

**Town of Stratton
Selectmen's Meeting
October 14, 2019**

Present: Selectmen: Al Dupell, Larry Bills, Chris Liller, and Kevin Robinson; Betsy and Rob Wadsworth of the Wadsworth Co.; Zoning Administrator / Health Officer – Ray Hawksley; and Clerk – Kent Young.

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

Modifications: No Modifications were made.

ZA / Health Officer Complaint (cont.): At 7:30pm, as the meeting started, Chris Liller and Ray Hawksley were not yet present and Greg Marcucci would not be attending. The board members present agreed that this issue should be discussed in front of the full board, so at approx. 7:35pm, Rob and Betsy Wadsworth left the meeting. Following their departure, Chris Liller arrived and the discussion regarding Road Crew issues commenced; however, Ray Hawksley arrived at approx. 7:40pm and the meeting deferred back to said issue. He was told that the continuation of the discussion would have to wait until the next meeting, when the full board is present. Mr. Hawksley insisted that he be able to defend himself against the complaint made at last meeting now. The Selectmen concurred.

In regard to the complaint concerning intervention with the Winhall-Stratton Fire District's expansion of the sewer lines into the North Brookwood neighborhood, Mr. Hawksley said that he was acting on behalf of seven of his clients, most of whom are located within Winhall and that the issue he raised with Hunter Excavating was in Winhall. He described the system being installed and noted that he observed that one of the connecting pipes which splits off of the main sewer line and is intended for future hookup to one of the homes, was duct-taped instead of capped. This is a pressurized system and this terminal point is located within close proximity to a well, which could, therefore, cause a potential contamination problem for said well. He reported this issue to the Fire District and was commended for identifying this problem. This issue was discussed at a Fire District meeting (which occurred after the last Selectmen's meeting) and the Engineer has since acknowledged that a design error existed – this and other connecting pipes have since been uncovered and properly capped. Mr. Hawksley then addressed the complaint of the Wadsworths and said he had only been in contact with Betsy Wadsworth once – it was in regard to the Zilkha property in Stratton, which is now part of the sewer line hookup and also requires an Act 250 permit. At that time, the sewer line's Act 250 permit was not in place and he had been made aware by others that the septic system for this house had failed. He felt that the Wadsworth Co. had proceeded with construction under a town Zoning Permit before the other permits had been issued and that they had failed to inform him about the septic issue. Ray Hawksley felt that the previous Zoning Administrator would issue a permit and then not follow up on the project or ensure that all permitting was in place before work commenced. Kent Young, the Clerk and Planning Commission Chair, said that it is his understanding that each permit is separate and is not typically tied to another type of permit – that, for example, if a Zoning Permit is issued, it can commence. If it creates a problem with say a water / wastewater permit, then the violation occurs under Water Wastewater [ANR] authority and not with Zoning. [This, however, implies that the Health Officer should intervene to ensure that the health issue is mitigated].

Following Ray Hawksley's explanation, the Selectmen requested that he follow the procedures in performance of his duties. At this time, Ray Hawksley left the meeting.

Road Crew Issues: Paving: Chris Liller informed the board that Fuller Sand and Gravel had commenced paving today. They should be able to finish the road tomorrow and then patch pave sometime afterward. **Little Kidder Brook Bridge:** Chris Liller reported that he had met with the Engineer and the State at the site. The State recommended extending the length by adding an additional box. Chris Liller and the Engineer agreed to this. The Engineer will update the plans and Chris Liller hopes to be able to bid out the project before the snow. Once the plans are available, the Clerk agreed to contact the Town Attorney to work on getting easements from the property owners on either side. **F550 Truck Replacement:** Chris Liller obtained a quote from Viking regarding the new body for a new F550. The quote was for \$51,300.00. He was unable to obtain a quote from Fairfield without the plow

assembly, as he had requested. Kevin Robinson moved to accept the quote from Viking. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred. **County Rd.:** Ross Powers had submitted a Road Crossing and Access Permit to install power underground from the pole on the Matthews’s property. The Selectmen all signed said application. **Sand / Salt Shed:** All Seasons Const. submitted a quote to remove the doors and extend the opening upward for a cost of \$9934.00. Chris Liller will discuss this with the treasurer to see if funds are available for this project. **Part-time Employee:** Chris Liller reports that Grayson Peterson now has his CDL license. **Snowmobile usage of Town Roads:** Kevin Robinson moved to continue to keep open the following roads for use by snowmobiles this winter – 1) Stratton-Arlington Rd. from Grout Pond Rd. to the Sunderland town line, 2) Grout Pond Rd., 3) Canedy Rd., 4) Ball Farm Rd., 5) Old Town Rd. and 6) Shepardson Rd. Larry Bills seconded – all concurred.

Rec. Area: The Selectmen reviewed a quote from George Wilson of Low Voltage, Inc. for the installation of a security camera system for \$9890.00. The Selectmen agreed to postpone indefinitely any decision regarding this project.

Town Hall / Rec. Area Use: The Selectmen reviewed a request from the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club for use of the Town Hall for October 26, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21 and Apr 18. Larry Bills moved to approve said requests and Kevin Robinson seconded – all concurred. The Selectmen agreed to hold the Town’s Holiday Party on December 7.

Minutes: Larry Bills moved to approve the Selectmen’s Minutes of September 23, 2019. Chris Liller seconded. All concurred and the minutes were approved.

Adjourn: Larry Bills motioned to adjourn at 9:10pm. Kevin Robinson seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:

David Kent Young