

TOWN OF STRONG – SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2021 @6:00pm

1. **Call meeting to order – flag salute:** Rob Elliott called the Selectmen’s Meeting to order with a flag salute at 6:00pm.
2. **Board Member Attendance Recognized:** Present: Rob Elliott, Jim Burrill, Rodney Cook, Andy Pratt, and Dick Worthley. Others Attending: Sandra Mitchell, Duayne Boyd, Lawrence Curtis and Betsy DuBois.
3. **Approval of the Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes from 1/12/21 and Special Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes from 1/19/2021:** Jim made a motion to approve minutes. Rod Cook made a motion to amend the minutes from 1/19/2021 to read’ “the board” would like to request \$4,000 for the Maintenance reserve to paint the building’ in place of ‘he’. Jim 2nd the amendment and all voted in favor. Jim made a motion to approve minutes with amendment. Andy Pratt 2nd the motion and all voted in favor 5-0.
4. **Approval of the Treasurer’s Warrant for week of 1/28/2021 for \$9,563.45:** Rod Cook made a motion to approve Treasurer’s Warrant for week of 1/28/2021 for \$9,563.45. Andy P. 2nd the motion and all voted in favor 5-0.
5. **Foreclosed Properties:** Sandy explained to selectmen that she had, at their direction, sent out letters to the foreclosed upon property owners. She has received no response. Selectmen will pursue the sale of the tax acquired properties. Andy P. made a motion to allow Dick Worthley to contact Paul Mills to pursue legal matters as it pertains to the Tax Acquired properties. Rod C. 2nd and all voted in favor (5-0). Sandy will pursue adding the properties to our liability insurance through Kyes.
6. **2021 Budget/Warrant Articles:** Selectmen went over the 2nd Draft of the Warrant Articles. They specifically looked at the article that sets the interest rate. Sandy informed them that they needed to set the rate between 4% and 6% this year according to Maine State Treasurer. Dick W. made a motion to set interest rate at 6%. Rod C. 2nd the motion and all voted in favor 5-0. Selectmen would like to remove the article that carries recreation accounts’ balances forward and instead allow to lapse to surplus. They decided to write an additional article to ask for those balances back from surplus. Andy will reach out to MMA and find out if we can pay our loan payment on the Pond Road before town meeting. Selectmen will make additional changes to warrant articles after the budget committee meet and the audit is completed.
7. **Reports of the Treasurer/Town Clerk/Highway Foreman:** Sandy gave selectmen the quote from printer for the Town Report. Sandy wanted to align the payment for health insurance so that employees pay for insurance prior to the town getting billed. She would need to double up on employees’ portion in order to do so for one month. Selectmen were ok with what she needed to do. Duayne said that last week’s discussion regarding possibly paying new employees at a higher rate of pay than current ones who have been here a while really bothered him and he didn’t think that was right. Betsy agreed it was difficult to hear that discussion. Andy said for the record it wasn’t meant as an insult and that he appreciated all of the town employees’ hard work.
8. **Selectmen Reports:** Jim reported the new amount for use of the transfer station for 2021 will be \$5,482.76. Jim wanted to verify the proposed date for the Annual Town Meeting of May 22nd and the time of 9:30am. MMA told us that unless the legislation currently before the legislature

passes, we will have to go through with the March 19th election as nomination papers process has already been started and some turned in. Andy P. said he had been approached about purchasing grange hall. He will reach out to Bob Worthley to put a value on the property. Rod C. said that the flooring guys came today and did the first coat on their test strip and will do the 2nd coat Wednesday. Rob E. said that Buster has asked if he could patch holes in the walls in the auditorium and eventually get the curtains dry cleaned. Selectmen were ok with that. Rob said in regard to Sandy and Betsy leaving, we have always honored paying employees' vacation pay, and he asked if the board was ok with paying that out to them. They indicated that they were. Rob said moving forward they would still need to decide on payroll and what they would be paying new hires. Rob said they will wait to see what happens and then decide.

9. **Executive Session: Personnel Matters 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A)**: Rob E. made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Rod Cook 2nd the motion and all voted in favor, 5-0. Selectmen entered executive session at 6:50pm.

Selectmen came out of Executive session at 7:40 pm with no action taken. Dick W. made a motion to offer the Town Clerk position to Alana Ranney at \$16.50 per hour. Rod C. 2nd the motion and all voted in favor 5-0. Dick made a motion to adjourn. Rod C. 2nd the motion and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Dubois, Clerk

Budget 2021

	By Request	Increase/Decrease by	Selectmen Recommends	BC Recommends
Emergency Fund	3,500			
General Govt				
Administration	76,000	+5000		
Town Charges	31,000	+2000		
Assessing	7,000			
Legal Fees	3,000	+500		
Code Enforcement	3,500			
Dedicated Technology	5,000	+1500		
Protection Accts				
FD Equip	4,500			
FD Operating	15,000			
FD Payroll	10,000			
FD Truck Reserve	20,000			
Public Safety Accts				
Ambulance	14,636.50	+255.50		
Hydrants	32,027			
Street Lights	9,000			
Animal Control	4,250			
Insurance	75,500	+3500		
Health & Sanitation				
Landfill	8500			
GA	500			
Highway Accts				
Winter Roads	81750			
Roads/Bridges	72555			
Public Works				
Town Garage	14500			
Equip Oper	5300			
Equip Fund	1500			
Special Equip Fund	25000			
2020 Western	29337.72	+29337.72		

Star Payment				
TARVIA	60000	From Surplus		
	By Request	+/-	Selectmen Recommend	BC Recommends
Recreation Accts				
Town Park	3000			
Recreation	3750			
Library	8000			
Tennis Court	No Recommendation			
Unclassified				
FC Animal Shelter	2668.60			
Cemeteries	500			
Payroll Taxes	18000			
Community Events	1000	-1000		
Christmas Lights	2000			
Forster Building	20000	-5,000		
FB Maintenance	4000	+2,000		
Pond Road Loan				