

Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
January 9, 2012

Members present: Selectmen – Al Dupell, Chris Liller, Kevin Robinson; Road Foreman – Ralph Staib; ZBA Chair / School Board Chair – Tom Montemagni; Town Attorney – Robert Fisher; and Clerk – Kent Young.

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

Brown Camp: The Selectmen, ZBA Chair and Town Attorney deliberated about proceeding with resolving the hazard at the Brown property on West Jamaica Rd.. The Selectmen agreed to have the Town Attorney proceed as necessary to resolve the issue.

Stratton's Residential Education Tax Rate: The Town Attorney, Selectmen, Town Clerk and School Board Chair discussed how this rate is determined. All agreed that the way federally mandated special education expenses affect the rate are unfair to the Town, because it effectively raises the rate disproportionately to the amount of money spent. In this way, it appears that the town is being penalized by the State for obeying the Federal mandate. All agreed that the town should investigate and pursue the fairness / legality of special education funds affecting the rate in this way.

Road Crew Issues: Ongoing Hurricane Irene recovery: FEMA: The Road Foreman and the Clerk continue to work with FEMA and Witt, Assoc. preparing project packages – currently there is a question raised by FEMA personnel as to whether Mountain Rd. falls within FEMA jurisdiction, because it has a Federal designation as a “Minor Collector” roadway. The Clerk said that if it is a Federal Aid road, then funding for repair associated with Irene will have to be recouped from a different agency. He will keep the Selectmen informed of FEMA's determination. **Penny Ave Bridge:** The Clerk said he was working with the State toward putting the project up for bids. The State said that we will need to work closely with FEMA and also recommended that we get a Construction Inspection Contract in place and bid out for an inspector as well. **Certificate of Highway Mileage:** The Selectmen reviewed and all present signed the certification. The Clerk will return it to VTrans for approval. **Street Lights:** The Selectmen agreed to proceed with entering the Efficiency VT program to switch over the street lights within Stratton to LEDs. Al Dupell signed the agreement.

Town Garage: 1) The questions concerning the heating system remain unresolved. Chris Liller said that a meeting with all parties concerned is scheduled for later this week. 2) Countryside Lock and Alarm has not yet installed the cameras and security system.

Rec. Area: Ralph Staib agreed to contact the VT Youth Corp. to see if they will undertake rebuilding one of the cross-country trail bridges this summer.

Minutes: Chris Liller moved to approve the minutes of December 26, 2011, with a correction that the Selectmen decided not to have Springfield Fence install a tool cage in the garage. Kevin Robinson seconded – all concurred.

Transfer Station: One of the Compactor motors failed and is currently being rebuilt.

Town Budget: The Selectmen finalized the Town Budgets (with exception of appropriations).

Adjourn: Chris Liller motioned to adjourn at 9:00p.m.. Kevin Robinson seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by: *David Kent Young*