Under this circumstance, it would be beneficial to Stratton Corp., the Property Managers and the Town, for the Resort to provide this service for the Property Managers at the Resort. And, since the Town would be required to charge an amount sufficient to cover the cost of this service, it would be cheaper for Property Managers to pay Stratton Resort to use their dumpsters, leaving the Town out of the loop. The Clerk said that he had been in contact with Bill Nupp concerning this issue and he will try to organize a future meeting with Mr. Nupp, the Property Managers and the Town to work out a solution.

The Transfer Station attendant was present so that the Selectmen could discuss with him changes to his duties forthcoming in July. The Clerk summarized the discussion from the last Selectmen's Meeting which had addressed the fact that the Transfer Station Attendant will be the person who will need to collect fees. Other methods that were considered to meet this new law, such as requiring the use of special bags sold from the Town Office, or selling tokens at the office, will not work with the large number of second-home property owners who use the Transfer Station. This new change will require the Attendant to be out at the dumpsters, counting bags, collecting fees and watching to ensure that refuse is not deposited into the recycling containers. The Clerk recommended that the Town purchase a cash register for this purpose, which will provide receipts for customers and maintain a record for the treasurer and auditors.

The Clerk provided a copy of Dover's pay schedule for review. He said that he will acquire schedules from other surrounding towns, as well. It is advised that towns coordinate their charges with neighboring towns, as this will discourage people from trying to dump in a Town where services are cheaper. Transfer Station passes were discussed – Dover does not require passes, but charges an additional fee for users who do not have a Town pass. This is a good option, as it will allow people who cannot produce a pass to dispose of their trash for the higher price, instead of being turned away and forced to keep their trash. Following the discussion, Roger Schultz left the meeting.

**2015 / 2016 Budget:** The Selectmen continued the budget meeting with the Treasurer, Road Foreman and Town Clerk. Following this session, the Treasurer agreed to print reports for requested line items and the Road Foreman will get estimates for various expenses. The budget meeting will continue on December 22.

**Road Crew Issues: Garage Security System:** No changes. **Satellite Internet:** HughesNet has been ordered for the garage, installation should occur on December 12. **Garage Heating System:** Adjustments continue for efficient operation of the system. **Garage Roof:** Chris Liller reported that the roof has serious leakage problems now that there is snow on it. He has contacted VMI to get an estimate for installation of a membrane. The Selectmen asked the Clerk to write a letter to American Bldgs, the manufacturing company, asking for a resolution to the problem, as it appears to be a design flaw that is causing the leakage. **Town Roads used by Snowmobiles:** Chris Liller moved to open the following roads for use by snowmobiles this winter – 1) Stratton-Arlington Rd. from Grout Pond Rd. to the Sunderland town line, 2) Grout Pond Rd., 3) Canedy Rd., 4) Ball Farm Rd., 5) Old Town Rd. and 6) Shepardson Rd. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred.

**ZBA Appointment:** Greg Marcucci moved to reappoint Paul Bernard to the ZBA for a three year term. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

**Recreation Committee:** The Clerk recommended abolishing this committee, as it seldom meets and seldom has a quorum when it does, member Skip Hammond has moved away, committees are subject to the new Open Meeting Law and decisions of the committee are subject to approval of the Selectmen; therefore, he recommends that the Selectmen take on the task entirely. Rec. Committee members Candie Bernard and Ralph Staib agreed. Greg Marcucci so moved and Chris Liller seconded. All concurred – the Recreation Committee was abolished.

**Recreation Area reservation:** The Wardsboro School requested use of the Rec. Area for the 2015 Winter Sports season. The Selectmen agreed. Chris Liller asked for a schedule so that the area can be prepared prior to use. The Clerk stated that the letter gave the dates (1/13, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10 and 2/24).

**Minutes:** Greg Marcucci moved to approve the Selectmen's minutes of November 24, 2014. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred.

**Adjourn:** Greg Marcucci motioned to adjourn at 10:30p.m.. Chris Liller seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

*David Kent Young*