

**Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday, April 13, 2020**

Selectboard Members present: Chair Michelle Perlee, Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan, Darla Senecal.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Public Works Foreman Eric Cota, Recreation Director Meridith McFarland, Recreation Assistant Director Alex Mihavics, Police Chief Bruce Nason, Hub Director Taylor Welch.

Others present: Nils Behn (Aegis), Sally Burrell (Energy Committee), Richard Butz (Energy Committee), Peter Carothers (Acorn Solar), Rich Carpenter (Acorn Solar), Janet Chill, Tom Dunne (Aegis), Shawn Kimball (NEAT TV), Benjamin Marks (Acorn Solar), Greg Pahl (Acorn Solar), Jim Peabody, Eric Phaneuf (Aegis), Gerry Slager, Susan Smiley (Acorn).

I. Call to Order. Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A). Valerie Capels noted that two matters need to be added: under Executive Session add personnel matters for interview with a Police Officer candidate; and under Other Business, add J. Hutchins' request for use of a fire hydrant to help with the dust during the paving project.

II. Public Forum. None.

III. Regular Business.

1. Acorn Solar Project (500 kW) on Bristol Landfill Memorandum of Understanding. Sally Burrell provided a brief overview of the proposed solar project and expressed concern that there needs to be more public involvement. She talked with a concerned neighbor who does not want the project to move forward. Joel Bouvier asked if the Town must put out an RFP to get quotes from different companies since it is a Town property and the "rule" is to get quotes from three different companies. It was explained that Acorn is a unique co-operative model that may be difficult to craft an RFP around and get responses from other companies. Joel also asked after 25 years what happens to the property. Rich Carpenter said they put it in the term sheet and in the lease option agreement that the array would be decommissioned and the site to be restored at the expense of the Lessee and not the Landlord. If this does not happen then Acorn could be brought to court and be ordered to do so. Nils Behn said the 3-phase power line would go from Bristol Works and down Munsill Ave to Pine Street, and then to the landfill. Michelle Perlee asked what happens to the timeline if this does not get approved now. Benjamin Marks said it will make it less financially attractive for the residents of Bristol to sign up. The Certificate of Public Good that the owner must get includes conditions. There was discussion about the proposed lease and potential tax payments. If the municipal tax was to be waived, the lease payment should be \$11,000 instead of \$8,500 per year. There was not an interest to waive the municipal taxes for the project. Peeker Heffernan cautioned that we should not put the poles for the 3-phase power where we may plan on putting up a building for the new town garage. Joel would like to see a conversation with GMP about the 3-phase power being added along Pine Street since some lines are low and may have to be adjusted, so it does not affect someone's house,

property, or trees. Rich Carpenter said the current offering would need to be done by June 30, 2020. After that, the project would not be as financially attractive.

2. Appointment of Town Clerk. Peeker Heffernan moved to appoint Sharon Lucia for Town Clerk in accordance with the terms previously discussed and for a term of one year. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

3. Appointment of Town Treasurer. Peeker Heffernan moved to appoint Jen Myers for Town Treasurer in accordance with the terms previously discussed and for a term of one year. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

4. Coronavirus COVID-19 update: Preparations, response, and impacts to municipal operations. Valerie Capels noted that at the April 6 meeting, the Selectboard voted that the DPW employees return to the stay-at-home order. Since then the question was raised whether they could still be doing some kinds of jobs. An email was received today from the State that only emergency work can be done.

It was agreed that street and sidewalk sweeping should be put on hold until the order is updated. Eric Cota reported that West, Main, and East Street from Airport Drive to the Lord's Prayer Rock will not be swept due to the paving project. Some work of the municipality is deemed essential.

Ian Albinson reported that he and Taylor Welch are among Bristol's representatives to the Addison County Mutual Aid group. There was discussion about how to get the word out to people who do not have computers, smart phones or Internet. He presented a postcard that could be sent out to the town residents and if they need help there is contact information ACMA on it. Valerie Capels said it could be reimbursed with FEMA money since it would be outreach. Ian will work with Taylor to get cost estimates and look into whether a bulk rate permit with the Post Office is better or not.

5. Review Selectboard schedule, goals, and priorities for 2020 – 2021. The draft calendar and list of completed, current, and pending projects were reviewed. There was agreement that details of the various projects should be put on the website, even if just a list. The Upper Notch repair should be moved to the current activities list and personnel policy review should be added. The pending projects list should perhaps be called Future Goals. The Basin Street study should be changed to Basin Street project. The Selectboard will review and discuss at the next meeting.

6. Establishment of Horse Ring Committee. Meridith McFarland said there are a number of people interested in forming a committee to repair, restore, and stain the white fence and establish programming for use of the Horse Ring on Liberty Street. Meridith said there would be volunteers and request for materials from Martin's Hardware and other businesses. Questions were raised about the structure of the committee, how many members, whether terms should be established, and whether it will be an ad hoc or a standing committee. Meridith will come to the next meeting with a list of the people who want to be on the committee. The people would have terms. She will look into the repairs and costs and where to get the money for it.

7. Approval of the February 17, March 2, March 16, March 30, and April 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Joel Bouvier moved to approve April 6, 2020 minutes. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. The rest will move to next meeting.

8. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable warrant \$56,735.83. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve warrant for \$56,735.83. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

9. Selectboard roundtable.

Darla Senecal reported that there is a “lake” developing in front of her house on Munsill Avenue because of a pothole, but once it gets worse, she will advise.

Ian Albinson reported that people are being good about staying home. He is assisting some businesses through his Bristol CORE hat to develop on-line selling.

Peeker Heffernan had a conversation with Cyrus and wanted to know if he should be exercising valves on Main Street. There was agreement to wait until the road work is just about to start.

Joel Bouvier noted that Cyrus exercised some valves on Main Street last year. He asked now that we have had six months of Woodland Apartments on the water system, how is the revenue side doing. He noted that he is seeing a lot of cars at the Hub on the weekend. Taylor said the Hub is closed and posted signs on the skatepark to social distancing. She does not have a problem to close the skate park, but since it is Rec Club space would need to come to an agreement with the Rec Club.

Michelle Perlee noted that Middlebury Regional EMS is giving away Light Up Vermont stars. They are taking donations as well to do this.

10. Town Administrator’s report. Valerie had nothing to add to her written report.

IV. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

a. Valerie reported that she received a request from J. Hutchins for use of a hydrant as a water source to control dust as part of the VTrans paving project. VTUMS said they can designate one hydrant and install a valve. Cyrus would be the only one to open/close the hydrant, but it would allow them to operate the valve. In response to the question whether J. Hutchins should be charged for the water, VTUMS suggested that a 2” meter with valve could be installed on the hydrant behind the Fire Station. Brandon Kipp with VTrans advised Valerie if they cannot use the municipal water, they will need to truck it in from somewhere else; it is not something VTrans would be involved in. There was agreement to continue this to the next meeting. Valerie will check with Vergennes to see how they plan to do things. The contractors are shut down until May 15th and once they get the green light, they would start milling the pavement in Vergennes for about one week and then be in Bristol starting at the Airport Road end of the project.

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 contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A), and personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Bruce Nason and Police Officer candidate Andrew Biondi were invited to the executive session. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:30pm to 11:25pm. Upon returning to open session, Peeker Heffernan made a motion to hire Andrew Biondi as a full-time Police Officer with the Bristol Police Department in accordance with the Police Chief's recommendations. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

There was consensus to hold a special public information meeting next week on the landfill solar project.

VI. Adjourn.

At 11:27 p.m. Ian Albinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator