Selectboard Meeting July 15, 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 Mary Arbuckle, Jacquie Werner-Gavrin, Kevin Harper and Fred Baser.

- 1. Sharon Compagna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Jacquie Werner-Gavrin was here regarding the Red Cedar School's request for posting school zone signs. Bill Bryant explained the recommendation of Daryl Benoit of Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Alan Huizenga and Brian Fox would like to see the school zone posting signs and speed limit signs installed. Brian Fox moved to authorize the Road Crew to purchase and install speed limit school zone signs and the pedestrian's ahead signs. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. Jacquie thanked the Selectboard for their decision. Brian would like Bill to contact Daryl to see if they need to have traffic study before the adjustment in speed is legal.
- 2. Discussion of the proposed FY 2013-2014 tax rate. Alan Huizenga moved to set the tax rates as \$2.2159 Homestead Tax rate, \$2.1749 Non-Residential Tax rate, \$2.5051 Homestead Police District Tax rate and \$2.4641 Non-Residential Police District Tax rate; this is a municipal tax rate of \$0.6107 with an additional \$0.2892 if you reside in the Police District. Brian Fox seconded. So voted. Discussion regarding 32 VSA 5410 (g) and whether or not the Selectboard wished to charge a penalty of 3% of the education tax rate for property incorrectly declared as a homestead or 8% penalty of the education tax rate for property undeclared as a homestead. Brian Fox moved to not have the Town Treasurer assess the penalties. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Therese Kirby explained if the Tax Commissioner determines a declaration or failure to declare had fraudulent intent, then the municipality shall assess the tax payer a penalty equal to 100% of the education tax.
- 3. Discussion of the driveway access application of Matthew Davis & Caitlin Cusak for a residential driveway on land owned by Shirley Perez on the Lower Notch Road. Alan Huizenga wanted confirmation of the sight distance and to know if the Town required the land owner's signature on the form. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the driveway access application of Matthew Davis & Caitlin Cusak per the conditions of Road Foreman Peter Bouvier, Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.
- 4. Bill Bryant updated the Selectboard on the Saunders land conservation project. They are hoping for a closing in August and it will include 4.7 less acres than originally discussed. Alan Huizenga moved to authorize Sharon Compagna to sign the closing documents for the Saunders project. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.
- 5. The Selectboard signed an accounts payable warrant of \$148,917.00.
- 6. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2013 as corrected. Brian Fox seconded. So voted.
- 7. Kevin Harper and Fred Baser were here to discuss the Revolving Loan Fund application of Bristol Works, LLC for the Bristol Police Department facility and the Revolving Loan Fund Committee's

recommendation (RLFC) for \$250,000. Bill Bryant gave a brief history of the revolving loan fund. The RLFC recommended 0% interest for the first two years, 1 ½% for years three through five with a balloon payment at the end of the fifth year. Bill also outlined the rent increases built into the proposed lease. Fred explained the RLFC recommendation of not giving an interest free loan for ten years; they did not want to set a precedent and they want the fund to grow at least by inflation. Joel Bouvier noted the increase in the grand list was due in part to the development of Bristol Works, LLC and wondered if that would be an offset. Fred does not feel that is relevant as the change in the tax rate does not affect the Revolving Loan Fund. Alan Huizenga does not feel the RLFC's recommendation is unreasonable. Bill explained originally the projected numbers were built around a low interest rate, but the cost of the project is higher than originally planned so they were hoping for zero percent interest. Bill reminded the Selectboard they will need to work with the Police District voters to help them understand any decision made. Peeker Heffernan appreciated the RLFC foresight of not setting a precedent, as he would not be comfortable doing that. The Selectboard thanked Fred for coming. Bill had a copy of the draft lease between the Bristol Police Department and Bristol Works, LLC. Kevin Harper explained the caveat of the loan and lease would be if he goes out of business the Police stop paying and if he does not receive his lease payment from the Police, then he does not make his loan payment. Bill explained the limited profit margin for Bristol Works due to their substantial investment. This is a long term investment for them and this project benefits the Bristol Police District. Therese Kirby pointed out the closing costs and legal fees due at closing. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve the loan for \$250,000 in principal payable over 10 years with a balloon payment after year five with interest charged at 0% for the first year, ½ percent for the second year, 1% for the third year, 1 1/2% for the fourth year and 1 1/2% for the fifth year, with the Police Department paying the closing costs and legal fees; Peeker also authorized the Town Administrator Bill Bryant to sign the loan documents. Brian Fox seconded. So voted. Discussion of the proposed lease. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the draft lease subject to the loan agreement outlined above with Sharon Compagna authorized to sign the lease. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Kevin Harper also handed out the scope of the work to be completed by Naylor & Breen, which will be an attachment to the lease.

8. Selectboard Roundtable: Brian Fox wanted to know if it was determined Cecil Foster could cut down the trees and Bill said yes the street trees are under the Town's domain and the Selectboard had given him permission to cut them down. Brian did not feel they left the last meeting with any resolution of the Hub situation. Sharon Compagna said Jim Lockridge is going to draft a response to the Club. Alan Huizenga felt the letter was going to include an outline of our policies educating the youth on the topics the Club was concerned about. Joel Bouvier wanted to know where the lease stands. Bill said the Recreation Club has it. Peeker Heffernan said there are two tree limbs – one in front of Bunny Daubner's driveway and the other coming from a pine tree on Hardscrabble in front of Nelson Purinton's old property that Peter Bouvier needs to take a look at. Joel Bouvier wanted to know the status of night leak detection. He has spoken with the Water Foreman and Assistant Foreman in Middlebury and they are willing to come in at night for a fee. Alan spoke with Lance and the new equipment is working well. Brent Duranlow of Rural Water will be here tomorrow to look into some possible leaks Lance has located. Lance and Will Elwell are cleaning out the gate boxes around the valves then installing foam

cylinders to keep any dirt from filling back in, so the valves can be exercised regularly. Sharon Compagna will tell Jen Stetson pole numbers of lights out in the village, so they can be reported to GMP.

- 9. Town Administrator's Report: J.A. McDonald is the low bidder on the Route 116 Bridge; Jim Lacroix from VTrans said Blow & Cote out of Morrisville, VT is the low bidder on the South Street Bridge. The Fire Facility Committee met and Bill would like authorization to hire Jen Stetson at a time and a half rate to take their minutes. Peeker Heffernan moved to hire Jen Stetson at her overtime rate with a minimum of two hours. Brian Fox seconded. Joel Bouvier wanted to know if they could pay her a stipend in lieu of overtime. Bill said no. So voted. Shawn Oxford and Brett LaRose are co-chairs of the Fire Facility Committee with meetings every other Monday night at 7:00 pm. Alan Huizenga updated the Selectboard on their meeting. Bill informed the Selectboard of the accident involving a Town truck on the Upper Notch Road where Dan Gebo clipped a wire with his dump body up while spreading gravel. A claim is being made to VLCT. Luckily neither Dan nor anyone else was injured. Discussion of Kevin Irish's request to work in the Town's right of way to install a culvert in his driveway. The Selectboard denied his request. Bill is working with residents on Meehan Road regarding their concern over the Hill Farm removing gravel from a property they lease there. An enforcement officer from Agency of Natural Resources is looking into this issue.
- 10. Alan Huizenga moved to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter regarding an overdue water bill where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Brian Fox seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session with Therese Kirby from 9:10 pm to 9:20 pm. At 9:21 Brian Fox moved to hang a shut off notice at 13 KTP giving the tenant 48 hours to pay half of the outstanding balance. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted. The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Therese Kirby