Selectboard Meeting July 1, 2013

Selectboard Attendance: Chair Sharon Compagna, Brian Fox, Alan Huizenga, John "Peeker" Heffernan and Joel Bouvier. Also attended by: Town Administrator Bill Bryant, Town Clerk Therese Kirby, filmed for NEAT TV by Joanna Etka, Darla Senecal, Mark Simon, Lance Perlee, Kris Perlee, Eric Carter, Ron LaRose, Cecil Foster, Val Hanson, Troy Paradee, Ryan Krushenick, Jim Lockridge, Claire Littlefield, Ray Beaver and Kevin Gibbs.

1. Sharon Compagna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mark Simon of Simon Operating Services, Inc. (S.O.S), was here regarding his proposed three year operating contract for the water and sewer systems. S.O.S. has been operating our systems for the past four years. The first year was a one year contract, and then the Selectboard signed a three year contract that is now expiring. This current contract contains a proposed 3% increase. Alan Huizenga would like S.O.S. to continue working with Lance to locate leaks in our water system and backing Lance up when he is away. Alan believes this contract is a good value. Mark outlined the attempts they have made to locate any leaks. Bill Bryant said two years ago the electric bills started to increase and the Town hired Munson Earth Moving to excavate near the South Street Bridge, pump house and to examine the waterline crossing the river. That expense fixed a couple of small leaks, but did not expose any large leaks in the water system. Mark said S.O.S's experience is that for a couple of days after a repair, they see a decrease in the operation of the high lift pumps but then the pump operation increases again. He is wondering if repairing one line increases the pressure in the line, hence creating a leak somewhere else. Mark outlined the plan that S.O.S. has for shutting off the high lift pump and simultaneously shutting valves off in different parts of the system and watching the reservoir levels to see if they can pinpoint leaks in a specific section of the water system. Brian Fox wanted to know what the cost will be for that; Mark said less than \$5,000. For higher mapping quality by an out of state firm, the Town would pay approximately \$150 per hour. Discussion of when cost for electricity outweighs contracting costs to locate leaks. Alan likes the idea of having Mark try the night work first and Joel Bouvier agrees. Joel would like that work to be done before August 1, 2013. The Selectboard approved last meeting to hire Will Elwell and Joel wanted to know his progress on exercising valves. Lance felt Will had checked 15 valves so far, and would be working three days this week. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the S.O.S. three year contract for \$5,795 per month and authorized Bill Bryant to sign it. Brian Fox seconded. Bill feels the Town is at a breakeven point between the cost of contracting out sewer and water maintenance and hiring a full time employee, and the Town has SOS to cover when Lance is out. Sharon wanted to know if the monthly reports are being submitted and Mark had Junes report to hand out. So voted. Joel wanted to know about the State reporting requirements and if they are being met. Mark said yes. Bill wanted to discuss water rates and Brent Duranlow's recommendation that we raise our rates as we are much cheaper than other municipalities. Sharon would like to revisit that issue in August after they have more information pending the nighttime testing. Bill explained there was a flood at the pump house and leak detection equipment was destroyed. A claim to VLCT has been made and Bill is moving forward with a purchase of approximately \$2,500 to replace the equipment. Mark Simon recommended the purchase and equipment type. The Selectboard agrees with the purchase and they thanked Mark and Lance for their time.

- 2. Cecil Foster was here regarding his request to have three trees removed from his property, which are located in the Town's right of way. The three trees he would like to remove are on West Street in front of his house. Cecil has discussed this with Road Foreman Peter Bouvier. Cecil is offering to pay to have the trees removed and the cost to replace them. He would like Selectboard approval to move forward. Sharon Compagna likes the idea of removing the tree on the corner of Maple and West but would like the replacement moved back to increase the line of sight when driving. Alan Huizenga agrees. Peeker Heffernan wanted to know whose trees the Selectboard thinks these are; he thinks they are Cecil's. Joel Bouvier would like the tree warden, Ken Johnson, to take a look at the health of the trees. Alan Huizenga moved to allow Cecil Foster to take down and replace three trees at his expense. Brian Fox seconded. So voted.
- 3. Troy Paradee, President of the Bristol Recreation Club, was here to discuss the Hub Teen Center and their concerns. Bill Bryant explained the Town received a letter from the Club regarding finding needles and condoms when the septic system was pumped. Alan Huizenga appreciated the letter but found the first item to be more a goal than a standard. Troy said the letter outlines their goals and they are willing to help work with the Hub and staff in any way they can. The Club would like to see increased indoor and outdoor staff coverage. Bill explained the Hub is open 60 hours per week and the Town has 100 hours of labor available per week. Ray Beaver understands there is a problem with needles and kids being around those needles and as a social worker and Recreation Director we have to be aware of this issue and try to work by educating youth. Eric Carter feels the Town should either increase staffing and the budget or they should move in a different direction; the Town should go to the taxpayers for more money if necessary. Darla Senecal wonders if the Recreation Fields should be also be manned dawn to dusk. Claire Littlefield feels the Town is running the Hub to the best of its current ability. Val Hanson wanted to know if 112 hours of supervision is a request from the Recreation Club. Bill said the Club letter requests increased hours of supervision. Troy said the letter is more about trying to figure out a way to have staff present during high traffic hours. He understands that nights and weekends are difficult to staff and admits these are ambitious goals. Alan appreciated Troy's clarification, as the letter did not say these were goals and he did not like the tone of the letter as he felt the Hub was being attacked and Town employees deserve to be defended. He also feels a lot of people do not understand that the Recreation Club is private property. Kris Perlee said he would like to see the Hub create an action plan in regards to the bulleted points. The final point in the Club's letter was "higher risk" events and what experience has come from that. Kris and Eric said they are concerned about the large amount of people and the age of those attendees. Troy said looking at what was found when the septic was pumped; the Hub may be opening themselves up by bringing in older attendees that have not been educated on the Hub's mission statement. Peeker Heffernan said, they were told at the drug forums, people need to take back their land and by using the Hub it increases the visibility and that is not a bad thing. Brian Fox, a police officer, said the State of Vermont is facing a heroin epidemic and if you drive users off one property they are going to another. Ray Beaver, founder of the Hub, when he started they policed the grand stands on the recreation club's property and eventually bad behavior subsided. He feels working together as a community could help again. Ryan Krushenick said he does not feel the Hub music events should be labeled as a "higher risk" event. In the six years he has been involved they have never had a single issue (no noise complaints, no drinking, drugs or other issues) during these substance

free events. Joel Bouvier said one of his issues is having too many people in the Hub and there being a fire. He would like the Hub to move back to their original mission statement of daytime hours. Darla Senecal said the fire marshal has given them a capacity number and they do not go over it. She thinks Joel should look at these music events as an arts event. Joel appreciated them working with the fire marshal's number and he knows they monitor it. Bill said with the discussion tonight, policies posted on the web and other communications he feels the Town has responded to the letter. Troy said he would like a checklist prepared by the Hub and submitted to the Club to attach to their minutes. Jim Lockridge asked Troy if Club members were aware of the Hub's website where all of this information and more is posted. Val Hanson would like clarification if the items in the Clubs letter are goals or expectations. Troy said he would like to see how the Hub is currently addressing these issues, what they are planning to do and to continue the dialog between the Club and Hub by educating Club members. Val said she feels sometimes they are being given information in a fragmented way from too many people and wondered if Troy could specify one person for them to communicate with. Troy agreed that was possible. Ron LaRose said there have always been bumps in the road with the Hub and Club's relationship and when the tank was pumped there was some excitement among their membership. Now some time has passed and we are all aware of the issue and Jim and his staff will be monitoring the users of the Hub and their activity closer. He feels they are all moving in the right direction. The Selectboard thanked Troy for his time.

- 4. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the engagement letter with Sullivan, Powers & Company for \$18,000 for audit services for year ending 6/30/2013. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Discussion with the Selectboard regarding extension of Sullivan & Powers contract. Therese will speak with Fred Duplessis and ask him for a quote.
- 5. Driveway access application of Davis & Cusak tabled until next meeting. Discussion of right-of-way clearance approval for VTrans sign improvements on River Road and Burpee Road. Joel Bouvier moved to approve sign improvement plan for Burpee Road. Brian Fox seconded. So voted. Joel Bouvier moved to approve traffic safety markings for River Road. Brian Fox seconded. So voted.
- 6. The Selectboard signed an accounts payable warrant of \$112,486.35.
- 7. Brian Fox moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2013. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted.
- 8. Brian Fox moved to authorize the Town Treasurer to the Bristol Fourth of July Committee, to pay their annual appropriation of \$6,000. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted. Peeker Heffernan moved to hire Hannah Kirby at a rate of \$8.60 per hour, to be paid from records restoration funds, to create an index of old deeds. Brian Fox seconded. So voted.
- 9. Discussion regarding the Selectboard's interest in selling a piece of land on the Upper Notch Road that abuts the Estate of Terry Carter property. Peeker Heffernan noted the voter's would need to approve the sale. Bill Bryant explained that probate court has ordered the sale of Terry Carter's Upper Notch property to settle the estate.

- 10. Selectboard Roundtable: Joel Bouvier said the coach house is almost back together and Chris Griggs is working on installing a replacement light as well as installing a timer for the fan to circulate the air. There is water coming off the roof of Bristol Works via an 8" roof drain, which took out the neighbor's driveway. Despite whether or not the driveway is built properly, Joel feels there is an issue with the drainage. Joel had photographs to show the Selectboard. Alan Huizenga suggested a friendly conversation with Kevin Harper would be in order. Joel said he spoke with the Police Chief regarding things they are posting on their Facebook page and Joel feels it is a good way to put the news out. What he does not like, is the back and forth postings between the public and is concerned it brews hatred. Brian Fox and Bill Bryant said unfortunately this is a side effect of Facebook, Craig's list rants and raves and other forums, but hopefully the good outshines the bad. Sharon Compagna wanted to know about the sign in front of the Catholic Church regarding the ACTR bus. The signs have a notice that people cannot park in front of the signs during specific times and she said during mass there are some older folks that park there. Bill said the Selectboard approved the signs, but said they would not put this in our parking ordinance so drivers cannot be ticketed. Sharon was pleased to see the fountain running today.
- 11. Town Administrator's Report: Bill Bryant updated the Selectboard on the following items: Vt. Dept of Health agreed to send \$5838 to pay old Start Grant expenses and Kevin Gibbs paid \$1055; the balance of those expenses per his agreement with the Selectboard, informed the Selectboard there will be six excursions via car for a personal trainer visit with Hub kids, Mountain Greens Market owner Timmi Moffi has some drainage issues and she would like to have an onsite meeting with Bill and a couple of Selectboard members; Sharon wondered about digging the ditch on the east side of Mountain Street and installing a couple of culverts to see if that would divert water – Brian said he would go with Bill, discussion of health insurance options in Vermont Health Connect; Brian likes the idea that Bill will meet with the Health Trust and find a comparable recommendation of costs and coverage and the rest of the Selectboard agreed and the Town received the update of the sewer allocation from the State. Joel Bouvier wondered if the Selectboard could put a moratorium on selling sewer capacity for 18 months in case the Town needs it. Bill explained how the allocations work and would hate to see us tie the hands of the business owners. Sharon pointed out we sell it, but then we get it back the following year when the State does their calculation. Discussion of concept plan for the Hogback Heaven development that is currently being discussed with Planning Commission. Bill noted this may come to the Selectboard in the future if curb cuts are needed and how to meter water. Joel thought they might need a hydrant on an 8" line on Mountain View Street. The Fire Facility Committee's first meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2013. Bill wanted to know if they should choose their own chair or the Selectboard should pick one. The Selectboard said to let the committee choose their own chair. We have an outstanding bill with VTrans for the South Street Bridge and Bill would like to know if the Selectboard wants to pay it. The Selectboard said no, he should hold it until the bridge goes out to bid. Tom Wallace was in to discuss stripping the crosswalk at the Town's cost from Maplefield's to the Village Crème Stand. The Selectboard discussed the issue but does not have a resolution at this time. Bill notified the underground storage tank unit and John Moyers regarding the Trading Post. Discussion of Kevin Harper's revolving loan fund application. Alan Huizenga moved to sign a letter of support for the Bristol Works application for \$250,000 at 0 % for 10 years for the police department facility to the Revolving Loan Fund. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

12. Alan Huizenga moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters involving the appointment, employment or evaluation of public officers or employees involving the Town where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:40 pm to 10:55 pm.

Joel Bouvier moved to approve payroll adjustments for employees starting with the pay period ending July 4, 2013 (see attached memo). These rates were revised from numbers discussed at the last meeting. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Kirby, Clerk