

**Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday, March 6, 2023**

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

Members Absent:

Staff present: Board Clerk Sharon Lucia; Police Chief Bruce Nason; Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Anthony Delmonaco

Others present: Jennifer Mayhew

I. Call to Order. 6:00 pm

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. §312(d)(3)(A).

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. Preparations for the annual Police District and Town Meetings. Quick summary.

2. Consider Selectboard Recording Secretary candidate Carol Chamberlin.

Valerie Capels – Carol is a resident of Fayston and is interested in the position at \$20 per hour. Valerie knows her from other jobs.

Darla Senecal moved to offer Carol Chamberlin the position at \$20 per hour. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

IV. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received. None.

Meeting recessed at 6:10 pm to move meeting upstairs for Police District Informational Meeting at 6:30 pm.

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

Meeting started at 6:32 pm

Police Chief gave a brief description of his department and employees. Currently, there is one full-time officer vacancy. He also summarized the various services and associated fees. There have been Social Justice discussions with Porter Knight. See Lawrence Memorial Library website. Chief is on the Board of Turning Point. There is an increase in the budget due to salaries for this fiscal year and next year fiscal year.

John Moyers says that he is well served by Police Department, but the Town needs to figure out how to fund the Police Department. How many manhours are worked in a year? Regular vs. overtime, etc. The Chief would have to look at it. The budget has the regular and over time costs. John asked about out of district calls. Chief reviews the number of calls in the last year and if there is an increase he bases the budget number on that. The department charges \$65 per call and will raise to \$75 per call. Most calls usually take an hour. John believes that Police Department is vastly undercharging the Town for out of district calls.

Peeker pointed out that the money charged to Town is mostly for scheduled services.

John Moyers – when can we have the conversation about how Police Department is funded? Ian Albinson said that there have been discussions before with a committee but didn't get what they needed out of committee. To start the discussion, submit a request to the Town Administrator to be put on the Selectboard Agenda.

John Moyers asked why are revenues going up in last two years? Chief - Services are increasing.

Brett LaRose -Does the Town of Bristol Selectboard have the authority to make it a Town wide Police Department. Joel Bouvier - the Town does not have the authority per the merger document between Village and Town. It needs to be a town wide vote. Do a vote just to see if the Town wants to go town wide. Brett commended Chief Nason and team for do outstanding job.

Jessica Teets - why is the dog service was high in budget. Chief responded that we spend a lot of time on dog complaints. Open to suggestions if better way. Joel Bouvier - there is no longer dog warden, so it was transferred to Police Department.

Beth Ekroos – what percentage does Town pay for out of district calls. Chief - \$19,000 total and used for traffic patrol and more serious events assisting the State Police.

Adjourned Police Department meeting at 6:55 pm.

VI. Annual Town Meeting: (7:00 pm)

Town Meeting started at 7:04 pm

Senator Christopher Bray – Chair Natural Resources Committee in Senate – S5 Heat Act summary. If passed it will begin in 2026. Two-year development phase. No auto pilot where it automatically becomes law. There will be opportunities to ask questions. Next legislative

session will need to put it into law. Vermonters are not required to participate. The Bill does not prohibit any type of fuel because of this bill. \$650 million more that we wanted to spend and increasing. Vermont needs to do something.

Representative Caleb Elder – Brought summaries report on major legislation. He is on the House General and Housing Committee this year. Major bills are on family medical leave, development laws around housing and a shoring up childcare bill for private/public childcare.

The moderator introduced Selectboard, Town Clerk and Treasurer. The Town Clerk and Administrator are not residents of Town of Bristol. Does anyone have issues with them speaking. Response was no.

Moderator covered Roberts Rules of Order. Kenneth Johnson – proceed to next Article. The Town Meeting Minutes are in separate document.

VII. Executive Session. Potential contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) and/or personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3). **None.**

VIII. Adjourn.

Town Meeting ended at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon A. Lucia
Board Clerk