

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday, March 1, 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, Assistant Recreation Director Alex Mihavics, Town Treasurer Jen Myers, Police Chief Bruce Nason, and Hub Director Taylor Welch .

Others present: Craig Alan, Linda Andrews, Matt Baron, Elizabeth Blair, Christopher Bray (Senator), Steven Brown, Sally Burrell, Lynn Camara, Jeff Carter, Sharon D. Compagna, Mari Cordes (State Representative), Dustin Corrigan, Jennifer Corrigan, Reg Dearborn, Valerie Dearing, Deborah Dickerson, Maura Donnelly, Caleb Elder (State Representative), Ruth Farmer, Kelly Hamshaw, Kevin Hanson, Ruth Hardy (Senator), Sue Hawkins, Lisa Hoff, Patricia Hunt, Cathy Jipner, Susan Kavanagh, Shawn Kimball (NEAT TV), Craig Lalumiere, Alice Leeds, Amelia Lutz, Tiffany Manley, Basha Miles, John Moyers, Jen Peterson, Jim Quaglino, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Deborah Ramsdell, Rob Rooker, Christopher Ross (*Addison Independent*), Elizabeth Sayre, Dave Sharpe, Pat Sharpe, Claire Wallace, Carol Wells, Tom Wells, Catherine Willson, Mary Yates, and Helen Young.

I. Call to Order. Chair Michelle Perlee called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.
2. Overview of Zoom meeting operation and procedures: rules for participation, mute microphone, recognition by Chair, etc.

II. Public Forum. None.

III. Public Hearing – Alleged Dog Ordinance violation Manning – potentially vicious dog(s) running at large in Vincent Drive vicinity. Valerie Capels explained that the Police Department received a complaint from Matthew Baron of incidents that occurred the evening of February 16, 2021 involving a black dog roaming on his Vincent Drive property barking and exhibiting aggressive behavior. He identified the dog as one owned by Travis Manning and supplied two clips of video evidence. There was a hearing on June 10, 2019, the Selectboard issued an order that the dogs be confined or otherwise controlled and indicated the matter would be revisited at the June 24, 2019 meeting to determine if any additional actions were required. No other incidences were reported, and no additional action was included. The Selectboard held a hearing on September 14, 2020 regarding numerous complaints involving Travis Manning’s two dogs, who at the time were not registered and were alleged to be roaming and exhibiting aggressive and potentially vicious behavior. The order the Selectboard issued following that hearing focused on registration and a warrant to impound the unregistered dogs was prepared. Because the dogs were registered within the prescribed timeframe and the fees paid, the warrant was not issued. Matthew Baron provided a similar report in November 2020, but it was found to not be specific enough given the gravity of impoundment and he was advised at that time to try to provide evidence (e.g., photo, video) if one or more events were to happen again.

Matt Baron was present. He said he intends to install a fence on the front of his property. Joel Bouvier moved to have the violator install some form of containment on his property by May 15, 2021, whether it is a fenced area, a kennel, a run, or some other secure enclosure. The issuance of a \$50 citation for the running at large offense will be suspended if the containment area is installed by May 15, 2021. Failure to do so will result in the levy of the \$50 citation for the running at large offense as well as a \$75 citation for failure to comply with this Order. If another violation occurs between now and May 15, 2021, a warrant to seize the offending dog(s) would be reissued for an officer of the Town to seize the dog(s) and transfer possession and control of it or them to Homeward Bound Humane Society. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted.

IV. Annual Police District Meeting Public Information Meeting (6:30pm).

Bruce Nason reported the department now has three full time and three part time officers. However, due to COVID-19 and the part time officers' full time jobs, they do not have a consistent schedule. This past year they responded to 2,465 incidents; the 3-year average is 2,597. There were 1,025 contacts; 3-year average is 988. The Police District budget has a 0.6% increase for FY22; however, in years past there were decreases in the budget. A question came up at last week's meeting about the average cost per parcel for policing services in the Police District. Treasurer Jen Myers prepared the following information in an email: For 2020 Grant List there was 1,571 taxable parcels, of those 613 were in the Police District (39%). For the 2020 Grant List the total Grand List value for the Town of Bristol \$3,384,278, of that the Police District Grand List value is \$1,352,531 (40%).

V. Annual Town Meeting Public Information Meeting (7:00pm).

Michelle Perlee reported that Fred Baser is not running for Moderator and thanked him for his many years of public service. She then read through each article and asked if there were questions. Article 2: Treasurer Jen Myers noted that tax bills are mailed in September and only mailed once which shows the two installments. There was agreement to put notices on Front Porch Forum, Town website, and Facebook page when the tax bills go out. Article 4: there is a typo on this. The wording is correct, but the amount listed for the Selectboard salary is incorrect. Article 5: Katie Raycroft-Meyer provided comments about the Town Plan that will be voted on tomorrow. Article 6: Brett LaRose said the reason for the request to transfer \$75,000 from the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund to the Fire Department Vehicle Fund is that the Fire Department received a grant to purchase breathing apparatus so they want to move the money that was appropriated for that to the Vehicle fund for the purchase of the new fire truck. Article 7: 1.60% overall increase in the Town Budget for FY22. Senators Ruth Hardy and Christopher Bray and Representatives Mari Cordes and Caleb Elder provided updates about activities and bills in the legislature.

VI. Regular Business.

1. Bristol Fire Department: authorization to proceed with vendor for new fire truck purchase. Eric Forand said how they went about looking at vendors to purchase the truck from. Deputy Fire Chief Eric Forand reported that he went to the Equipment Committee. They reviewed the specifications and agreed with the recommendation to purchase the truck from HME for roughly \$619,000. Once the Selectboard approves going forward, the Fire Department Truck Committee will go through each line item. Still looking to be under \$650,000. Joel Bouvier moved to approve them to move forward with the purchase of the truck not to exceed \$650,000. Ian Albinson seconded. So voted. Brett LaRose publicly acknowledged the Fire people that are putting in all this

work into looking for the truck, etc. Valerie Capels commended the past Selectboard members for putting this fund in place, so the Town can make these large purchases without having to incur debt.

2. Holley Hall bell tower repair: authorization to select contractor to remove and later reinstall the bell from the tower and authorization to seek structural engineer services to determine appropriate action. Valerie Capels explained employees' concerns about the integrity of the bell tower with water leaking through the roof and causing interior damage. They are seeking quotes to have the bell removed and recommend a structural engineer be hired to provide an evaluation and recommendations for appropriate repair. The Fire Chief offered to have the bell stored at the Fire Station. It was suggested the bell should be stopped from ringing. Ian moved to authorize hiring a contractor to remove the bell and to solicit structural engineering services. Darla seconded. So voted.

3. Consider a proposed contract with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to assist with coordination and administration of the Clean Water Block Grant-funded stormwater final design projects. Ian Albinson moved to authorize the contract with the ACRPC. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

4. Lincoln Selectboard request that the Bristol Selectboard consider signing on to a letter to MAUSD. The Lincoln Selectboard emailed a request and letter that the Bristol Selectboard consider signing regarding the Mount Abraham Union School District's proposal to repurpose certain school facilities in the district and to "...insist and demand that the MAUSD board receive and fully-consider new and innovative proposals from our communities." Kevin Hanson sent the Selectboard a note and recommended the Selectboard not sign on to the letter. Peeker Heffernan moved to sign the letter of support. Ian Albinson seconded. The motion was defeated with all voting against.

5. Approval of the January 4 and February 8 and February 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Ian Albinson moved to approve January 4, 2021 and February 8, 2021 with corrections. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. February 22, 2021 meeting minutes will be moved to next meeting.

6. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable warrant: \$20,148.12.

7. Selectboard Roundtable.

a. Peeker Heffernan said there is a tree just North of Lloyd Dyke's driveway and it looks dead and needs to come down before it comes down in the road.

b. Joel Bouvier personally would like to thank Cale Pelland for his work. He is leaving his position with the Public Works Department and we wish him well.

8. Town Administrator's Report. Valerie Capels had nothing to add to her written report.

VII. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received. No discussion.

2. John Moyers apologized for missing the Police District meeting and asked who gets to vote on a new Police Station? Selectboard members affirmed that it would be a vote of only District voters.

VIII. 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 8:37pm to 9:45pm. Upon returning to open session, no action was taken.

IX. Adjourn.

At 9:45 p.m. Joel Bouvier moved to adjourn the meeting. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Bouvier
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels
Town Administrator