

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
February 8, 2016**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

In Attendance: Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, Ethan Swift, Devon Fuller, Tracy Wyman

Also in Attendance: Dave Atherton, Richard Baker, Anna Scheck, Lee Kahrs, Steve Bisette, Dick Kirby, Bernie Carr, Janet Coolidge

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Doug Bailey - Chair at 7:03PM.

a) Agenda Adoption – Motion by Devon Fuller/Seth Hopkins to adopt the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consent Agenda

a) Select Board Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2016

Motion by Ethan Swift/Devon Fuller to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 Select Board meeting. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton reported he met with Mary Andes and Bob Melillo from FEMA to review the work on Green Park and Kenney Park. They took a tour and were impressed with the work that has been done. Mr. Atherton met with Jeff Theis from VLCT/PACIF to discuss ways to reduce Worker's Compensation premium in doing more safety meetings and workshops with employees. Mr. Atherton attended a Town Manager luncheon at Cattails Restaurant on January 29th. Mr. Atherton also met with the people from the Green Lantern Solar project on February 1st at the Town's attorney's office to finalize the project. Bill Moore and Dave Atherton attended a VLCT Town Meeting on February 3rd. The Town Report has been sent to the printers and the reports will be sent out by February 16th. They will be in the office by tomorrow and may get out by the end of this week. Mr. Atherton has been closing several right of way negotiations for the Segment 6 project and is meeting with VTrans tomorrow to have them work with some of the more complicated properties. The plan is to have the rights of ways done by the end of the month. Relative to the Wastewater Department, Dave DiDomenico, State Inspector for Wastewater Operations, visited the wastewater plant and was pleased with the improvements to the buildings, as well as the organization that Steve and Tim have been doing. Relative to the Recreation Department; Mr. Moore wished to thank all the volunteers that helped with Winter Carnival, with a special thanks to the committee members, Stacey Doucette, Lizbeth Alvarado and Amber Lee. Thanks also to the

sponsors: Neshobe School, National Bank of Middlebury and Hannaford Supermarket. The Rec's ice rink is still closed due to lack of cold weather. Mr. Moore is searching for people to serve with Janne Giles on the Tennis Court Committee. The Middlebury Snow Bowl program begins February 28th and deadline for sign-ups is February 22nd. The program fee includes transportation from OV, 1-hour lesson and ½ day lift ticket. This program will be in collaboration with the Pittsford Rec. Additional information on pricing for Skiing/Ride combos, with and without rentals, can be found on the Town's website. The Brandon Rec Day at Spartan Arena is February 12th with Castleton University vs. Southern Maine. The game time is 7:00PM and Brandon area children will have free admission and will be recognized by the announcer at the game. The successful collaboration with the Neshobe School's SOAR program, "Rockin' with the Rec Friday" moves into winter mode. On January 29th twenty-one children were hosted by Don Crichton and the seniors at the Neshobe House for an afternoon of inter-generational games. On February 5th twenty-four children took a field trip to the Bowlerama. There are volunteer opportunities in the Rec Department that include two members for the Tennis Court Committee and two members for the Safety Day/Spring Celebration Committee. Mr. Moore advised there were 120 participants at the Winter Carnival Dance.

Doug Bailey advised there will be a Board of Abatement meeting Thursday evening beginning at 6:30PM. There are also two hearings for the Town Plan adoption for February 12th at 6:30PM and February 22nd at 6:30PM.

4. Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Dick Kirby asked whether the town has received the new grader and he was advised that it is not here yet. Mr. Kirby also requested an update on the Ranger Solar Project, noting Green Mountain Power seems to be against this. Doug Bailey stated Ranger Solar has not filed for any permits yet and have been working on their Ludlow project. Mr. Bailey stated the last time he spoke with them; they were still working on this project and were talking with other landowners due to the wetlands issues and the concerns that were expressed at the Select Board meeting. Mr. Kirby stated Green Mountain Power appears to have capacity loads on their lines without adding any more. Mr. Bailey stated at this point there is nothing new. Bernie Carr stated the Select Board members who were responsible for keeping the Rec Director position should be proud of the Rec Department program that Mr. Moore has developed. He noted it affects many people in the area. Dave Atherton stated he also attended a Chamber dinner at the Brandon Inn and Carr's Florist was the recipient of the President's Award. Doug Bailey stated during the budget meetings, it was recognized the Rec Department program income is supporting the programs. When people look at the expense side of the budget, they have to also look at the revenue side for Recreation. Mr. Carr also thanked Mr. Burlett for his quick response in removing a tree that had fallen in town.

5. FEMA Projects/Segment 6/Bridge 114/Overflow Culvert

Dave Atherton reported he has met with the landowner on Newton Road to sign documents for hazard mitigation for the next step in the process. The Town has received expedite approval to proceed with the process and it should be ready to post and put out to bid soon. The process will have to be noticed a few times. The intent is to buy the property and demolish the building. Mr. Atherton is concerned with how much of the building is holding the river and suggested this should be researched.

Mr. Atherton has received a report on the overflow culvert and will provide copies to the Select Board.

Mr. Atherton will be meeting with VTrans and the utilities tomorrow regarding Segment 6. Scott Robertson and right of way agents will be here to do some of the troublesome rights of ways. The plan is to have them complete by the end of the month.

The Town has received a study from John Byatt concerning the Bridge 114 project that Mr. Atherton will revisit this week and will forward to the Select Board.

Bernie Carr asked what the utility meeting is for. Dave Atherton advised that VTrans and the utilities will be meeting to discuss the underground utility work from the library to the town hall that is planned to be done in the fall. The rights of ways have to be done before moving forward with this project. Mr. Carr asked why it is not done when the entire project is done. He stated there has been discussion of getting power to the tree grates to be able to access power from underground and noted this would be the time to discuss it. Mr. Atherton will advise Mr. Carr what was discussed at the meeting.

6. Town Office Project

Doug Bailey did a walk-through of the town office today and noted it looks really nice. The paint colors were chosen and the lift and stairs are supposed to be here this week. Devon Fuller stated there have not been any hold ups. They are doing the drywall downstairs and the upstairs is being primed. Mr. Bailey questioned if there are plans for outside painting. Mr. Atherton advised there is currently no money in the budget for exterior painting; however there has been discussion of volunteers possibly doing some painting. Mr. Atherton reported there have been some unforeseen roof repairs that had to be done and that is of utmost importance before any cosmetic painting can be done. Mr. Atherton noted the contractor has been great to work with and it is going to be a beautiful building.

7. Fiscal

a) General Fund Warrant – February 8, 2016 - \$96,582.99

Motion by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve the General Fund warrant of February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$96,582.99. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Devon Fuller questioned the charge for Champlain Oil Company. Dave Atherton confirmed it was for gas for the Police Department. Mr. Atherton reported the Town has purchased a gas tank to enable bulk purchases. This will save about \$7,000.00 per year.

b) Smalley Warrant – February 8, 2016 - \$139,846.00

Motion by Devon Fuller/Ethan Swift to approve the Smalley warrant of February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$139,846.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c) Debit Card Warrant - February 8, 2016 - \$250.00

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to approve the Debit Card warrant of February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$250.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Devon Fuller asked if the debit card warrants are for purchasing over the phone. Dave Atherton confirmed that they were for these types of purchases and advised this is the most cost-effective way to purchase as the credit card interest rates are high.

d) Debit Card Warrant – February 8, 2016 - \$595.00

Motion by Ethan Swift/Devon Fuller to approve the Debit Card warrant of February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$595.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Atherton stated this warrant was for training that one of the officers took.

e) Wastewater Fund Warrant – February 8, 2016 - \$7,043.19

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to approve the Wastewater Fund warrant of February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$7,043.19. **The motion passed unanimously.**

13. Adjournment

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Devon Fuller to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:33PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary