

Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
September 12, 2011

Members present: Selectmen – Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, Greg Marcucci and Kevin Robinson; Road Foreman – Ralph Staib, resident – John Wadsworth and Clerk – Kent Young.

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

Town Highway Business: Hurricane Irene damage: Emergency access has been restored to residences throughout town, but many roads were damaged and have not yet been restored to pre-storm conditions. Culverts and bridges remain out on the Stratton-Arlington Rd. at the Sunderland line, on the West Jamaica Rd., on the Jamaica line, also the Penny Ave. Bridge remains out. Minor road damage remains throughout town. The priority for Stratton is to get the Kidder Brook Bridge on Mountain Road fully repaired. Currently, only one culvert was repositioned there and the road is much lower than it had been previously. A hydraulic study had been sent by VTrans indicating that a 20' span will be required for this stream. The Road Foreman will coordinate with AOT to determine what can be done so that this vital link across town will remain open until a full repair can be made. The Clerk agreed to contact Rep. Oliver Olsen for his help in stressing to the State the importance of restoring that bridge. The Clerk reported that the National Forest contacted him and confirmed that the Stratton-Arlington Rd. from the West Jamaica Rd. to the Sunderland line is considered a Federal Road, eligible for 100% of federal funding. He will get better details necessary to obtain these funds. The Clerk relayed that the Danziger property on Stratton-Arlington Rd. lost his back yard and septic tank to the flood. As directed by Vermont Emergency management, Mr. Danziger has contacted USDA NRCS for help in stabilizing and restoring the brook, in order to save the house. This organization requires a sponsorship for the project in order to obtain 75% Federal funding for the project. The USDA NRCS representative instructed the Clerk to get the Town to sponsor this project. The Clerk stated that, as he understands it, the sponsor and the property owner will be responsible for the additional 25% of the cost. At this time, the Selectmen were not willing to sponsor the project, if it will cost the town. The Clerk agreed to look into it further. Ralph Staib said that he would, however, like to go in and get the trees out of the brook, which should help stabilize that area somewhat. The Clerk agreed to contact the owner for his permission.

Bridge 7 Strat.-Arl. Rd. (near Willis Cemetery Rd.): Ralph Staib informed the Selectmen that Sweeney Const. submitted a bid of \$19,000.00 for the project. Chris Liller made the motion to accept this bid, provided the proper paperwork necessary to legally negotiate the contract is submitted by Mr. Sweeney. Greg Marcucci seconded – all concurred

Stratton Mountain Access Rd.: The Road Foreman informed the Selectmen that this road had been made ready for paving prior to the hurricane. Last week paving began, but the Town of Winhall Select Board stopped the paving trucks from using Winhall Hollow Rd. in that town – their only way into Stratton at this time. Therefore, the project has been halted until further notice. **A new Loader:** Ralph Staib presented the bid for a new loader from Nortrax, John Deere. CAT did not reply, as they felt they could not compete with the State bid company (Nortrax). No other bids were received. Due to availability constraints, Greg Marcucci moved to have the Road Foreman obtain an additional bid for a similar piece of equipment, and, if the bid is no less than the bid presented by Nortrax, then the Road Foreman has permission to proceed with the purchase from Nortrax. Kevin Robinson seconded – all concurred. Results will be reported in the next Selectmen's minutes.

Town Garage Project: Chris Liller reported that the building can now be closed up, as the floor, roof, walls and doors have been installed. Insulation and interior work continues and the mezzanine floor is scheduled to be poured on Sept 13. Ralph Staib has not yet heard from Countryside Lock and Alarm and will attempt to contact them tomorrow to expedite their security system's installation.

Town Hall: The new wooden grates for the floor vents installed by Sabin Flooring were not sturdy enough for those locations. The Selectmen asked the Clerk to contact the company and request that adequate grates be installed. The Clerk agreed to do so. The Selectmen reviewed a request by the Green Mountain Club for use of the Town Hall by their Trail workers, who are now helping with flood debris removal in West Wardsboro. The Town Hall would be used as a facility for some meals, showers and restrooms. They also request permission to use the Recreation Area for camping, since the National Forest is closed for use. The Selectmen concurred.

Minutes: Greg Marcucci moved to approve the minutes of August 22, 2011. Kevin Robinson seconded – all concurred.

Stratton Mountain School Bldg Project: The Selectmen reviewed plans for a new Arts Center and Athletics Center at the Stratton Mountain School. The Site Plan shows a new access onto Brazers Way. General consensus was that this new access will not be acceptable, due to the constraints of Brazers Way. The Clerk stated that the Planning Commission will attend a site visit of the project at 6:00pm on October 5, 2011, followed by the public hearing, and that the Selectmen may wish to attend at that same time. All Dupell agreed that some representation from the Select Board would attend. Kent Young agreed to relay the Selectmen's concerns to the SMS Head Master and the Planning Commission.

Adjourn: Greg Marcucci motioned to adjourn at 8:55p.m.. Chris Liller seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young