

Town of Stratton Selectman's Meeting

June 10, 2024

Present: Selectman: Chair – Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci, and Boomer Walker; Kent Young – Clerk; Alyson Peterson – Treasurer and Steve Petrik of Southern Vermont Trail Assoc. (SVTA).

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

Modifications to the Agenda: The Clerk stated that the Board needs to add 1) “Consideration of an Access permit.” Boomer Walker so moved. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

Payroll Tax: The Treasurer informed the Board that they need to make a decision concerning funding of a new childcare payroll tax, which will go into effect on July 1, 2024. The Town has the option to cover the entire tax (0.44%) or to pay 0.33% and require employees to pay the remaining 0.11%. Following a discussion, Chris Liller moved that the town will pay the entire 0.44%. Boomer Walker seconded – all concurred.

Internet / Phones Service: Alyson Peterson stated that previously the Selectmen had agreed upon installation of Starlink Internet for the Town Office. Additionally, the office would like a separate phone link for the Town Hall, as currently, phone use at the Town Hall can interrupt / interfere with Town business. Boomer Walker moved to approve this change. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

Generator Replacement: In discussion with the Treasurer, due to the expense of the new generator, the Road Foreman and Treasurer recommended delaying the purchase of a new small pickup truck (to a time to be determined in a future discussion) so to use the equipment fund for the replacement of the garage generator (previously approved) and the replacement of the F550 Town Truck this next fiscal year (2025). The board agreed to this recommendation. Following this discussion, the Treasurer left the meeting.

Town Forest: The Selectmen reviewed a letter from the Nature Conservancy regarding their concerns about the SVTA trails in the forest. Boomer Walker recommended tabling this discussion until the Town Attorney is available to attend a future meeting. Chris Liller seconded – all concurred. At this time, Steve Petrik left the meeting.

Road Crew Issues: Propane: Nido has switched out propane tanks and will service the Town's equipment as necessary. Suburban Propane has not yet retrieved their tanks. **Culvert Project:** Chris Liller said that Hunter Excavating is currently installing the culverts on Statton-Arlington Rd. and the road will need to be closed on Thursday, June 13 to replace the larger of the culverts. The Selectmen concurred. **Paving:** The Foreman stated that grinding of the portion of the Stratton-Arlington Rd. designated to be paved will commence in the week of June 24, with paving to follow. **Green Mountain Power Project:** The foreman stated that power installation on Mountain Rd. should commence soon. **Transfer Station:** Scott Marquis continues on sick leave. Mark Ellison continues to fill that position. Chris Liller recommended that we invite Randy Dapron to a meeting to discuss Casella's upcoming new contract with the Town. The Board concurred. **Penny Ave:** Currently the Road Crew is bringing this road's ditching into compliance with the MRP. **Stratton Mountain School Road usage:** The Board is concerned about student safety regarding the school's roller ski training and asked the clerk to invite the headmaster to the next meeting to discuss ways to make it safer for the students. The Clerk agreed. **Vacation:** The Foreman informed the board that he will take vacation during the week of July 1. The board concurred. **Access Permit:** The Board reviewed an access permit for a second access for 90 Pike Hollow Rd., owned by Pike Hollow LLC, submitted by Steve Cochran. The Board approved the request – all signed and asked the Road Foreman to direct the placement and culvert requirements for this project. The Foreman agreed. **Grout Pond Rd.:** The Foreman informed the board that the engineering of the project revealed that costs were under-estimated and that the currently approved grant will cover only a portion of the project. He recommended some areas where the work should be located that best benefits the Town's needs. The Board concurred. It is possible that more funding will become available in the future. **Rec. Area:** Greg Marcucci asked that the ballfield in the Rec.

Area be refurbished for use for Little League and regular Baseball / Softball. The board agreed to determine what is needed. He will asked Grayson Peterson to look over the infield. Additionally, the Road Crew will evaluate the playground equipment for safety purposes

Town Hall Rentals: The Selectmen approved to allow use by Elizabeth Baird for July 4-6, 2024, Jodie Perkins August 1-2, 2024, the Gibsons on September 14 and 28, 2024, and Bethany Chase use for line-dancing instructions on Thursdays, June 27, July 11, 18 and 25 and August 1 (with no charge for usage).

Minutes: Boomer Walker moved to approve the Selectman's minutes of May 13, 2024. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred.

Adjourn: Boomer Walker moved to adjourned at 9:00pm. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young