

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday June 22, 2020

Selectboard members present: Chair Michelle Perlee, Ian Albinson, and Joel Bouvier.

Members absent: Peeker Heffernan, Darla Senecal.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Public Works Foreman Eric Cota, Recreation Department Director Meridith McFarland, Town Treasurer Jen Myers, and Police Chief Bruce Nason.

Others present: Shawn Kimball (NEATv), Mike Dash, Anna Doucet, Mike Golden, Sue Jipner, Abby Johnson, Ron LaRose, John Moyers, Krista Siringo, and Emily Tardie.

I. Call to Order. Chair Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. 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.

II. Public Forum. None.

III. Regular Business.

1. Preliminary discussion about public outreach regarding Bristol policing philosophy and implementation. Valerie Capels explained that requests have been received from members of the public and the Selectboard to have a community discussion about Bristol policing in light of the events happening locally and around the world. Bruce Nason said the State is working on updating their Police Policy. Bristol will continue to review theirs to ensure they are the most current and will send to the Town attorney for approval. He posted information on Facebook seeking input and ideas. Their primary focus is on community policing. There is an idea to have a public forum regarding the Police Department so citizens can discuss. There was agreement to take time to collect suggestions and come back to this.

2. Park Use Application: Recurring Black Lives Matter Demonstration at Town Green, 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. Anna Doucet, Emily Tardie, Abby Johnson, and Krista Siringo provided information about the application. The point is keep awareness that Black Lives Matter even after the media attention wanes. John Moyers objected to the policy where people need permission to express free speech on the park. He understands the need for a permit for a festival, vendors, or fairs. Mark Bouvier disagreed with John Moyers statement as the Town has a policy to use the Park whether it be as a protest, fair, etc., so the rules need to be followed. There was discussion about how they plan to control the amount of people. John Moyers requested the Selectboard to repeal the public use policy for the Park. Ron LaRose said he should have lied on his application then because he did not lie and put 200 people instead of 10. Mike Dash wanted to echo what John Moyers is saying and he suggests that the Selectboard should take every measure to be as open as possible and do everything in its power to facilitate free speech to the extent possible. Following further discussion, Ian Albinson moved to approve Park Use Application for two months to provide an opportunity to reassess if any adjustments need to be made. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

3. Bristol Water Commission: March water bill appeal – 21 Spring Street. Valerie Capels provided an email to the Selectboard as the Water Commission from Michael Golden, the resident at 21 Spring Street. VTUMS performed a data download at 21 Spring Street last month, which showed the resident used about 2,000 gallons over 35 days, which was in line with previous quarters, so the high read did not appear to be repeating itself. Michael Golden explained reviewed his calculations and belief that there was an error with either the meter or something was done with the billing software because the gallons usage was rounded up to an even number. Jen Myers will reach out to Jill and Cy Marsano and see what could possibly be happening on why this 3-month period is so high. There was agreement to continue this topic to the next meeting and see if additional information is available from VTUMS.
4. Coronavirus COVID-19 update: preparations, response, and impacts to municipal operations. Valerie Capels reported that the plexiglass shields have been installed over the counter suspended from the ceiling and the interior drop box has been installed. The exterior drop box will become a pick-up box. Signs will soon be installed that the bathrooms are not for public use. The Governor extended the emergency order to July 15, 2020. There was agreement to continue with keeping the office closed with access by appointment only and to continue Zoom meetings at least through July 15. Jen Myers brought up the idea about having an automated phone attendant so that when people call the 453-2410 number, they get menu of options to reach a specific person. Ian Albinson suggested that Jen develop a script and send it around for feedback.
5. Village paving and Main Street sidewalk projects update. The leveling course is complete and temporary lines have been painted. Valerie Capels reported that installation of the new streetlamps is complete, and they are on. The evening crews will continue installing curbing and prepping sidewalk areas on the south sidewalk Sunday night through Thursday. The daytime crew will be installing new guardrails in various locations throughout the project on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. No day work is currently scheduled in Bristol for Thursday and Friday. The crews continue to shuffle between Bristol and Vergennes. A preliminary schedule was received this afternoon that suggests probable completion by the end of August, if not sooner. Asked whether the Champlain Farm puddle will get fixed, Valerie said VTrans engineers initially said they expected to be able to fix it, but sometime later they became doubtful they will be able to fix it. Joel asked about the puddle by the creemee stand parking lot. Eric Cota believes the new paving will address it. There was discussion about the disposition of the topsoil removed from West Street.
6. Sullivan, Powers, & Company contract for the FY2020 audit services. Joel Bouvier moved to hire Sullivan, Powers, & Company contract for FY2020 audit services. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted. This is an increase of \$5,600 from FY2019. A single audit, if needed would be an additional expense.
7. Appointment of Bill Sayre as Alternate Bristol representative to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Valerie Capels reported that there are actually three delegate seats and three alternate seats available for Bristol. Joel Bouvier moved to approve Bill Sayre as Alternate as a Bristol representative to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Ian

Albinson seconded. So voted. Selectboard members would like to see a representative of the Bristol Planning Commission continue to be a delegate to the ACRPC.

8. Approval of the May 26, June 8, and June 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Joel Bouvier moved to approve May 26, June 8, and June 15, 2020 meeting minutes with minor corrections for all but June 8. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

9. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable warrant \$213,650.63.

10. Selectboard roundtable.

a. Joel Bouvier asked a few months ago if the Police department got the cages in the cars yet. Bruce said yes except in one there is only a partial cage in one. He also said it is not required. Joel asked Bruce if the untimely death paperwork had been completed. Bruce affirmed that it was.

b. Ian Albinson asked if Bruce plans on putting the same speed radar that is on North Street and do the same for West and East Street. Bruce said he will research and see what is possible, but the plan is to put it on East Street. Ian said he updated things on the website but wanted to double check a few things. He is putting statuses of each of the goals/tasks that the Selectboard is working on and he just asked for a few updates on statuses of Police Union contract, etc. He asked if Green Mountain Power could be asked to remove the trees on the side of the road coming into town that GMP did not clean up.

c. Michelle Perlee asked about the tour with Eric Cota and the Selectboard. Valerie will send around a Doodle poll to see what dates and times would work best for everyone. Michelle noted that the picnic tables on Route 116 were getting fixed. Valerie affirmed that the Recreation Department is managing it. Michelle also noted the road damage that was done on Meehan Road by one of the large trucks.

11. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels reported that the Police Union contract has been signed. The Stoney Hill Business Project is coming along. The design team has been meeting every Friday and preliminary layouts are taking shape. A current focus is on how to appropriately work with the archaeologically sensitive areas identified on the site. She would like to resume soliciting volunteers to serve on the Emerald Ash Borer committee. She is working with Joanne Garton with the VT Forest Parks Department to arrange for some form of orientation for committee members and the public.

IV. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

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). Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:24pm to 9:38pm. Upon returning to open session, there was consensus to postpone discussion about personnel compensation adjustments to June 29, 2020, 7:00pm.

VI. Adjourn.

At 9:39 p.m. Ian Albinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier, Board Clerk

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator