

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
April 23, 2018**

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

Board Members In Attendance: Devon Fuller, Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, Brian Coolidge

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Bernie Carr, Mike Frankiewicz, Jeff Stewart, Arlen Bloodworth, Ray Jobst, Steve Bissette, Michael Shank, Chris Brickell

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins at PM.

a) Agenda Adoption – Motion by Doug Bailey/Brian Coolidge to adopt the agenda as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Addition of Executive Session - Appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(3)(a)(3)

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Doug Bailey to approve the April 9, 2018 Select Board minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton reported the contractor has continued with mobilization of equipment and personnel for Segment 6 for construction of the proposed sewer infrastructure in the vicinity of 30 Conant Square and the US Post Office. This includes installation of sewer manholes F4 and F5 along with connecting piping and installation of underground duct banks, (conduits), near the former Mobil Station leading to near the Municipal office. This is in preparation for relocation of the overhead lines to underground utility installations within Segment 'B' inclusive of Park Street, upper Carver Street, Union Street and West Seminary Street. Upcoming work includes continued milling Route 7, Segment 'F', sewer installation on Park Street, duct bank installation on Seminary Street, utility installations on Union Street, water service locations all around and traffic control at each of the above locations. Mr. Atherton asked people to be patient when driving through town. Alpine Construction is starting set up for Bridge 114. They will be using the back lot at the Highway garage for their office trailer and storage. There is not a firm start date for construction yet, but will likely be June or July. The Churchill Road Bridge was put out to bid and the opening of bids is May 9th. The tax amounts subject to tax sale are down to

\$29,048.21 for property taxes and \$18,816.74 for sewer taxes. Three more people came in today to pay do offs, which will decrease the amounts further. There are many payment plans set up to help people get caught up and avoid tax sale. In the Rec Department: T-ball sign-ups end April 30th. Gettysburg tickets are still available for the Rec trip June 15 - 17th, the Rec Department received a donation of 21 helmets for the Lacrosse program from Mike Sheets and Middlebury Youth Lacrosse, the Summer Programming Guide will be out by May 1st and there are two planned Red Sox trips on July 15th and August 23rd. Safety Day is on Green-up Day this year. Join Jim Leary who will be set-up at Kennedy Park for route assignments by 8:00AM. Safety Day will feature a bike mechanic and the annual helmet fitting generously sponsored by OMYA. There will be 100 helmets available at no cost while supplies last from 10AM – 1PM at the Brandon Fire Department. There will be a smoke trailer and fire truck tours. Along with the Brandon Fire Department, the Brandon Police, Brandon Area Rescue and State Police will be present.

Brian Coolidge asked if there should be a flagger near the bank corner to route traffic. Seth Hopkins noted that coming from Park Street, there has been a control person, but no one standing at Route 7 and that seems like an area that has a lot more action and may be prime for a traffic control person. Bernie Carr stated there was traffic control in front of Whittakers and near the monument and perhaps there should be someone on Route 7. Dave Atherton will have a flagger discussion with the contractor tomorrow. He stated moving forward, there is probably going to be more discussion on traffic control. Bernie Carr stated by the end of the summer, it will be more linear and when Segment B is completed, it will likely be less of an issue. Mr. Carr will suggest there be a flagger in Route 7 controlling that section. It was the sense of the Board that the contractor is doing a very good job. Devon Fuller stated we as locals need to find alternate routes for a while during construction and be more creative on how we get around. Doug Bailey stated he is impressed with the long hours that the contractors are putting in. Mr. Carr has had a few complaints about long wait times in traffic and asked that anyone that has had a long wait time to jot down how long they have waited and advise him.

Devon Fuller stated the amount of delinquent taxes and sewer bills is remarkable compared to what it previous was and noted the Town Manager has done a phenomenal job. Mr. Fuller also commented on Bill Moore's networking that saves the Town money. He noted it shows what a great Rec Director and Town Manager can do.

4. Zoning Administrator's Report

Anna Scheck provided a written report to the Select Board. Seth Hopkins advised that Ms. Scheck is available between meetings for questions the Board may have concerning her report.

5. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Brian Coolidge suggested since the Town has a van, staff needing to travel should use the van rather than using their personal vehicle and charging the Town mileage. Dave Atherton stated the staff would use the van, if available, as there is no need for people to charge mileage when the Town has a vehicle.

Seth Hopkins advised the second Board meeting in May falls on Memorial Day. It was the consensus of the Board to move the meeting from May 28th to May 29th. Bernie Carr stated the week before Memorial Day, Casella will know the status of the project to determine how the Memorial Day parade route will be handled. The monument will be accessible for the parade and Mr. Carr noted the worst-case scenario would be to start at the end of Park Street and proceed to the monument.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Brian Coolidge to move the second Select Board meeting in May from May 28th to May 29th at 7PM at the Town Hall to observe Memorial Day. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Better Brandon drawing was held for \$50.00 in Brandon Green. Heather Best was this week's winner. Bernie Carr advised people can still purchase a hardhat for \$5.00 at the Town Office to be included in the drawings.

Michael Shank requested an update on the sewage issue as far as spillage and questioned whether it would be feasible to replace the roof on the Town Hall, as there had been a leak and a tile fell from the ceiling. Mr. Shank was aware the roof would be very expensive to repair, however, questioned whether it would be advisable to replace the ceiling if the roof was not also done. Mr. Shank questioned if there was a partnership between the Town and the Friends of the Town Hall or if he should run a capital campaign. Dave Atherton reported with regard to the sewer issue, the line that was found broken was repaired with a new piece of pipe. The riverbank had eroded and the pipe gave way. There were high flows from the storm that broke the connectors and floated away. When fixing the second one, there was someone present from the State to issue a permit for the river. This was an unusual situation that happened. There have been discussions about fixing the sewer lines and Mr. Atherton would like to fix a mile of sewer and a mile of road each year. This Department is out of the red, which will provide the ability to get match money to fix items. It is hoped to come to an agreement on fixing some lines each year. With regard to the slate roof for the Town Hall, a slate roof company now maintains the roof annually and replace slates as needed. Mr. Atherton advised the cost to replace the roof would be about \$350,000.00. Mr. Shank asked if there has been a bid on the ceiling and Mr. Atherton noted there has not been a bid completed for the ceiling. Devon Fuller stated historically maintenance was not being done and the roof had been neglected. There is now a maintenance program for the roof and Mr. Fuller suggested repairing the ceiling, as there would be a chance for leaks on any roof. Doug Bailey stated there had been an issue found with the ridge cap, which was repaired. Mr. Fuller noted since the maintenance program has been in place, it seems to be working well.

Bernie Carr, on behalf of Sue Gage, provided information about a teen substance use free community talk sponsored by BrandonCARES that will be held May 24th at 7PM at the Brandon Inn. The guest speaker will be Michael Nerney, an internationally renowned consultant in substance abuse prevention and education with nearly four decades of experience in the field. He is an expert in psychopharmacology, adolescent chemical dependency, relapse prevention, gender differences in communication and managing violent incidents. Mr. Nerney will explain: current trends in adolescent substance use, how addictive drugs change the adolescent brain,

parenting beyond the cap and gown, how to effectively support your child and why adolescents love risk-taking. Mr. Nerney will also have an open talk at Green Mountain College and classroom presentations for students at Otter Valley Union High School.

Ray Jobst asked if there is any intervention going on in schools due to the recent school shootings. Chris Brickell will provide Mr. Jobst an update.

Dave Atherton has had conversations with a gentleman in Philadelphia affiliated with FEMA regarding the Newton Road buyouts relating to economic development. Mr. Atherton noted the North Street Bridge is an item that would qualify for this funding due to the bridge being undersized. Ben Rose of Hazard Mitigation has advised this is a one-chance opportunity to obtain this funding. Mr. Atherton has also been talking with FEMA with regard to submitting more properties for Newton Road before the end of the month.

6. Approve Work Zone Speed Reduction Plan

Dave Atherton stated there had been discussion of reducing the speed limit to 15mph in the work zone, similar to what was done during the culvert work. There have been many near-misses due to the higher speed and Mr. Atherton suggested reducing the speed to 15mph.

Motion by Devon Fuller/Brian Coolidge to approve the Work Zone Speed Reduction Plan reducing the speed limit to 15mph. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Devon Fuller asked if there would be warnings provided before doubling of the fines. Chris Brickell advised there would be warnings for some things, but at some point, the Department will move forward with ticketing. The Department will not be running radar for the 15mph speed limit, but by dropping the speed at each end of the work zone, the traffic will come into town at a lesser speed. Bernie Carr will place this subject in next week's narrative for The Reporter and will include it in the Chamber Newsletter. Mr. Brickell stated if traffic can be slowed down before getting in the core of the Town, it would be helpful. Doug Bailey suggested placing information on the contractor's message board concerning the reduced speed and doubling of fines in a construction zone.

7. Fiscal

a) General Fund Warrant – April 23, 2018 - \$92,469.31

Motion by Devon Fuller/Brian Coolidge to approve the warrants of April 9, 2018 in the amount of \$92,469.31. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Bailey questioned the warrant for McCullough Brothers tree removal. Dave Atherton reported these were trees along Route 73 near Olivia's that were rotten and falling down.

Devon Fuller questioned the warrant for Champlin Associates and Graph-X, Inc. Mr. Atherton advised Champlin Associates was for the pump replacement for the Neshobe House and Graph-X was a warrant for baseball shirts for the Rec Department.

b) Route 7 Construction Warrant – April 23, 2018 - \$316,533.82

Motion by Doug Bailey/Devon Fuller to approve the Route 7 Construction warrant in the amount of \$316,533.82. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board recessed at 7:47PM to convene as the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners.

The Select Board reconvened at 8:05PM.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Brian Coolidge that the Select Board enter into executive session at 8:05PM to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(3)(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Executive Session: 1VSA 313(3)(a)(3)

Motion by Devon Fuller/Brian Coolidge to come out of executive session at 8:32PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There were no actions required.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Devon Fuller/Brian Coolidge to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:32PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary