

Athens Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2025
6:00pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: David Bemis, Sandi Capponcelli, Janet Perry, Krista Gay, Denise Randall (by phone), Don Capponcelli, Sherry Maher, April Lyman, Scott Strasser, FACT TV

Called to order at 6:03

Adjustments to Agenda

None

Public Comments

Sherry Maher wants to touch base on the scoping for the Meetinghouse. She wants to get approval to have the proposal signed for the architect when she gets it.

David makes a motion that he be allowed to sign the proposal on behalf of the board and Sherry will call him and leave the proposal in the town office to be signed. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: four in favor, Krista recuses.

Don Capponcelli gives an update on the town garage roof project.

Appointments for Town Clerk and Treasurer Positions

Sandi says that Scott Strasser can be appointed to the Town Clerk and Treasurer position and that it needs to be in writing also. Denise asks if this appointment will last until the next town meeting. David says it will, unless there is a special town meeting sooner.

Krista asked if the position was posted and if Scott saw it and applied. Denise asks if Scott had submitted a resume. He hasn't. Scott says that he's been working with Hannah for several hours every day and learning the systems. Scott has managed a Jewish congregation for several years and acted as treasurer. He keeps his own books but hasn't used a lot of software. He's familiar with the processes. He also has real estate experience, so he knows about land records.

Krista asks if the schedule works for Scott. He says it will, and that he plans to do some of the more involved work during closed hours.

David says they are difficult positions and it's a lot to learn quickly. He says that the selectboard is there to help during the learning curve. Scott is nervous about payroll and the responsibility of making sure people get paid. David says that there is support available from NEMRC to get Scott up to speed on the accounting programs.

Krista asks why Scott is interested in the roles. He says he wants to be involved but hasn't found anything yet to get involved with. He thinks it matches his skill set well. He thinks it makes sense for the two roles to be done by the same person.

Sandi makes a motion to appoint Simon (Scott) Strasser as Town Clerk starting May 9th until Town Meeting Day 2026. Krista seconds. Put to a vote: all five in favor.

Sandi makes a motion to appoint Simon (Scott) Strasser as Town Treasurer starting May 9th until Town Meeting Day 2026. Krista seconds. Put to a vote: all five in favor.

David makes a motion to authorize Simon (Scott) Strasser to be added as a signer on the town's accounts at the Savings Bank of Walpole and Manufacturers & Traders in Bellows Falls. Krista seconds. Put to a vote: all five in favor.

Denise makes a motion that the town contract with NEMRC to help with Scott's training, up to 40 hours, and check with the selectboard if more is needed. David seconds. Put to a vote: all five in favor.

Krista asks that Scott records all his time.

Scott says he'll do his best for the town, and he hopes everyone will understand if there are rocky spots. David says that the board is there to support him. Denise says that open communication with the selectboard is key for success and asks that Scott reach out as soon as he needs anything.

David says that the board needs to sign a certificate of appointment for Town Clerk. Sandi says she'll get the form. It will need to be sent to the County Clerk. David says there also needs to be a form made out by the Town Clerk and sent to the State Treasurer, saying that Scott is the new treasurer. There also needs to be an oath of office to sign.

David says there will be lots of passwords and logins for Hannah to share with Scott. Hannah will go with Scott to the banks to get him added as a signer.

*David makes a motion to adjourn. Krista seconds. All five in favor.
Adjourned at 6:25 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk