

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
January 28, 2019**

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

Board Members in Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Doug Bailey, Tracy Wyman, Devon Fuller, Brian Coolidge

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Steve Bissette, Dick Kirby, Arlen Bloodworth, Mickeen Hogan, Mike Frankiewicz, Bill Moore, Stephanie Jerome, Elraina Flanders, Timothy Blow, Dennis Reisenweaver, Russell Jones

1. Call to order

The winner of this month's Even Better Brandon drawing for \$50.00 in Brandon Green is Sam Gilmore.

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins at 7:03PM.

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

Addition of Approval of Town Meeting Warning following Item 5.

Mr. Hopkins noted the Zoning Administrator Report was in the Board packet, but not indicated on the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2019 - Select Board Regular Meeting

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Devon Fuller to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019 Select Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton provided the following Town Manager's Report for the weeks of December 31st and January 7th:

Segment 6:

- . Equipment demobilization and project cleanup.
- . Evaluation of the installation of traffic control signals, signage and pavement markings with Segment 'B' near Central Park for determination of any design recommended alterations.

- . Temporary pavement markings placement.
- . Continued installation of the storm water Treatment Structure No. 2 and associated drainage located adjacent to 8 Conant Square.

Bridge 114:

- . The bridge construction is shut down for the winter.

Union Street Sidewalk:

- . Final Plans are still in review. We are still on schedule to get this out to bid in February.

Park Street:

- . Had a meeting with VTrans Historic Preservation on 1/17/19 in Montpelier.
- . Attended a Brandon Historic Preservation Meeting on 1/24/19 to discuss the project. After discussion and concerns, they approved the project. Mr. Atherton noted the Brandon Historic Preservation Board requested clarification of the hitching posts and blocks.

Newton Road Property Buyouts:

- . An ice dam broke loose in the Neshobe River on 1/24/19 where the Tubbs building was, which shot large chunks of ice down Newton Road. We were able to clean it all up the same day. No damage was done to residential properties or infrastructures. Mr. Atherton noted Markowski was also working there today.

Other Happenings:

The Notice of Tax Sale was recorded on 1/25/19 and will be advertised in the Brandon Reporter. The tax sale will be held April 5th, 9AM at the Town Office.

The Sanderson Bridge was damaged by an 18-wheeler that was lost. The Town was able to track down the truck and get their insurance company to cover the damage and currently quotes are being obtained for the repairs.

Mr. Atherton reported the Town has had to close down portions of Union Street and Pearl Street due to high waters. There is a lot of ice under the water and urged people to heed the signs and not drive through the water. Tracy Wyman asked if Route 73 has also been shut down and Mr. Atherton advised that is a state highway and was not sure of the shutdown in that location.

Doug Bailey questioned how many properties are involved in the tax sale. Mr. Atherton advised that it is down to four properties and noted that most people will resolve the tax issue prior to the tax sale.

Devon Fuller questioned when the traffic light situation will be resolved. Mr. Atherton reported it was discovered that one program was incorrect and one of the cameras was not working. He is

not sure of what the solution is yet, but they will be coming back this week to work on it. Last Thursday, they ran tests, but he is not certain the resolution at this point.

4. Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Timothy Blow asked if people are fined that drive through high water on a road that has been posted as closed. Dave Atherton stated there has been discussion of potentially doing this, when individuals are in need of emergency services when driving on a closed area. Mr. Atherton noted there are problems with ice dams, which is the reason water is staying on the roads.

Bill Moore provided an overview of Rec happenings that include a Blue and White game at the February 1st OV basketball game where the 6th graders from Pittsford and Brandon will be playing a game during halftime. There will also be two Throwback games to 1961 when OVUHS opened and Brandon and Pittsford High Schools closed. The OV girls will be playing as the Brandon Bisons on February 4th and the OV boys playing as the Pittsford Panthers on February 15th against Proctor. Mr. Moore reported that Zumba will be starting again this Thursday and will be offered through April 25th at the Brandon Town Hall.

Representative Stephanie Jerome reported that she had a fulfilling start in Montpelier. She has been assigned to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. Representative Jerome will be holding office hours at the following locations and times: Brandon Free Public Library on February 2nd from 11AM to 12:30PM, Pittsford Maclure Library on February 9th from 11AM to 12:30PM and Sudbury Town Office on February 18th from 11AM to 12:30PM. Representative Jerome can be reached at sjerome@leg.state.vt.us and will also be placing information on Front Porch Forum.

Devon Fuller noted that in the Zoning Administrator's report, it was reported that though zoning permit applications are down by 11%, Brandon may be the highest in Rutland County for the number of new homes constructed or of old housing replaced with new structures.

5. Consider Revolving Loan Fund Application – Junction Store & Deli

Bill Moore, Economic Development Officer, read the following letter that had been submitted to the Select Board:

“On January 22nd, 2019 the Brandon Revolving Loan Fund Committee met to consider a loan request from Elraina Flanders and Timothy Blow on behalf of the Junction Store & Deli. The members present voted unanimously to approve a \$30,000.00 loan for the improvements critical to the growth of this Forest Dale general store.

The terms of the loan: 3.00% amortized at a 12-year rate with a balloon at 7 years. Collateral would mortgage interest the property owned by TWB Reality Inc. and first security in business assets of the Junction Store & Deli.

The redevelopment and renovation of a longstanding general store at the junction of Routes 53 and 73 represents an investment that will allow this important Forest Dale business to continue to serve locals and our valued visitors for many years to come.”

Seth Hopkins thanked the business’ owners for attending the meeting and asked if there were any comments to be provided. Timothy Blow advised that the loan for improvements to the store that would help lower power costs and provide cosmetic upgrades to the store.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Devon Fuller to approve the Revolving Loan Fund application for the Junction Store & Deli that was approved by the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Devon Fuller commended Mr. Moore on the number of loan opportunities he has brought to the Select Board. He questioned how much remains in the fund and whether there are other funding sources available, as the program is working well. Bill Moore stated currently there is \$139,000.00 remaining when considering this loan. Mr. Moore advised the program provides loans from \$5,000.00 to \$80,000.00 and are funds that had been loaned to Nexus and paid back from a USDA Fund. The program is intended to assist growth for businesses in providing gap funding. Mr. Moore noted there has been discussion of putting more money into this fund. The loans are typically 5 to 7 years with a balloon payment and people have been very good at paying them back. As the money is paid back, it goes back into the Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Moore is researching the possibility of other sources. Currently, the Revolving Loan Fund Committee members are Frank Spezzano, Wendy Bizzaro, Karen Lynch, Stephanie Jerome, Bill Moore and Tom Whittaker. Mr. Reisenweaver asked the value of the open loans. Doug Bailey advised there are around \$200,000.00 in loans, with all loans current, and Sue Gage provides the Select Board with a report on the program and to date, there has only be been one loss. Dave Atherton noted many of the loans have been paid off before the term. Mr. Moore thanked the Select Board for approving the loan.

6. Approve Town Meeting Warning

Seth Hopkins reported the Town Meeting warning has been reviewed by several individuals at the Town Office. The warning consists of six articles and a list of questions that will be voted on Tuesday, March 5th, by Australian ballot that includes the Town budget, election of officers and a series of appropriations.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Tracy Wyman to approve the Town Meeting warning as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Fiscal

a) General Fund Warrant – January 28, 2019 - \$96,368.75

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Devon Fuller to approve the General Fund warrant of January 28, 2019 in the amount of \$96,368.75. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Bailey questioned the invoice of \$8,500.00 for Spartan Tools for an inspection camera. Dave Atherton reported the camera is for the Wastewater Department for viewing the lines.

b) Route 7 Construction Warrant – January 28, 2019 - \$33,614.40

Motion by Devon Fuller/Doug Bailey to approve the Route 7 Construction warrant of January 28, 2019 in the amount of \$33,614.40. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c) Bridge 114 Warrant – January 28, 2019 - \$5,242.44

Motion by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve the Bridge 114 warrant of January 28, 2019 in the amount of \$5,242.44. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Select Board meeting was recessed at 7:29PM to convene as the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:35PM.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Doug Bailey to enter into Executive Session at 7:35PM in accordance with 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) – The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Executive Session

Motion by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to come out of Executive Session at 8:10PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There were no actions required.

There was a discussion of the upcoming Town Meeting. Brian Coolidge suggested Seth Hopkins do all of the talking for the Board. Seth Hopkins felt that any Board member should be able to provide input, with Tracy Wyman in agreement. Doug Bailey suggested the Board discuss the paving budget and bond. Devon Fuller will present information about the Board's intent to move paving back into the General Fund budget. The Town Report dedication was discussed.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Doug Bailey to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:37PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary