

**Town of Bristol, Vermont  
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of  
Monday, December 19, 2022**

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

Members Absent: Joel Bouvier

Staff present: Board Clerk Sharon Lucia; Police Chief Bruce Nason; Treasurer Anthony Delmonaco; Fire Chief Brett LaRose

Others present: Jim Quaglino, Marin Howell, Jack Summersby, Tasha Ball; Steven Zheng, Jessica Teets, David Brynn, Jill & Cy Marsano

**I. Call to Order. 7:00 pm**

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

Add Errors & Omissions to Grand List for approval under IV.5.1.

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

**II. Public Forum.**

Joel Bouvier had medical event. Keep him thoughts and prayers. Valerie Capels had surgery and it went well and is now in recovery. Wish her all the best.

**III. Department Head Roundtable.**

Sharon Lucia, Town Clerk – Elections, water and sewer read

Bruce Nason, Police Chief – friendly reminder about overnight parking when parking ban light is on. Two vehicles were almost towed. Sent out group texts to move vehicles.

Anthony Delmonaco – Budgets

Brett LaRose – Town's new pumper (Eric Forand) – on the assembly line; progress is slow. Received a couple of pictures of cab and anticipated delivery is March 2023. Fire Dept committee will take a trip to Michigan for final inspection before the truck is delivered to New Hampshire. Another visit will occur in New Hampshire to bring equipment to be installed on fire truck. Firefighter Academy at Rutland Town Fire Department – new members attend every Tuesday and Thursday night for class and will attend 7 days at Fire Academy and hopefully (310 training hrs program) should be done

in April 2023. New committee (5 person working group) training with connex boxes. These are designed for fire service training. The committee will determine the feasibility of using these boxes. The committee is working with NH Munsill for funding. Election of Fire Department Officers were held. No new nominations were received at the November meeting. At December meeting all were revoted in. December 10 was an annual holiday gathering which has not occurred in 3 years. The annual Fire Department meeting will be held on January 14, 2023. We've had 139 calls for service; are working on budget and working on the submission for annual town report.

#### **IV. Regular Business.**

1. Letter of Support authorization request: Willowell Foundation for Community Recovery Revitalization Funds.

Tasha Ball asked the Town of Bristol to provide a letter of support for a Grant that Willowell is applying for. Top priorities are low-income housing and childcare. Also asked for ARPA funds. Hope to build a building for pre-school for low income (ages 3-6). Darla Senecal asked to clarify that the letter is not a guarantee of matching funds from the town. Tasha confirmed that it's a letter to say that the Town supports Willowell applying for the grant.

Michelle Perlee clarified that the letter indicated that land would be bought and then a build for a licensed pre-school. Tasha indicated that with their own space they could expand the summer programs. Willowell has already identified a piece of property and a builder who would be willing to start construction in the spring.

Michelle Perlee made motion to provide Willowell with a letter of support. Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

2. Bristol Fire Department: Firefighter leave of absence request. (retroactive request to 12/12/2022)

Ian recommends that this be moved to Executive Session. Selectboard decided to do in open session.

Brett LaRose recommends that the person be granted leave. Asking for 12-month leave. Minimum is 3 months and maximum is 12-months.

Peeker Heffernan made motion to accept leave of absence request. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted

3. Middlebury College PSC10213 Qualitative Methods (ARPA Research Lab) class presentation with Professor Jessica Teets.

Presentation – ARPA Funding in Addison County – Middlebury and Vergennes, (rolled into Fund Budget) Bristol and Weybridge (went out for public input).

[www.bristolvt.org/Agendas & Minutes/FY 2022/2023 Meetings/](http://www.bristolvt.org/Agendas%20&%20Minutes/FY%2022/2023%20Meetings/Selectboard/December%2019,%202022/IV.3-Final_Condensed-Presentation.pdf)  
Selectboard/December 19, 2022/IV.3-Final\_Condensed-Presentation.pdf

Bristol has done more outreach than other towns.

Darla Senecal asked for suggestions on ways to connect to public. Bristol has done focus groups, general surveys; going to places and asks opinions. Other towns are learning from Bristol. Not necessarily reaching who don't want to participate (most vulnerable) from Covid.

Bristol doesn't plan to make line item on budget for town. Will be used for projects not day to day funding.

4. Water Department: authorization request to repair high lift pump #2 motor.

Jill Marsano – Pumps are specially made/custom built and are not off the shelf motors. Had ungrounded facility and it shorted out and luckily no one was shocked. Repairing this pump would give department back-up. The cost is just under \$5,000 to recondition/rebuild interior and exterior. Have new one on order but there is on back order/delayed (\$12,000). Pecker Heffernan thinks it's a good idea to have a spare. Ian Albinson agrees.

Pecker Heffernan made motion to authorize request to repair high lift pump motor. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

5. Request for parking variance: Watershed Center Winter Solstice event. David Brynn

501c3 nonprofit. Vergennes watershed property expanded to 1,000 acres. Very popular but has small parking lot. Bristol Best Night is sponsored by Watershed Center. Solstice event for many years. Used to notify State Police and Town Police. Used to have 150 people. The road is a 3<sup>rd</sup> class and they want to park on road for this one-time event. It runs from 4-10 pm.

Michelle Perlee – isn't this state statute that you can't park on road. Chief Bruce Nason confirmed that there is a statute that you cannot park on a traveled portion of the roadway. He doesn't think the town can give permission and would probably be liable for any accidents. Maybe use flaggers and/or signs might work? The road

doesn't have a shoulder so there isn't an area is wide enough to park. Farm equipment and plows need to go through. Pecker threw out that we do have traffic lights so maybe that could be used to alternate traffic. Michelle Perlee asked if something happens who is liable? The Town would want insurance from Watershed group. Michelle Park asked if there is somewhere else vehicles could park and be bussed to the location. David Brynn will consider options.

5.1 Errors and Omissions to be approved (added).

Pecker Heffernan made motion to approve the errors and omissions submitted by lister (5 parcels). Darla Senecal seconded. So voted.

6. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. \$91,999.01. Renewal of 3<sup>rd</sup> class (6 mos) liquor license for Minifactory, 16 Main St.

7. Selectboard roundtable.

Michelle – none.

Pecker – none.

Ian – Lumen was well attended. Rec Dept did rides and gingerbread house making. Really fun.

Darla – congratulate the Lumen festival. Rec Dept has put on great things. Expressed appreciation.

**V. Other Business.**

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

- ACRPS Newsletter December 2022
- Governor's press release Better Connections grant program 2022-12-05

**VI. Executive Session.** Contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(1)(A) and personnel matters per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3). None.

**VII. Adjourn.**

**Peeker Heffernan made motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Michelle Perlee seconded.  
So voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon A. Lucia  
Board Clerk

Valerie Capels  
Town Administrator