

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday April 16, 2018

Selectboard members present: Vice-Chair Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee, and Ted Lylis.

Members absent: Chair, Peter Coffey.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, Lieutenant Bruce Nason.

Others present: Bruce Accorito, Ian Albinson, K Andrew, John Ball, Bruce Beeken, Bruce Brown, Linda Brown, Sally Burrell, Jonathan “Jono” Chapin, Margaret Chatelain, Carolyn Dash, Bunny Daubner, Valerie Dearing, Bob Donniss, Bruce Duncan, Molly Funk, Susan Hawkins, Patty Heather-Lea, Melissa Hernandez, Patricia Hunt, Peg Kamens, Winifield Kelley, Shawn Kimball (NEATv), Rebecca Kodis, Jill Kopel, , Janet Leed-Ball, Jim Mendell, Tom Pollack, Jim Quaglino, Debbie Ramsdell, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Christopher Ross (Addison Independent), Carley Sherwin, Mary Simons, Kaela Thurber, Tom Wallace, Wendy Wilson, Lauren Waite, Mr. Waite. ,

I. Call to Order.

1. Vice Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. Executive Session.

1. Michelle Perlee moved to enter executive session finding that premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard or other parties at a substantial disadvantage regarding contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)(A) regarding union negotiations with New England Police Benevolent Police Association. Town Attorney John Klesch was invited to attend. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 6:30pm to 7:12pm. Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

Vice Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. § 312(d)(3)(A). Under Regular Business item #4, add a firefighter who is resigning under 4b. Brian LaClair and Troy Paradee will not be here for the 7:00pm schedule appointment, so this will be moved to a future meeting.

III. Public Forum.

1. Bruce Duncan asked about issues that are going on in town and when people are coming together and talking he thinks it is a good thing. He has heard a lot of people talk about the Vermont Gas in town and not that they were for or against it. He came to the meeting to speak with “the source” of the topic rather than hearing about it throughout the town. He supports dialogue in this community.

IV. Scheduled Appointments.

1. Brian LaClair and Troy Paradee: Update on Teen Center and Bristol Recreation Club activities, including mural and skate park upgrades. This will be moved to a future meeting.

2. Pete Diminico - Conservation Commission Eagle Park post-flood platform repair proposal. Pete Diminico reported there have been two flood situations in the past 6 months that has damaged the platform and ramp. He has a meeting with Doc Doctors tomorrow since they were the ones that built the platform originally. He is letting the Board know that the repairs might have to be subcontracted out and may have to use conservation funds to repair it, but Pete will contact the Selectboard once he has more information. He would also like to see someone else besides the Town of Bristol to look after it. Pete will be in contact with Ted Lylis and Peeker Heffernan in case they are able to go onsite to look at the repairs needed with Doc Doctors.

V. Regular Business.

1. Continued discussion of draft License Agreement with Vermont Gas. Valerie Capels stated she has gotten back from VGS the final agreement and letters from Energy Committee and Planning Commission.

Ted Lylis read a statement he prepared and moved to pledge to sign the License Memorandum of Agreement with VGS as soon as the few remaining issues with this license agreement are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Peeker Heffernan seconded. Michelle Perlee said she does have some questions for the town attorney, but he is on vacation right now. She has a concern about the "Clerk of the Works" person and the amount went from \$40 to \$25.

Tom Pollack is concerned for the voters of Bristol and that we postpone the agreement and vote in November. Bruce Accorito said that members of Bristol went around and got 200 signatures and asked what is the Board afraid of. Janet Leed-Ball asked why the Board would not let the voters vote even if it doesn't count. Bruce Beacon asked the question of who is for and against is not the question. The question for the people of Bristol that is if you are able to connect to natural gas, would they sign up for it. Also, if the demand is no longer there down the road what happens with the pipes? Michelle Perlee said that is in the agreement. Vermont Gas is required to remove them if that happens. Sally Burrell stated they collected 220 signatures plus 20 more signatures after the offices closed. The 240 signatures she and Rebecca Kodis collected did not want natural gas. Bob Donniss said that the natural gas burns clean here in Vermont, but not at the burn tip. Melissa Hernandez said we should do what we can to help the environment. If every town in America said we do not want natural gas then we could stop natural gas. Michelle Perlee said the Board learned from the mistakes of other towns. They learned and benefitted from what other towns have done. She gave an example that there is going to be a clerk of the works that VGS will pay for. VGS will need to follow the law. Melissa said VGS is being sued by a number of entities. Wendy Wilson said the Energy Committee and Planning Commission should have been asked to give input. She said this is a big decision for the Town of Bristol and it should not be just on the Selectboard. Ian Albinson asked about the letter that was sent on behalf of the Energy Committee. Joel Bouvier stated there was a request to the energy committee to see about a survey done from 2013. Ted Lylis said VGS coming to Bristol was not a secret and everybody kind of knew about it. He wondered why the committees did not come to the Board and ask. Bruce Duncan said the ball was dropped then and if the information was needed, the Board should have asked. Peg Kamens is concerned about safety issues. She also said there are other people that the Board speaks to outside of this yet why not listen to the

people in the room. Ian Albinson asked why the Energy Committee and Planning Commission Committee were not involved. Joel Bouvier said to some extent that the Planning Commission Committee was asked. Michelle Perlee asked about the Planning Commission Committee do they need to be involved to get a permit, etc. Katie Rycroft-Meyer said the Planning Commission puts a plan together and then approved by the Selectboard and the town. The Boards work together and feels they should be checking in with each other. Even if they did discuss it some members would need to recuse themselves. Chico Martin was the chair of the Planning Commission, but it has never been brought to the current Planning Commission. Ian Albinson asked is there any reason why that collaboration cannot start today. Jono Chapin said the Public Utility Commission has announced in the last month that there will now be a full investigation into the 40 miles pipeline and VGS will submit to a safety inspection. He suggested it would be wise to hold off on signing the agreement at least until the safety inspection and investigation has been done and strongly urged the Selectboard to withdraw the motion and just wait to see how the investigation goes. Linda Brown said it is the same response from the Selectboard that people here at the meeting are against the gas line and then the Board hears from people that are in favor of the gas line--where are they? Why not let everyone speak.

Michelle Perlee asked what is the cost to have the special meeting and vote. Valerie Capels said there would need to be a notice in the paper, then at the special meeting vote on the floor yes or no to have an Australian ballot. Molly Funk from Mt. Abraham Union High School and an Environmental Action Group at the school said that maybe to pause and spend a little money and take a little time to invest in their future. Joel Bouvier would like to first hear from the town attorney to see if they can hold off on signing the agreement since they already signed the letter of intent. He said Vermont Public Service Board directed Addison County Regional Planning Commission to vet the natural gas instead of getting approval from all 17 towns. The agreements would need to be done for each town.

Linda Brown said there was supposed to be an informational meeting in September of 2017 for the public. Michelle Perlee said the original plan was supposed to have a meeting, but it got pushed back to February 2018 after former Town Administrator Therese Kirby left in August 2017. Linda Brown said the process was not respected. Ian Albinson read part of the letter that was sent from Bill Bryant, Town Administrator from 2012 on behalf of the Selectboard. Ian Albinson stated he looked in the meeting notes from December 2012 and only 8 times was Vermont Gas was brought up. Carolyn Dash of the Conservation Commission asked what is the scope of work. The MOU is on the website however not the scope of work. Bruce Brown would like the Selectboard to push the pause button on this issue and seek more public comment. Peeker Heffernan said the board needs to speak with the town attorney. Lauren Waite doesn't understand why the Board would not want to hit the pause button until the investigation is done. Michelle Perlee moved to table signing the agreement to May 14, 2018 meeting once the Board has spoken with the Town Attorney. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Jono Chapin commends Joel Bouvier for how he has conducted this forum and for the Board for taking on this big issue.

2. Review, consider updates to, and adoption of the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Valerie Capels reported that the adopted plan needs to go to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission by May 1. The Board went through and updated contacts and

other information for the various sections. Michelle Perlee moved to accept the LEOP with the correction and the appendix cleaned up and Peter Coffey to sign it. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.

3. As Water Commission: consider review and approval of application for new water service connection on High Street from 48 Mountain Terrace (Tom and Claire Wallace). Valerie Capels reported there are six connections currently off of that service line. Jill at VTums suggested that at some point have the pressure be evaluated and see what kind of pressure it can provide for the six people connected. Ted Lylis moved to accept the application to the water line as long as Alan Huizenga from GME says the 2-inch line will have adequate pressure. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted. The application fee is \$250 for connection. Joel Bouvier said if paving is dug up, that would need to be replaced by the applicant.

4. Consider leave of absence request from Firefighter Chad Perlee. Peeker Heffernan moved to accept Chad Perlee leave of absence request from April 1, 2018 to October 1, 2018. Ted Lylis second. So voted, with Michelle Perlee abstaining.

5. Firefighter resignation. Peeker Heffernan moved to accept Firefighter Stephen Devino's resignation. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted.

6. Approval of Peoples United Bank line of credit renewal for Holley Hall improvements. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve Peoples United Bank line of credit renewal for Holley Hall improvements. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted. The balance is currently \$30,000. Next year it will be a balance of \$20,000. Joel Bouvier asked if we had a surplus then could we pay the loan down more, but Peeker Heffernan said this would need to be approved by voters at Town Meeting anyways.

7. Approval of meeting minutes of March 27, March 28, April 2, and April 5, 2018. Valerie Capels reported that the March 27, 2018 and April 2, 2018 meeting notes are not ready. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve March 28, 2018 meeting notes and April 5, 2018 meeting notes with one minor correction to the April 5 minutes. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

8. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable is \$2,105,701.57. There are two special event permits. Michelle Perlee moved to approve Appalachian Gap for Pockock Rocks June 16, 2018 for 10 x 10 tent acting as a booth with a fenced in area. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. They will have free sample and bottles will be sold. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve American Legion Post 19 outside consumption permit which is a 42 x 100 fenced in area. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted.

9. Selectboard Concerns. Michelle Perlee had a conversation with Gary Smith and has a vision and would like to see the sign when coming into Bristol say "Bristol Green Gateway to Green Mountain" and she suggested he be on the Energy Committee.

Ted Lylis would like to see something different than the carpet that is used in the room because it is difficult to move the chairs. He asked what date were the sidewalks swept last year. He

expressed concern about the ice and the Town did not put down sand because they were already swept. He suggested we do them later next year. It was noted that Road Foreman Peter Bouvier wanted them done sooner before he retired.

10. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels reported she is working on a description for the Energy Committee and Tree Warden vacancies. The Board promoted from within the Road Foreman, so they need to find a replacement for Eric's former position. Valerie is getting an RFP together to get mowing out to bid. Joel Bouvier suggested calling the companies and see if they are willing to hold the price. If they are then, wait to October to put out to bid for 2019. If the price goes up then we will put it out to bid now. Valerie is working on RFP for painting Howden Hall and Band Stand. Repair of the carriage doors that were damaged in the October 2017 wind storm do not meet the eligibility requirements for the FEMA money. Valerie asked how the Selectboard would recommend dealing with the broken headstones at the cemetery on Hardscrabble road. Michelle Perlee suggested contacting Dave Livingston's at Livingston Farms and see what he suggests.

Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

Adjourn.

Michelle Perlee moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier, Board Clerk

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator