

# Town of Stratton Selectmen's Meeting

July 12, 2021

**Present:** Selectmen: Al Dupell - Chair, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, and Greg Marcucci; Alyson Peterson - Treasurer, and Kent Young – Clerk.

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

**Modifications to the Agenda:** The Clerk asked that consideration of 1) accepting ARPA funding available to the Town of Stratton and 2) Employee Personal Time Distribution be added to the agenda. Greg Marcucci so moved. Chris Liller seconded. All concurred.

**ARPA Funding:** The Board discussed the option of accepting the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus Local Recovery Funding (CLFRF), which is Federal Funding to compensate Municipalities across the Nation for losses due to the COVID crisis. Stratton's allotment based on population, and if used within the guidelines, amounts to \$20,728.00, which will be allocated in two installments. This seems as if, among other things, it can be used to supplement the loss of the 1% tax the town has placed on sales / rooms and meals, etc., within Stratton. In discussion with the Treasurer and Clerk, the Board agreed that the Town should be able to apply these funds within the Federal guidelines. Application deadline is July 15, 2021. The Clerk will submit the appropriate paperwork. To initiate this process, several issues must be approved as follows: 1) The Town of Stratton shall accept its allocation of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, along with the Award Terms and Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements that are requirements of accepting these funds. Greg Marcucci so moved. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred and the motion passed. 2) To appoint Al Dupell to serve as the Town of Stratton's "Authorized Representative" as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, to sign the Award Terms and Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements by December 31, 2024. Larry Bills so moved. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred and the motion passed. 3) To name Alyson Peterson, the Stratton Treasurer, to be the "Contact Person" for the Town of Stratton's CLFRF Award from US Treasury. Greg Marcucci so moved. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred and the motion passed. Following the discussion, the Clerk agreed to initiate the application.

**2021/2 Tax Rates:** Alyson Peterson presented proposed Municipal Tax Rates (for the General and Highway Funds) as well as the Education Homestead and Non-Homestead Tax Rates set by the State, all for the current fiscal year. She stated that she had applied \$200,000.00 of the surplus from the last fiscal year to the General Fund. This resulted in a Municipal Rate of \$0.1140. With the State Education Homestead Rate for Stratton set at \$1.4838 and the Non-Homestead rate for Stratton set at \$1.6827, this results in the Total Tax Rates for Stratton as \$1.5978 as the Homestead Tax Rate and \$1.7967 as the Non-Homestead Tax Rate. The Selectmen concurred with these rates and noted that they are approx.. 25¢ lower for the Homestead Rate and 10¢ lower for the Non-Homestead Rate than last year's tax rates. Greg Marcucci moved to accept these rates. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and all signed the Warrant.

**Employee Personal Time distributions:** The Treasurer asked the Selectmen to review said paperwork and consider approval, as directed by the Auditors. She also stated that Scott Marquis did not meet the 20-hour per week average as stipulated in the Personnel Policy to be eligible for benefits. The discussion continued and it was noted that he had exceeded his sick time due to injuries that resulted from a fall at the Transfer Station, resulting in his reduction of hours. Greg Marcucci moved to allow Scott Marquis to receive benefits for a 20-hour employee for the current year. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred. Next, the Selectmen reviewed said paperwork for all eligible employees. Greg Marcucci moved to accept it. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

**Road Crew Issues: Paving Grant:** Chris Liller present the board with the Grant Agreement for Paving, which had increased from \$175,000.00 to \$200,000.00. The Board accepted said agreement and Al Dupell signed the document.

**Rec. Area:** Chris Liller said that the Road Crew had repaired the Merry-go-round and that the damaged swing set could be repaired by reducing the number of swings. He thought perhaps an additional piece of "Playground Equipment" could be purchased to fill the void and he agreed to discuss this with the Town Office. He also tried to find a company available to replace the handrails down to the playground from the parking lot, but all applicable businesses seem to be booked until next year.

**Town Hall Rental:** The Wardsboro Snowmobile Club requested use of the Town Hall on September 18, 2021. Larry Bills moved to approve this request. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred.

**Minutes:** Greg Marcucci moved to approve the Selectmen’s Minutes of June 28, 2021. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and the minutes were approved.

**Adjourn:** Larry Bills motioned to adjourn at 8:20p.m.. Chris Liller seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

*David Kent Young*