

Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM
January 12, 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, Mario Audit

Mario: Mario came to the meeting to discuss his return as Dog Officer/Health Officer. The board agreed to allow Mario return, effective immediately. The Board discussed concerns regarding a property housing approximately twenty dogs, including the lack of running water, electricity, and heat, structural issues with the building, and questions about proper animal care, particularly during winter conditions. The property is classified as a residence and does not hold a kennel license, and neighbors have reported odor, noise, and debris on the site. It was agreed that documentation is critical, including repeated site visits and written confirmation from utility providers regarding the absence of services, and that the town attorney should be consulted in anticipation of possible legal action. The Board agreed to pursue enforcement through both the health officer and animal control, noting that the property owner is ultimately responsible for conditions and care of the animals. The health officer will inspect and document conditions, and Mario was asked to attend the upcoming Wednesday meeting, conduct site visits, and provide a written statement confirming his reinstatement to his official role. A brief discussion was held regarding whether the health officer may carry a firearm while on duty; no decision was made, and further research will be conducted.

Suzanne: The Board reviewed the draft 2026 operating budget and warrant articles. Warrant articles reviewed included the operating budget; fire expendable and capital reserve funds; highway bridges, recycling, zero-turn mower, government buildings, recreation, and cemetery capital reserves; and the Bog Road and Stevens Terrace capital projects. The Board selected the full paving option for the Stevens Terrace project, contingent upon sewer line replacement. Outside agency donations were reviewed and generally held consistent with prior years, with adjustments made as appropriate. All warrant articles were approved to move forward to town meeting pending final updates to the budget spreadsheet. The Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as presented in the amount of \$11,838.32 for updating the local hazard mitigation plan. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$15,784.43, in which the town will be responsible for a 25% match (\$3,946.11). An update was provided regarding clean energy credits associated with recent solar, electric vehicle, and heat pump projects, and limitations on future expansion were discussed.

Select Board:

Juergens: asked Ron A. Scott, Jr is he had trouble obtaining a quote for fabrication of a containment drip pan. Mr. Scott states he needs measurements and he will be provided a new document with measurements

Scott: Nothing at this time besides the drip pan issues

Goulet: Nothing at this time

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 2/0 to sign for 12/29/2025 and 01/06/2026.

Signed Documents: Motion to approve: Minutes, SM 12/26, Special Events Permit, Approved for North Country Riders. Groveton Ambulance Contract for 2026, MS-60A, MS-60W and the Hazard Mitigation Grant

Old Business: N/A

New Business: N/A

Reminders: Budget Hearing Wed Feb 4th @ 6PM, additional meeting (if needed) Feb 9th @ 3:30PM, Town Voting is March 10th on Article 1. March 14th is all other articles.

Public Input: N/A

Non- Public: N/A

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30PM

Minutes prepared by: V. Toner