

**Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday January 6, 2020**

Selectboard Members present: Chair Joel Bouvier, Ian Albinson, Peter Coffey, Pecker Heffernan, and Michelle Perlee.

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

Others present: Shawn Kimball (NEATV), Jim Quaglino.

I. Call to Order.

1. Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A). There are no additions, removals, or adjustments to the agenda.

II. Public Forum.

1. Jim Quaglino said he had a carbon monoxide issue at his home and thanked the Bristol Fire Department for all they did.

III. Regular Business.

1. General Fund and capital budget workshop: Fire Department. Fire Chief Brett LaRose noted one change to the budget--the apparatus maintenance line was increased. There was discussion whether line 119 Apparatus/Vehicle Maintenance has any further costs for the year. Brett said he would need to ask the Truck Captain. There was agreement to reduce Line 28 OSHA – Respiratory Protection Compliance reduce by \$1,000. Brett LaRose said he will be coming back in another month or so for a grant application approval. Valerie will ask Jen Myers about the mowing since the number seems very low.

2. Review of preliminary Town Meeting warning. Valerie Capels reported there are two new articles. First is Article 5 asking voters to approve changing the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed per 17 V.S.A. 2651e. State statute was amended a few years ago to authorize the Town to make this change without requiring approval from the state legislature. Article 6 addresses whether to reduce the delinquent tax penalty from 8% to 4%. The Delinquent Tax Collector is compensated by an annual stipend rather than proceeds from the penalty, so the penalty automatically reverts to the statutory 8% unless approved otherwise annually by voters. The Selectboard decided they will put 6% in the article and then this can be voted on the floor and changed if needed by the voters at Town Meeting Day. Joel Bouvier said he would like to see the sidewalk budget increase to \$40,000 and the paving increased to \$150,000.

3. Grant authorization request: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Consortium. Valerie Capels explained this is a request for authorization to apply for an ambitious project to promote Bristol's recreational assets and improve the economy. Valerie said they will need to come up with a budget which is due by January 20, 2020. There is no match due from the Town. Michelle Perlee moved to approve the grant request for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Consortium. Peter Coffey seconded. So voted.

4. Approval of the December 16, 2019, March 5, 2018 (backlog), and October 30, 2018 (backlog) meeting minutes; correction to the April 29, 2019 meeting minutes. Michelle Perlee moved to approve December 16, 2019, March 5, 2018, and October 30, 2018 with minor corrections. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Valerie Capels noted that the December 18, 2017 minutes were approved on December 17, 2018.

5. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable \$86,668.43.

6. Selectboard concerns. Peeker Heffernan said he met with the Equipment Committee and Eric Cota needs to get some numbers about the trucks and then the committee can decide. They plan to meet on Thursday January 9, 2020.

Ian Albinson asked about the protocol if someone falls on the sidewalk in front of a business. Valerie Capels said the person would need to submit a claim to the Town, which would then be forwarded to the Town's insurance provider. Ian thanked whomever updated the time to cross the road at the 4-way intersection. He is working on the cell service improvement. Lincoln and the Vergennes Partnership have some good information. Ian reported there is a new Co-Working space above the Bristol Cliffs Cafe. It is a shared office space and a 6-month trial.

Joel Bouvier said he answered an e-mail from GMP, and they told him they were disappointed that the Town does not want to move forward with any of their recommendations. There was discussion about the proposed pole on South Street and whether the old pole by the band stand can be removed. There was agreement to try to have a representative meet with the Selectboard in February.

7. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels reported that the ACRPC was awarded a clean water block grant of \$17,000 for final design of the School Street dry well project. She also reported that three proposals for the ACRPC's Stoney Hill Sidewalk Scoping Study RFP were received. She and Mike Winslow have reviewed them and are having a hard time coming together on a recommendation. She asked if a Selectboard member would be interested in reviewing and ranking the proposals. Ian Albinson agreed.

IV. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received. None discussed.

V. Executive Session.

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 personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) and pending litigation per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E). Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

The Selectboard met in executive session from 7:45pm to 8:25pm. Upon returning to open session, Peeker Heffernan made a motion to approve firefighter Bill Elwell's request for a

medical leave of absence from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

VI. Adjourn.

At 8:25 p.m. Michelle Perlee moved to adjourn the meeting. Peter Coffey seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator