

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
December 12, 2016**

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

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

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Lee Kahrs, Arlen Bloodworth, Chris Brickell, Bill Moore

1. Call to order

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

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

Add 2b – Select Board and Budget Committee minutes of November 1st, November 15th and December 5th

Add 4a – Approve Town Highway and Weight Restriction

Add 5a – Resolution to Approve Application for Downtown Designation Renewal

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Select Board Minutes – December 12, 2016

Motion by Devon Fuller/Seth Hopkins to approve the December 12, 2016 Select Board meeting minutes. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

b) Select Board and Budget Committee Minutes – November 1, 2016, November 15, 2016 and December 5, 2016

Motion by Devon Fuller/Seth Hopkins to approve the November 1, 2016, November 15, 2016 and December 5, 2016 Select Board/Budget Committee meeting minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager’s Report

Dave Atherton reported the town office will be closed at 1PM pm December 23rd for a pot luck luncheon and Christmas party for the employees. Mr. Atherton extended an invitation for the Select Board members to attend. The office will also be closed on December 26th. The Green Lantern solar project is up and running at 100%. A check for the rental of the property should be received soon. Doug Bailey asked if the electric bill

will show as a credit. Mr. Atherton advised when the crediting begins, there will be a presentation to the Select Board on how this process will work. The demolition is complete on the Newton Road property with all buildings and debris having been removed. The final plans have been submitted to VTrans for Segment 6 for review. The deadline is December 20th for comments to be sent to CLD for changes. A letter was distributed to the Board from CLD regarding permit status. Mr. Atherton reminded the Board that the condemnation hearing will be held December 15th at 10AM in the Town Hall basement. There will be two site visits done first, followed by a meeting and three Select Board members need to be present. The excavation continues on the overflow culvert and a schedule from Dubois & King was provided. Plans and documents have been sent to the Federal Highway Administration for review regarding the Churchill Road Bridge. It is still planned to have this project out to bid in the spring. Over the last two weeks, the following roads have had potholes filled and grading done in some areas: Hawk View, Rydon Acres, Basin Road, Van Cortland (apron only), North Birch Hill, Birch Hill Road, Hollow Road and Long Swamp Road. Current tax delinquencies are \$183,751.64 and sewer delinquencies are \$35,986.44. There have been 46 payment agreements set and 26 properties were sent to tax sale with balances in taxes of \$42,349.51 and sewer payments due of \$15,558.99. The tax sale is scheduled for February 24, 2017. With regard to the Rec Department, there was a successful bus trip to NYC on December 3rd with thanks to Colleen Wright as the leader for the two busses. There are two Boston trips scheduled for February 3rd for a Lakers/Celtics game and March 25th to attend either the Flower Show or the New England Aquarium. Youth basketball has started and is the first programming being done with the new nearly paperless on-line system. The Rec Department will be partnering with Neshobe PTO on the Talent Showcase scheduled for January 27th at the town hall. The Rec's Cross Country program will be back at Blueberry Hill with the Zelis family spearheading the effort. Registration will be open next week with skiing to commence on Saturday afternoons starting in January.

Seth Hopkins questioned what the Green Lantern rental fee is and whether those funds have been assigned to a destination. Mr. Atherton reported it is \$10,000.00 per year and the funds have not been assigned a destination at this point, though there was discussion of putting some in a revolving loan fund for energy costs. The credits will amount to a 15% energy usage savings, plus the taxes on the solar panels. Doug Bailey suggested the Select Board members bring their ideas on where the funds should be placed to the January meeting. Mr. Bailey asked if the Town has set aside matching funds for the Churchill Bridge project. Mr. Atherton stated the match is about \$55,000.00 and Daryl Burlett has included this in the proposed budget for next year. Devon Fuller noted in going over the permitting for Segment 6 that he could not believe how far the Town Manager has brought this project forward in less than two years and he congratulated Mr. Atherton and his team for the work that has been done. Mr. Fuller also complimented Mr. Atherton on the status of the delinquent taxes as they are much lower compared to the past. Mr. Atherton stated Segment 6 is a group effort and everyone wants to see this happen. Mr. Fuller questioned whether they have been drilling and doing the rebar on the Overflow project. Mr. Atherton stated they were having issues with keeping the water out and the River Management people have been present. He is unsure if they are pouring the

concrete yet as they got into more rock than they thought. Mr. Fuller will inquire about this project with the Public Works Director. Mr. Bailey noted he was exceedingly impressed with the Moonlight Madness event and thanked those involved for getting the Fire Department involved in the event to assure that the pedestrians were safe.

4. Comments for Items not on the Agenda

a. *Approve Town Highway and Weight Restriction*

Dave Atherton reported this is a document that is a state requirement and the Public Works Director has requested approval from the Select Board.

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tracy Wyman to approve the Town Highway and Weight Restriction filing as submitted by the Public Works Director. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Atherton advised the Select Board will also be receiving a Mileage document in the coming months for their approval.

Tracy Wyman reported he has received complaints about an issue on Newton Road and the trailer park across from Dave's Store accessing the trailer park from Furnace Road, rather than Route 53. Mr. Atherton will discuss these matters with the Public Works Director.

5. Budget Discussion

Doug Bailey reported that another budget workshop is scheduled for next Wednesday, December 21st and the discussion will be around the Public Works and Police departments. The next workshop will take place on January 3rd at 6:00PM to finish up the budget for FY17/18. Mr. Atherton will provide the Select Board with the figures for the Police and Public Works departments within the next couple of days for review prior to the workshop next week. Mr. Bailey also requested a Project Tracker update be included.

a) *Resolution to Approve Application for Downtown Designation Renewal*

Bill Moore advised that the Town is up for renewal of the downtown designation and one item required is an official resolution from the Select Board endorsing the application renewal process.

Motion by Devon Fuller/Seth Hopkins to endorse the resolution for the application renewal process for the downtown designation. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Segment 6/Bridge 114/Overflow Culvert

Dave Atherton advised the Town is still waiting until spring to do the bat study for Bridge 114. All other projects were previously discussed during the Town Manager's report.

Seth Hopkins reopened Item 4 – Comments for Items Not on the Agenda on behalf of Mr. Moore.

Bill Moore stated the Rec Department is looking for someone with a snowmobile to groom the cross country trails at Blueberry Hill for the Cross Country Ski program. The Town has the tow behind groomer and would reimburse for gas. Anyone interested was asked to contact Bill Moore at the town office.

7. Fiscal

a) FY2016/17 Warrant – December 12, 2016 – \$359,366.63

Motion by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve the FY2016/17 warrant of December 12, 2016 in the amount of \$359,366.63. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Adjournment

Motion by Devon Fuller/Seth Hopkins to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:26PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary