

**Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM
December 29, 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, Christopher Caron

Chris: provided an overview of the Conservation Commission's budget review and proposed adjustments. The discussion focused on a detailed examination of line items, expenditures, and anticipated future needs. Members reviewed the current year's budget rollover and noted the impact of higher-than-expected land use change tax revenue. Clarification was provided regarding which expenses were paid from the operating budget, the conservation fund, and the capital reserve, particularly for consultant services. Membership dues for the NH Association for Conservation will remain unchanged. The training line item was retained for potential future use, especially for wetland permit-related training, though it was noted that there are currently no formal continuing education requirements. Mapping funds and the Natural Resource Inventory line item were removed from the operating budget, as these expenses are now covered through the conservation fund. The ads, postage, and supplies line item was reduced to better reflect actual usage. The proposed budget for the upcoming year reflects a decrease from the prior year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the adjusted budget. The Chair will request that the remaining operating budget balance be transferred to the conservation fund, and updated budget figures will be typed and circulated for final approval. Chris also discussed concerns with the state's expedited wetland permit process, which has been reduced to a shorter review timeframe. Members expressed frustration that the process is not well suited to the needs or capacity of local commissions. There was interest in improving the local review process to make it more functional. Training needs and potential process improvements may be revisited in future budget planning. An update was provided on the Natural Resource Inventory RFP. The RFP was distributed to multiple potential consultants, with limited responses received to date. The submission deadline was noted. Progress has been hindered by issues accessing the Commission's shared email account. Members discussed resolving the email access issue to ensure all responses are received. Given the limited responses, the Commission agreed to allow the consultant who assisted in drafting the RFP to submit a proposal. Follow-up with town IT or appropriate contacts will occur to resolve the email issue, and RFP submissions will continue to be monitored through the deadline. Members expressed interest in potential future collaboration with the recycling center following completion of the Natural Resource Inventory. The ongoing need for additional Commission members was noted, as there are currently only three active members. The board voted in favor 3-0 to approve the budget and the rollover.

Suzanne: reported that Mike Lynch was scheduled to appear but was unable to attend due to the snowstorm and road conditions. The Board discussed the encumbrance of road project funds from 2025 into the spring of 2026. An agreement was approved by a unanimous vote and subsequently signed by the Board. The Board also discussed executing a liability waiver for Lynch, LLC. It was noted that Mr. Lynch remains committed to completing the town ice rink. Discussion included the potential addition of heaters for the rink seating area. Mr. Goulet will research pricing for heaters, which may be accommodated within the baseball dugouts. It was also noted that the Town does not have a full dental plan and that eye exams are covered under health insurance. She has received a quote for the dental insur-

ance and would like the board approval to implement this to the benefits of the full-time staff. She stated that based on other municipalities they do have these benefits and it would be fair and competitive if the town offered this for the full time employees. The board agreed to implement this into the benefits. The board agrees that this is a requirement most prospects of maintaining and keeping employees.

Select Board:

Juergens: Snowmobiles riding front of the Grange. The delineators have not been placed is that for Lynch or Steve. Board discussed that should be our public works supervisor.

Scott: Nothing at this time

Goulet: Still working on the lights at the public works building and transfer station

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 2/0 to sign for 12/15/2025 and 12/22/2025.

Signed Documents: Motion to approve: Minutes, SM 12/15, NH DOT parade permit- North Country Riders, Raffle Permit-North Country Riders &North Country ATV, Event Permit- North Country Riders &North Country ATV

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Reminders: N/A

Public Input: N/A

Non- Public: Rollin Baldwin applications (2)

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30PM

Minutes prepared by: V. Toner