

**Town of Bristol, Vermont  
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of  
Monday January 11, 2021**

Selectboard members present: Chair Michelle Perlee, Vice-Chair Peeker Heffernan, Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, and Darla Senecal.

Staff present: Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, Town Clerk Sharon Lucia, Recreation Director Meridith McFarland, Town Treasurer Jen Myers, and Police Chief Bruce Nason.

Others present: Fred Belucci, Sally Burrell, Shawn Kimball (NEAT TV), Porter Knight, Benjamin Marks (Acorn), Greg Pahl (Acorn), Jim Pulver (Bread Loaf), Jim Quaglino, Steve Rooney (Bread Loaf), Susan Smiley (Acorn), and Jessica Teets.

**I. Call to Order.** Chair Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A). There was agreement to add the resignation of a firefighter under other business.

2. Overview of Zoom meeting operation and procedures: rules for participation, mute microphone, recognition by Chair, etc.

**II. Public Forum.** None.

**III. Regular Business.**

1. Acorn AES3 Landfill Solar Project update and “what’s in a name?” Ben Marks reported that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has given the green light to move forward, however he is not sure when that application will be done on their end. The application was sent in June, but the lease with Town of Bristol was not signed until after the deadline, and GMP said they could not do the site control, so it was moved to the bottom of the list. The next step is giving the site a name. One they have come up with is Bristol Community Solar. There was consensus of the Selectboard that the name is a good fit for the project.

2. Bread Loaf Corp.: Public Works/Police Building Site and Needs Analysis subsurface investigation, report, recommendations, and next steps. Jim Pulver, Steve Rooney, and Fred Belucci from Bread Loaf presented the Bristol Department of Public Works and Police Department Building site needs and the subsurface soil report. Based on the results of the borings, two options were recommended: stabilize the existing fill material under the prospective building sites with geopiers or remove the existing fill material completely and replace with compacted structural fill. They estimate the order of magnitude cost to be in the area of +/- \$400,000 for the geopiers and +/- \$638,000 for the entire replacement of the fill. In either case, the existing fill slopes should be stabilized against future erosion and a more detailed slope analysis should be included in the final design of the site. Bread Loaf also recommended that a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment be completed. Valerie Capels estimates it could cost around \$5,000 and recommended it be done. There was agreement that any additional work for Bread Loaf is on hold until the Selectboard decides where to go from here and if Bread Loaf should do some more borings. The Selectboard is going to take a step back and possibly look at other site places and review.

3. Budget workshop. Town Treasurer Jen Myers and Town Clerk Sharon Lucia worked with the Selectboard and department heads to fill in revenue and expense figures for all departments, including Public Works, Recreation, and Police departments.

The Selectboard discussed with Fire Chief Brett LaRose about firefighter salaries, whether to pay for trainings, proposed fiscal year 2022 budget. The Selectboard decided to keep the firefighter compensation as is from fiscal year 2021 for fiscal year 2022 and increase only because of minimum wage increase. The Selectboard will discuss paying firefighters for trainings for fiscal year 2023 budget.

4. Review of draft Town Meeting warning. Valerie Capels reported the draft Town Meeting warning has been updated to include the Town Plan adoption, Selectboard salaries, adding the transfer of funds from the Fire Department Equipment Fund to the Vehicle Fund, and breaking out the appropriations into individual articles. Sharon Lucia adapted the appropriations articles in the same format used by the City of Vergennes. Article 34 illustrates the format Bristol has used that references the purpose of the organization. Following discussion there was agreement that there will be no in-person Town Meeting and two informational meetings on February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and March 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Town Officers should be listed out in Article 1.

5. Recreation Dept. grant authorization request: Better Places Program. Ian Albinson moved to approve authorization for the Bristol Recreation Department to request the Better Places Program grant. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

6. Approval of the December 21, 2020 and January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. These will be moved to the next meeting.

7. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. There was no Accounts Payable warrant.

8. Selectboard roundtable.

a. Michelle Perlee asked Bruce if he figured out what is happening with the speed signs and Bruce said it too cold for them to work properly.

9. Town Administrator's report.

Valerie Capels reported she is working on a Selectboard and Town Administrator's report for the Town Report and will send around a draft.

#### **IV. Other Business.**

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

Notice of Firefighter Adlai Ostrer's resignation has been received. Because he was unable to find a residence in town, he was forced to move out of town. Peeker Heffernan moved to accept Firefighter Adlai Ostrer's resignation with regret. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

**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 personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 10:27pm to 11:00pm. Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

**VI. Adjourn.**

At 11:00 p.m. Joel Bouvier moved to adjourn the meeting. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier  
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels  
Town Administrator