

**Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM
December 1, 2025**

Call to Order: 3:30PM by Harry Juergens

Selectmen present: Harry Juergens and Ron Scott, Jr, Charlie Goulet

Others present: Suzanne Goulet, Vanessa Toner, Maryann Lister

Maryann: Moose Plate Grant Awarded. The town successfully applied for and received a Moose Plate grant to preserve key historical documents. Four of the most damaged historical books were selected for restoration: History of Stratford (1897) and vital records (1850–1858), mortgages (1849–1858), tax records (1852–1860), and appointments (1909–1936). The company Kofile (in Vermont) will handle restoration on four books. Additional funds will be needed to cover the remaining costs and shipping if needed. Consideration given to transport logistics—preference for pickup to avoid shipping delicate items. The ongoing goal is to apply for the Moose Plate grant annually to continue preservation efforts, as there are approximately 50 books needing attention. The issue of book storage & mold concern was discussed in length. Books are currently stored in a vault but are suffering from mold, especially those against outside walls. Discussion about moving books to interior shelves to reduce moisture exposure. Suggestions included adding barriers (like insulation or Styrofoam) to the walls, keeping the vault heated, and possibly using a dehumidifier (though limited by lack of electrical outlets). Maintenance staff will be consulted for solutions; moisture bags are being used, with some success. The board motion is passed (3-0) to approve Marianne as the signer for the Moose Plate grant. Noted to allocate additional funds in the new fiscal year budget for book preservation. Ongoing assessment of vault conditions and tracking of mold issues. Call was received and it was mentioned that the Department of Justice involvement concerning a situation on Bog Road; details to be further monitored.

Suzanne: Our annual audit and budget hearings are quickly approaching and cost are rising. Coos Advisors our current auditor is again increasing this year and each year it seems to be taking more than it is providing with the board's permission Suzanne is requesting that she be able to look at some other agencies and the requirement is that they must be familiar with doing the municipality audits and reports that are required to be done by the State of NH. Some of these reports make it difficult to find experienced agencies but it's worth a try. The motion passed 3-0. Abatements due to changes in property status (e.g., removal of trailers) and billing adjustments (e.g., pool filling not using sewer). Noted the need to update ordinances regarding pool water and sewer billing.

Select Board:

Juergens: Bog Road Maintenance: town sent letters to the state DOT regarding needed repairs to Bog Road, especially in conjunction with upcoming projects. Residents encouraged to also write to the state to demonstrate community interest. Class 5 vs. Class 6 road status discussed for specific roads; changing status could shift maintenance responsibility and has its own implications. FEMA funds were used for certain road repairs this summer and fall. Repairs will continue into the spring of 2026. Cemetery plot numbering work continues on numbering all cemetery plots, including those currently unoccupied.

Scott: Ongoing discussion on building a spill containment pan for the backup generator (diesel); need to determine appropriate material and size. Concerns about environmental compliance due to proximity to wellheads. Maintenance will gather measurements and explore cost-effective options.

Goulet: Recycling costs have risen sharply (plastic recycling transport quote jumped from \$300 to \$1,500). Town is considering alternatives, including seeking different contractors and evaluating whether to continue current recycling practices. Frustration expressed over lack of viable market for

recyclables and the financial burden on the budget. Plan to switch to LED lighting in certain town facilities.

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 2/0 to sign for 11/17/2025 and 11/24/2025.

Signed Documents: Motion to approve: Minutes, SM 11/17, Abatements signed for Bergeron, King & Kosta. O'Brien reservation, Raffle N. Country ATV. Event Permits, N. Country ATV & Grange. NHDOT for Bog Rd.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Memo from Brian Hays on solar.

Reminders: N/A

Public Input: N/A

Non- Public: Rollin Baldwin Applications

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30PM

Minutes prepared by: V. Toner