

**Town of Bristol, VT
Selectboard
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024**

Members Present: Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier (Vice-Chair), Peeker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee, Darla Senecal (Chair)

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Valerie Capels (Town Administrator), Brett LaRose (Fire Chief), Sharon Lucia (Town Clerk), Bruce Nason (Police Chief)

Others Present: Orion Lewis

I. Call to Order. Darla Senecal called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

No adjustments were made to the agenda.

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

II. Public Forum.

Nobody requested time to address the Board.

III. Annual Police District Meeting Public Information Meeting.

Valerie reiterated that all relevant information is available in the Town Report. No questions were raised regarding the information. Chief Bruce Nason spoke of the Department's appreciation of the support received. He outlined the staffing level of the Department, and explained the increases included in the proposed budget. The Town's new Community Resource Specialist position was described, and the ways in which the person who fills that position will be able to assist the officers, particularly as a large percentage of calls for service are related to mental health and substance abuse issues.

Orion Lewis asked about the Community Resource Specialist position. It was clarified that this will be a Town employee position, not a Police Department position, and that this person will be available to assist residents who live outside of the Police District. It was also noted that the first year of this new position is being covered by ARPA funds.

In response to questions from Board members, Bruce explained that the Department had recently signed a lease extension at their current location, covering the next three years. The cost for that space is about \$50K annually for rent and utilities.

Valerie noted that the Police Department budget will be voted on tomorrow, March 5, by Australian Ballot, for those who are residents of the Police District.

IV. Regular Business

1. Authorization request to submit a grant application to the Vermont Department of Libraries U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund.

Valerie explained that Freeda (Grants Manager) and Katie (Library Director) are working together to

complete the application materials. The grant is meant to address capital needs, with the goal of ensuring that libraries remain viable and available to the public, particularly in the provision of Internet services. Providing Internet stability also requires providing a sound structure to house the library's services, and therefore the grant will cover capital needs. Comfort, privacy, and accessibility are other factors being addressed by this fund.

MOTION: Peeker made a motion to authorize submission of a grant application to the Vermont Department of Libraries U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund as outlined. The motion was seconded by Joel. All voted in favor.

Michelle noted that the application includes a requirement for a letter of support from the Selectboard.

MOTION: Peeker made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to draft a letter of support for the grant application. The motion was seconded by Joel. All voted in favor.

V. Other Business.

1. Correspondence/reports received were reviewed.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:43pm, with a 15 minute break provided before the start of Town Meeting.

VI. Annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting minutes will be in a separate document.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator