

Town of Stratton Selectmen's Meeting

July 27, 2015

Present: Selectmen: Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller and Kevin Robinson; Clerk – Kent Young; Transfer Station Attendant – Jason Dupell; and Richard Farley of Wood Signs.

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

Modifications to the Agenda: The Selectmen agreed to add the following: 1) Discussion of 2014/15 Tax Refund error 2) Town Hall reservation and 3) Consider application to FEMA for additional funds for the Kidder Brook Bridge project. Larry Bills so moved. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred.

Transfer Station Alteration: The Selectmen reviewed options to provide better access to the worksite for the Attendant. Construction of a booth was considered, as well as installing an exterior door directly into the Attendant's office, located in the cold-storage building. The Selectmen accepted the recommendation of the Attendant to replace the east-facing window in his office with a door. Chris Liller agreed to contact a contractor to cut the concrete wall to make an opening for a door, while he will order and install the door. Following the discussion, Jason Dupell left the meeting and the Selectmen moved the meeting to the Stratton Town Office.

Town Sign: The Selectmen reviewed the recommendations and the site for a Town sign design which will be placed at the northwest corner of the Stratton-Arlington Rd. and the West Jamaica Rd. intersection. Richard Farley of Wood Signs was present for the review. The Selectmen were satisfied with one of Mr. Farley's designs, which include a wooden sign placed between columns of either granite or mortared stone. The columns should be approximately 12" or 14" square and high enough to hide the telecommunications panel located on that corner, with a total length of approx. 8.5ft. Following this discussion, Richard Farley left the meeting.

Road Crew Issues: Town Garage Roof: After the previous meeting, Chris Liller and Kent Young met with VMS Const. (previously Quin Co.). The Selectmen had agreed that the installation of the membrane on the garage roof could be treated as a change-order to the original project. VMS agreed to expedite the installation of the membrane – they will need to get estimates from roofers, but believe the project can be completed before the first snow. **Culverts and Paving:** Chris Liller reported that culvert replacements are nearly complete for the year – the Road Crew still need to replace the culvert by Stratton Mountain School. All replacement sites will need to be patched prior to the commencement of Paving on Mountain Rd., which is scheduled for next month. **Guardrails:** Guardrails also need to be repaired / replaced on Mountain Rd. and elsewhere in Town – Al Dupell said that Ralph Staib can evaluate this project once he returns from his vacation. **Nelson's Fire Pond:** Chris Liller said that once a hired excavator is available, they will continue repair of the Pond at Nelson's as requested by the Stratton Mountain Fire Co..

Kidder Brook Bridge: The Clerk stated that he had heard back from the State that FEMA will soon review the close-out of the project. The State, however, recommends that the Town complete additional paperwork, which may allow for additional reimbursement by FEMA. Currently the Town is eligible to receive \$145,386.00, which is 90% of the approved capped amount. The application may result in the Town qualifying to receive 90% of the total expense of \$203,132.00. The Selectmen agreed to pursue the additional funding, but only if there is no risk to the Town's eligibility of receiving the approved capped amount. The Clerk will look into this further.

Town Hall Reservation: The Selectmen reviewed a request from Chris Marcucci and Devon Crowther to reserve the Town Hall for August 9, 2015. Chris Liller moved to approve the request. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred.

2014/15 Tax Refund Error: The Clerk explained that the Assistant Treasurer had discovered an error in last year's refund of a duplicate tax payment on Ober Tal B33 in the amount \$3020.80. The payment was made by Todd and Nicole Johnson, who had purchased the property on June 6, 2014, when at the same time their Mortgage Company made the payment. A refund of \$3020.80 meant for the Johnsons was mistakenly sent to the previous owners – Lawrence and Kristen Gentilini, who were shown in the 2014/15 Grand List as the owners of record on April 1, 2014, as required by Statute. Upon discovering the mistake, the Town Office contacted the Town Attorney. The Town should send a letter to the Gentilinis requesting the return of those funds before proceeding further. The Selectmen approved the letter, as well as any follow up action as recommended by the Town Attorney. They also agreed to issue a refund to the Johnsons.

Meetinghouse Improvements: Chris Liller said that the replacement doors for the Meetinghouse were ordered and will cost approx.. \$3400.00. They should be delivered by the end of August. The Selectmen concurred.

Minutes: Kevin Robinson moved to approve the Selectmen's minutes of July 13, 2015. Chris Liller seconded the motion – all concurred and the minutes were approved.

Adjourn: Chris Liller motioned to adjourn at 8:25p.m.. Larry Bills seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young