

**Brandon Select Board Meeting  
September 26, 2016**

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

**In Attendance:** Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, Tracy Wyman, Devon Fuller, Brian Coolidge

**Others In Attendance:** Dave Atherton, Arlen Bloodworth, Anna Scheck, Richard Baker, Bernie Carr, Leonard Bonneau, Steve Bissette, Janet Coolidge, Jeff Stewart, Ray Jobst, Chris Brickell, Dick Kirby, Donna Taylor

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Doug Bailey – Chair @ 7:00PM.

Doug Bailey welcomed Brian Coolidge as the newest Select Board member.

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a) Select Board Minutes – September 12, 2016**

**Motion** by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to approve the September 12, 2016 Select Board meeting minutes as submitted. **The motion passed with two abstentions – Doug Bailey and Brian Coolidge.**

**3. Town Manager’s Report**

Dave Atherton reported the Newton Road property asbestos study will be completed Thursday. He prepared the RFP for demolition that went out today and there will be a pre-bid meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Town has received the Stream Alteration Permit from the State for both the Newton Road and Overflow Culvert projects. The 1061 Notice for the sale of the Town Farm property has been posted and after the 30-day notice the Town will be able to transfer ownership of the property. The Town solar project on Robert Wood Road is moving along. All footings and frames have been installed and the panels are currently being installed. The Town has been granted an extension for river work until October 15<sup>th</sup> for the Overflow Culvert project. This will allow the building shoring to take place, with the rest of the work to be done outside the river. The Cobb Hill culvert replacement has been completed and the road is open. A walk through will be done with the contactors on Wednesday. There has been work done on the intersection of Town Farm and Newton Road to slow vehicles down as they approach the intersection. The Town is also rebuilding the ditches around the intersection to keep vehicles on the pavement. There is a Memorandum of Agreement with Federal Land Access and VTrans being prepared in connection with the Churchill Road Bridge replacement. A proposed project schedule was provided to the Select Board. There were some roof repairs completed on the common stairwell at the Town Office as it had leaked twice during heavy rainstorms and caused the fire alarm to go off. Since September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Town has collected \$39,953.62 in delinquent taxes and sewer fees. The outstanding balances as of September 22<sup>th</sup> are \$228,330.81 in taxes and \$100,842.73 in sewer fees. There have been 20 payment agreements signed in the past month and the deadline to pay off delinquent taxes or make a payment agreement is today. The list will now be sent to the attorney to proceed with the tax sale process. Paving has begun on the following streets: West Seminary, East Seminary, North Seminary, East Prospect and River Street in connection with the water line project.

Devon Fuller asked what the Town’s share will be for the Churchill Bridge replacement and Mr. Atherton advised it will be \$54,000.00 and this item will be discussed in the next budget season. Mr. Fuller asked if the Seminary Hill paving is complete and Mr. Atherton stated they still have the topcoat to do. Mr. Fuller questioned the paving of North Street and Mr. Atherton stated they are paving the intersection in front of the post office, but the Water

Department did not contract for the entire street to be paved. The Town worked with the Water Department to pave some of the streets in connection with the Water Department's project. Doug Bailey stated most of the crossings are fairly smooth but the last three are not good. Mr. Atherton stated they have had one coat of asphalt but have not had the last coat added. Mr. Bailey suggested Daryl Burlett obtain a figure of what it would cost to pave where Routes 73 and 53 meet to discuss during the budget process. Tracy Wyman suggested cones would be helpful in this area and Mr. Atherton advised that cones have been placed there.

Dick Kirby stated there have been some cones that have been on Route 7 for quite a while. Dave Atherton stated that the cones are likely for a waterline project. Mr. Kirby stated on the dump road there are two ditches that are rough. Mr. Atherton stated there were some public workers in the area of Pearl Street filling ditches recently. The waterline project is still being worked on.

Leonard Bonneau asked if the town has a deadline for the Pearl Street job. Dave Atherton advised the waterline project is not the town's project. It is Brandon Fire District #1 and the Prudential Board oversees the project for the Water Department. Mr. Atherton explained the water system is a separate entity that is owned by the Brandon Fire District and the engineers and contractors are working for the Prudential Board. There have been some issues and they are supposed to be back to work on some of the areas. Mr. Atherton will advise the Prudential Board that Mr. Bonneau has questions on this subject. Mr. Bonneau also expressed concern that the Brandon Transfer Station no longer accepts oil or batteries, such as flashlight batteries and they wanted to charge him to dispose of them. Mr. Bonneau stated the Town is paying these people to do a service and asked why these are no longer accepted. Mr. Atherton advised that the transfer station is run by Earth Waste System and he will follow-up with them on this situation. Mr. Atherton has also had some other complaints about the transfer station from a few people. Mr. Atherton noted there should be a battery box for disposing of batteries and an oil container. It was noted that electronics now have to be taken to Rutland County Solid Waste. Mr. Bonneau stated he lives on Long Swamp Road and questioned why the material that is put on the roads is only placed on the flat areas and not on the hills; suggesting that it would be more productive to be placed on the hills. Mr. Atherton advised that the material has been placed on other hills such as Lover's Lane and North Birch Hill Road. Mr. Atherton will ask the Public Works Director about this item. Mr. Bonneau felt that Long Swamp Road should have hard top due to the increased traffic on that road, as the grading is not efficient. Mr. Bonneau suggested seeing if the state has grant opportunities to pave Long Swamp Road. Mr. Atherton noted there are 80 miles of roads in Brandon, with 45 miles of the roads being dirt. He stated rainstorms do wash out roads and when weather is a disadvantage it does ruin the work that has been done.

Bernie Carr asked the status of the mower and Dave Atherton reported it will be delivered this week.

#### **4. Comments for Items not on the**

Ray Jobst stated the Select Board is doing a great job and he is glad to be part of the community. Dave Atherton thanked Mr. Jobst for his help at the police station.

#### **5. Request to Close Road for the Neshobe School Halloween Parade**

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve the road closure of Route 7 on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 12:55PM to 1:15PM for the Neshobe School Halloween Parade. **The motion passed with one abstention – Seth Hopkins.**

Doug Bailey asked how much of a disturbance the closure causes. Chris Brickell stated people are pretty tolerant and understand it is a brief period of time and is good for the children.

#### **6. Proposed Real Estate Conveyance**

Dave Atherton stated there is a notice of terms and a purchase and sale agreement for a Town Farm Road property that was acquired at tax sale last year. The Town needs to do a 30-day notice and requires Select Board approval.

**Motion** by Seth Hopkins/Devon Fuller to approve the real estate conveyance as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Atherton stated there is a condition that the lot is cleaned up within a year. This property went up for tax sale and no one bid and the Town ended up as the bidder. There is a substantial mess that needs to be cleaned up by the purchaser.

Seth Hopkins commended the Town Manager in completing this deal as it is a good way to deal with the property.

## **7. Budget Committee**

Dave Atherton suggested the Select Board consider setting up some meetings in the near future with the Budget Committee to begin the budget process. Seth Hopkins asked if the Budget Committee membership has been set. Janet Coolidge stated the Budget Committee sent the Town Manager emails in the spring confirming that they are interested in participating again on the Committee. Doug Bailey stated previously there was an initial meeting and weekly meetings held with the department heads and he thought that the process with the department heads was helpful in getting a start to the budget process. Ms. Coolidge also thought that it was good to meet with the department heads and provide the Town Manager direction for the first pass. The Select Board and Budget Committee met as a group. During November and December, the budget was built and the Select Board and Town Manager went over it in January. Mr. Bailey asked if there was a particular day of week that was good for everyone. Seth Hopkins stated the Select Board and Budget Committee met the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in November and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in December last year. It was suggested to keep the schedule the same this year for November with the meetings to begin at 6:00PM. Dave Atherton reported the audit will be done this week.

## **8. Norris Brothers Solar Development**

Dave Atherton stated this project has been previously discussed. They have filed for another Certificate of Public Good for a smaller array. Mr. Atherton met with one of the brothers to discuss the concerns with screening and other issues with it being next to Estabrook Park and they are open for suggestions. Mr. Atherton will be meeting with them on Wednesday. Mr. Atherton filed a letter expressing concerns and siting the solar plans in the Town Plan. Seth Hopkins stated it still falls under large projects. Mr. Atherton advised that he was told that it will be a 60kw project which changes things quite a bit for the siting. Mr. Atherton advised the Board it is the same site, but a different array and they have reached out to the Town for comments. Bernie Carr asked if Bill Moore knows about this project and Mr. Atherton confirmed that he is aware but it is a much smaller project from the first design.

## **9. Segment 6/Bridge 114/Overflow Culvert**

Dave Atherton stated the Town has received the last appraisals for the right of way for Segment 6 and he is meeting with the land owners tomorrow to get it signed. There are five properties for condemnation and the attorney's office has the files that are going to condemnation for warning. The attorney also has to review the easement deeds that have been negotiated. The Town met with Green Mountain Power regarding moving poles on Franklin Street and noted a few will be able to be moved. Mr. Atherton reported he is starting to fine tune items on Segment 6, such as park benches and curbing. Mr. Atherton is still waiting for the historic review for Bridge 114, but noted the project is not behind schedule. Mr. Atherton should have more information about the Overflow Culvert project at the next meeting, as he would like to receive confirmation from FEMA and Hazard Mitigation before discussing. The Overflow Culvert project is in good shape with the rights of ways with three completed and one remaining. Mr. Atherton reported the Town receives 75% reimbursement for these items. The total amount is noted in the warrants and the Town will receive the reimbursement from the State. Mr. Atherton reported work is tentatively scheduled to start in the river to shore up the Blue Moon building the first part of October, with approval to access the river extended to October 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Stewart noted there is a payment in the warrants to Blue Moon for an easement and questioned if there are others. Mr. Atherton reported there are four properties that have easements and this is one of the four. Bernie Carr reported there is another "Barn Raising" meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> that will include an overview of the Segment 6 project. The meeting will take place at Compass Music Center beginning at 6:30PM and Mr. Carr suggested any board members that could attend would be helpful for this conversation. Mr. Carr questioned if there is any further information on the Davenport Solar project. Dave Atherton stated their focus is currently on the Ludlow project. Doug Bailey stated he spoke with them in August and they had advised that they are working on getting the process

smoothed out and Brandon is still being considered. Dick Kirby asked who is the last easement for the Overflow Culvert and Mr. Atherton advised that Bob Read's property is the last easement.

## **10. Fiscal**

### ***a) FY2016/17 Warrant – September 26, 2016 - \$175,782.32***

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Devon Fuller to approve the FY2016/17 warrant of September 26, 2016 in the amount of \$175,782.32. **The motion passed with one abstention – Seth Hopkins.**

## **11. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:54PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary