

Brandon Select Board Meeting
August 26, 2024
6:00 p.m.

The Brandon Select Board will meet Monday, August 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall located at 1 Conant Square expecting to consider the items on this agenda.

Zoom Meeting ID	253 279 4161
Zoom Link	https://zoom.us/j/2532794161
Dial-in only	(929) 205-6099; Enter Meeting ID 253 279 4161 #; # again

- 1) **Call to Order**
 - a) **Adopt Agenda (posted or as amended)**

- 2) **Executive Session**

Regarding the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A. § 313(3)(a)(3) to include Budget Committee applicants.

- 3) **Recurring Matters**
 - a) **Accessibility Modification Grant Hearing Minutes – August 12, 2024**
 - b) **Select Board Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2024**
 - c) **Warrant – August 26, 2024 – \$69,906.05**

- 4) **Town Manager’s Report**

- 5) **Rec Director’s Report**

- 6) **Appointments to the Budget Committee for Term Ending with Voter Approval of FY26 Budget**

- 7) **Public Comment and Participation**

- 8) **Executive Session**

1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) negotiating or securing real estate purchases or lease option

- 9) **Adjournment**

To: Selectboard
Re: Budget Advisory Committee Interest
Date: 22 August 2024

The following Brandon residents expressed interest in appointment to the FY26 budget advisory committee as of the posted deadline of noon today:

1. Jeff Cohen (letter to be provided; computer access difficulty)
2. Jan Coolidge
3. Vicki Disorda
4. Eric Mallory (expressed interest verbally)
5. Sandy Mayo
6. Gabe McGuigan
7. Karen Rhodes
8. Neil Silins
9. Barry Varian
10. Tricia Welch

Appointments cover sheets and letters of interest follow.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth M Hopkins, town manager

Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Public Offices



Position Applying for			
Your name	JEFFREY S. COHEN		
Physical address	67 SPRING POND DR. BRANDON VT 05733	Mailing if different	N/A
Best telephone	802-247-3726	Alternate telephone	717-802-2985
Email address	JEFFCOYN166@COMCAST.NET		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	initials <u>JSC</u>
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	initials <u>JSC</u>

Thank you for your willingness to serve the Town of Brandon. Applicants interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee of the Town are asked to:

- **Attend at least one meeting** of that board before applying to be seated on it
- Provide the information requested on this cover sheet to the town manager (shopkins@townofbrandon.com)

Appointees are asked to:

- Attend all regular and special meetings of the board
- Comply with Vermont Open Meeting Law (a handbook will be provided to you by the Town)
- Follow the Town of Brandon Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy
 - (published at www.townofbrandon.com under "Resources")
- Contribute to efficient work by reviewing all appropriate material before each meeting
- Advise the town manager immediately should you resign before your term ends

In a brief letter submitted with this cover sheet, please summarize the reasons you are requesting appointment, any skills or qualifications you may bring to the position, and any other information you feel would be relevant and helpful to the selectboard as it makes its selection.

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete.

Signature: 

Date: 8/22/2024

The Town of Brandon is committed to providing equal employment and volunteer opportunities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, disability, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

To: Brandon Selectboard

Re: Appointment to Brandon Budget Committee

I am requesting an appointment to the Brandon Budget Committee. As a Brandon resident for over five years, with extensive financial, volunteer, and public service experience, I bring extensive knowledge to the Budget Committee with an independent view in assisting Brandon to develop the next fiscal year budget.

Now retired, I worked as a Certified Financial Planner for over five years before joining the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, PHEAA. During the ensuing twenty years I served as the Cash Manager and as a data analyst in the Research and Policy Analysis office, RPA. While in the RPA I was responsible for forecasting State grant expenditures and recipients. I produced numerous status reports for the PA Governor's office, U.S Department of Education, PHEAA Board of Directors, and senior management.

While working I also volunteered for non-profit organizations. These included my synagogue, a public housing apartment complex, and the Central Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit.

As a member of my synagogue, I served on the Board of Directors as well as an officer, rising to the level of First Vice President. I was chairman of the House Committee as well as a member of the building committee and Capital Campaign committee.

I was also involved with the B'nai Brith Apartments in Harrisburg, PA. This is a 192-unit apartment building operating under HUD regulations. The building provided independent living units for low-income senior citizens and veterans. As a member of the board and President of the board I oversaw a \$4.5 million refinancing and renovation of all 192 units and common areas.

I volunteered with the Central Pennsylvania Intermediate as a surrogate parent for individuals under the age of 21, with special education needs and no parent. These individuals were either in foster homes or the criminal justice system. As the surrogate parent I advocated for their education needs.

Finally, since moving to Brandon in October 2018 I have volunteered to help the community. For three years I was the treasurer of Brandon Fire District #2 where I spearheaded the merger with Brandon Fire District #1. I am also a member of the Brandon Fire Department, and I am a volunteer driver for Brandon Rescue. I have also served on the Brandon Energy Committee.

I feel this experience uniquely qualifies me for a position on the Brandon Budget Committee.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Cohen

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for	Budget Committee		
Your name	Janet Coolidge		
Physical address	148 Fox Rd	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	802-247-2879	Alternate telephone	802-353-1125
Email address	jcoolid@yahoo.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials JK
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials JC

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Signature: Janet Coolidge Date: 8-22-24

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August 22, 2024

Brandon Select Board
49 Center St
Brandon, VT 05733

Dear Select Board members:

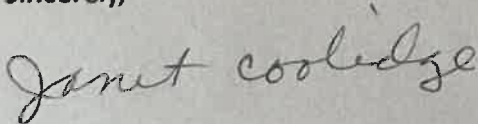
Please accept this letter as my interest in remaining on the budget committee. I was appointed to the budget committee in 2014. I enjoy and look forward in continuing to bring forward tax payers and citizens comments.

I helped manage the IT/Telecom budget at Green Mountain Power. My experience, over the years, with many different budget scenarios has helped me with the process and ideas working on budgets.

I am invested in this process and hope we can continue to learn from the past so the budget will pass on the first try. I am here to help you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Coolidge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janet Coolidge

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for	Budget Advisory Committee		
Your name	Vicki Disorda		
Physical address	651 Union St.	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	(802) 345-4125	Alternate telephone	(802) 247-6405
Email address	vqueenoftheearth@gmail.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials VAD
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials VAD

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Signature: Vicki Disorda Date: 8/21/2024

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To Whom It May Concern,

This is a request to be appointed to this year's Budget Advisory Committee. My primary reason for seeking appointment is to provide a voice and representation for low income and working-class citizens in Brandon. I have managed property for low/fixed income individuals in Brandon for the past decade and am intimately acquainted with their financial struggles. It is my belief last year's budget failed repeatedly because of the lack of consideration and compassion for these socio-economic groups. I wish to help ensure this does do happen again.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Vicki Disorda

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for			
Your name	Sandy Mayo		
Physical address	4 Conant Sq	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	802-558-0874	Alternate telephone	
Email address	Mayobox@gmail.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	initials <i>SM</i>
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	initials <i>SM</i>

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Signature: Sandy Mayo Date: Aug. 22. 24

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Aug 22. 2024

Seth Hopkins
Brandon Town Manager

For your consideration,

I would like to serve on Brandon's Advisory Budget Committee, to participate in putting together this year's annual budget.

Thank you .

Sandy Mayo

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for	
Your name	Gabe McGuigan
Physical address	445 Deer Run Rd Brandon VT 05733
Best telephone	802-324-7490
Email address	gmcdesign@gmail.com
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES initials <u>GM</u>
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES initials <u>GM</u>

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Signature: Gabriel McGuigan Digitally signed by Gabriel McGuigan
DN: C=US, E=gmcguigan@hpcummings.com,
O=HP Cummings Construction, CN=Gabriel
McGuigan
Date: 2024.08.21 15:25:27-04'00' Date: 08/21/24

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From: Gabe M gmcdesign@gmail.com 
Subject: Budget Committee
Date: August 21, 2024 at 3:31 PM
To: Seth Michael Hopkins shopkins@townofbrandon.com

GM



IRONSCALES couldn't recognize this email as this is the first time you received an email from this sender gmcdesign@gmail.com

Mr Hopkins,

Good afternoon, I am interested in participating in the budget Advisory Committee.

I have served as the Town Representative to the Solid Waste District for many years and a big part of that has been building, reviewing, and approving the district's budgets. I believe I have the experience and skill sets necessary to be a valuable and active contributor to this committee.

Please find my attached appointee application attached.

I look forward to being considered for this committee.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you
Gabe McGuigan

**Budget Commitee -
Gabe McGuigan.pdf**
194 KB



**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for			
Your name	Karen Rhodes		
Physical address	1222 Forest Dale Rd	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	802 247 3419	Alternate telephone	
Email address	kjmc2@comcast.net		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials KR
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials KR

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Signature:  Date: 08-18-2024

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Town Of Brandon Vermont
49 Center Street
Brandon, Vermont 05733

Karen Rhodes
1222 Forest Dale Rd.
Brandon, Vermont 05733

Dear Mr. Hopkins,

I am writing to express interest in appointment to the advisory board budget committee as a citizen and resident of Brandon. I believe I could help add input to assist in the instrumentation of developing a budget which is amenable to both the budget administrators and a variety of voters.

I am willing to learn the process and participate to the best of my ability, I am willing to listen and willing to share ideas freely.

I have over 10 years experience as an executive board member for two organizations presently and plan to continue to remain involved with service with these groups as well. I am an executive board member for The Proctor Fish and Game Club, Inc. and Supervised Community Care. These two organizations are very different from each other but have parallel goals; the best service and commitments to their diverse mission statements.

I also have 38 years of employment, before my retirement, in three separate human service departments; The Department of Mental Health and Disabilities, The Department of Social Welfare and the Department Of Corrections. My roles in human services as a direct client worker, case manager, as an implementer/educator/trainer, curriculum developer, policy advisor and a substance abuse counselor.

I believe my educational, employment experiences and life experience could be beneficial in volunteering as a committee member for the town I value so very much.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this committee membership.

With best regards,

Karen Rhodes

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for		BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
Your name	NEIL SILINS		
Physical address	5 MARBLE ST	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	773-343-7331	Alternate telephone	
Email address	nsilinsVT@gmail.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials _____
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES initials _____

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Signature: Neil R. Silins Date: 8/14/2024

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Neil Silins
5 Marble St.
Brandon, VT 05733
August 14, 2024

Mr. Hopkins
Town Manager
Town of Brandon
49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

Please consider this to be my expression of interest and application for a seat on the Budget Advisory Committee. I have previously served on this board and found the work to be interesting and stimulating. Additionally, I believe I have done a creditable job in carrying out the mandate of the workshop/committee.

I am reasonably familiar with book-keeping practices and with town finances. I feel I can continue to have a positive influence on the decision-making process carried out in this workshop/committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Silins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Silins

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
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Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for	Budget Committee		
Your name	BARRY VARIAN		
Physical address	IDYER ST	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	779-1558	Alternate telephone	
Email address	barryvarian@gmail.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials <u>BV</u>
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials <u>BV</u>

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Signature: Barry Varian Date: 8-20-2024

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From: **Barry Varian** barryvarian@gmail.com
Subject: **Budget committee**
Date: **Oct 2, 2023 at 7:51:29 PM**
To: **Barry Varian** barryvarian@gmail.com

Select board members,

I am writing to request consideration for appointment to the budget committee. I have served in that capacity for several budget cycles and proudly contributed to the creation of successful and meaningful budgets in each.

Through that process I brought perspective as longtime community member and retired business leader. Through the sessions I have gained knowledge of the operational costs associated with keeping our town compliant with sustainable infrastructure and continuing focus on growth and development.

I have an understanding of many of the thought processes that have guided us to a positive point in our recent evolution and would like to continue to be a part of that going forward.

Respectfully,
Barry Varian

Sent from my iPhone

**Cover Sheet for Brandon Residents Applying
for Appointment to Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees, and Public Offices**



Position Applying for			
Your name	Patricia (Tricia) Welch		
Physical address	13 Mt Pleasant Dr	Mailing if different	
Best telephone	413-320-8918	Alternate telephone	
Email address	pwelchf1@gmail.com		
You understand that your application for this position will be made public:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials <u>PW</u>
You are a legal resident of the Town of Brandon, Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES	initials <u>PW</u>

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Signature: Patricia Welch Date: 8/14/2024

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August 14, 2024

To the Selectboard of Brandon, Vermont,

I am applying for an appointment to the Budget Committee for the Town of Brandon. I believe my prior experience on the committee gives me a better understanding of how the process has worked in the past and how it possibly can be more productive in the future. I am committed to making public engagement a positive force for making our community better for all, both financially and in livability.

I am an active member of the Brandon community and a Justice of the Peace. As a Sales and Development Vice President for an international skin care company responsible for creating and managing a \$25 million budget, I have the skills to decipher where money can be best raised and where it is most effectively used. As an Executive Director and Board member of several non-profit organizations throughout my life I understand the responsibility of not squandering hard-won income, while still accomplishing a mission. I am a former state representative for Vermont and have grappled with state funding and budget meetings. In past communities I have served on economic development committees and been appointed treasurer several times.

I wish to bring all my experience to the Budget Committee to serve the residents of Brandon to my fullest capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.



Patricia (Tricia) Welch
13 Mt Pleasant Dr
Brandon, VT 05733

Brandon Select Board Accessibility Modification Grant Hearing
August 12, 2024

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

Board Members in Attendance: Doug Bailey, Tim Guiles, Ralph Ethier

Others In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Pat Snow, Steven Jupiter, Susan Benedict, Vicki Disorda, Neil Silins

Others by Zoom: Jack Schneider

1. Open Hearing

Doug Bailey, Board Chair, opened the public hearing at 6:30PM.

Doug Bailey read the warning/notice of hearing:

The Town of Brandon received a \$100,000 Accessibility Modification Grant from the State of Vermont under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held on August 12, 2024 at 6:30PM at the Brandon Town Hall at 1 Conant Square, via zoom: Meeting ID 253 279 4161 by conference call 929-205-6099, to obtain the views of the citizens on community development; to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program; and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds.

The VCDP funds received have been used to complete physical accessibility modifications at the Brandon Free Public Library, including a limited use, limited access lift, and stair tower servicing all four levels of the building.

Information on this project is available at the Brandon Town Offices, 49 Center St., and may be viewed during the hours of Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Should you require any special accommodations, please contact Town Clerk Sue Gage at 902-247-3635 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired, please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191.

2. Public Comment

Vicki Disorda asked if the grant was specifically for the library. Seth Hopkins reported the Town applied for the grant as a pass-through entity for the library. The library was the designated recipient of the grant. The library found the grant and asked the Town to be their sponsoring entity and the \$100,000 was fully utilized for their accessibility efforts. Ralph Ethier noted the grant did not cover the entire cost but was to assist in the effort. Steven Jupiter advised the cost of the elevator was over \$1 million. Mr. Hopkins suggested the hearing could be recessed until the Select Board meeting is called to order in the event the representative from the library arrived to provide additional information.

The hearing was recessed at 6:39PM.

The hearing was reopened at 6:50PM.

Doug Bailey requested any additional comments for the grant that was used for accessibility items for the library. Neil Silins asked if there was a match for the grant. Mr. Hopkins advised the library had requested the grant and is a pass-through for the library and there is no match required.

3. Close Hearing

Motion by Ralph Ethier/Tim Guiles to close the hearing at 6:53PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Brandon Select Board Hearing – Accessibility Modification Grant Hearing
August 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
August 12, 2024**

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

Board Members in Attendance: Doug Bailey, Heather Nelson, Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Tim Guiles

Others In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Steven Jupiter, Susan Benedict, Vicki Disorda, Pat Snow, Wayne Rausenberger, Chuck Knox, Neil Silins, Barry Varian, Janet Coolidge, Barbara Scribner, Scott Scribner, Brent Buehler, Mr. Waldie, Dortha Langevin, Steve Bisette, Sam Glaser, Judy Bunde, Karen Rhodes, Billy Bullock, Molly Kennedy, Tricia Welch, Sandy Mayo

Others by Zoom: Jack Schneider, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Grace Coolidge

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:18PM by Doug Bailey – Board Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Heather Nelson to approve the agenda, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Addition of an executive session regarding Negotiating or Securing Real Estate Purchase or Lease Options per 1V.S.A.313(a)(2)

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to enter into executive session at 7:19PM regarding the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(3) to include Wayne Rausenberger. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 7:28PM. There was no action required.

3. Recurring Matters

a. Approval of Select Board Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2024

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Heather Nelson to approve the Select Board minutes of July 22, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. FY 2023/2024 Warrant – August 11 - \$20,895.62 and FY 2024/2025 Warrant – August 12, 2024 - \$489,999.26

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve the warrant of August 11, 2024, in the amount of \$20,895.62. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c. FY 2024/2025 Warrant – August 12, 2024 - \$489,999.26

Motion by Tim Guiles/Ralph Ethier to approve the warrant of August 12, 2024 in the amount of \$489,999.26. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Town Manager's Report

A Town Manager's report was provided by Seth Hopkins and is available for viewing in the Board packet on the Town's website.

Brandon Select Board Meeting
August 12, 2024

Seth Hopkins highlighted a few items from his report. Mr. Hopkins showed two slate samples from Sbardella Slate for the town hall roof and noted the Select Board may want to provide direction. The gray colored slate sample weighs 8 lbs. and the other sample weighs 10 lbs.

Mr. Hopkins reported the Town has secured a top level domain and in the coming weeks the website and email addresses will be migrated for the highest security through digital means.

Mr. Hopkins attended 7 different meetings of towns and districts.

Mr. Hopkins noted the Brandon Opt-in text alert system was used during the recent water emergency and encouraged people to consider signing up for this program that is available through the Town's website. People can also consider signing up for the Vermont alert system.

Mr. Hopkins reported the Library is emptying out the room in the Town Hall and the Select Board will have the main meeting space for the September meeting.

The Town Treasurer reported receipt of the quarterly 1% Options Tax for \$76,420 that is a 14% increase over last year for the same quarter.

Mr. Hopkins advised the Act 250 review ordinance the Select Board repealed did not receive a voter petition and as of August 10th from the Select Board action, the Town is now considered a 10-acre town. Mr. Hopkins alerted the RRPC and noted that Devon Neary of the RRPC indicated this will be a good change for Brandon.

The Town has received approval to work on both banks of the Neshobe River near Barlow Avenue to protect the town infrastructure.

Mr. Hopkins reminded the attendees that the State primary election will be held tomorrow from 7:00AM to 7:00PM. The Town Clerk mailed the tax bills and the first bill will be due September 15th.

The Tree Warden has advised there is a defective Maple tree at 9 Union and this tree, plus 4 other trees that have been approved for removal will be taken down by the Town late in the fall.

Mr. Hopkins reported the Brandon Police Department responded on August 6th and the officers seized quantities of drugs and the Police Chief has submitted a press release.

Heather Nelson encouraged the public to sign up for the Opt-in program as it is very helpful when flooding happens.

Jan Coolidge asked if the difference in the 1% Option Tax funds was due to the eclipse. Mr. Hopkins did not see a difference in the rooms/meals funds, but sales grew and noted that some could be cannabis sales but the eclipse was also a good economic driver.

5. Rec Director's Report

A Rec Director's report was provided by Bill Moore and is available for viewing in the Board packet on the Town's website.

Mr. Moore reviewed the Rec Director's report submitted:

Brandon Carnival 2024 was a successful endeavor. Great weather and sponsorship (Thank you to Rutland Regional Medical Center, Nifty Thrifty, Celebration Rentals, Graph-X, and Country Village Campground). The Brandon Rec/Brandon Area Toy Project event realized a net revenue (after expenses) for each organization of \$2,728.00. Want to volunteer with the Wright, Moore, Danforth and Ladd families to help with planning and working the 4-day event? Please email Bill Moore

and/or Colleen Wright Planning for 2025 has already begun. Special shout out to new 2024 volunteer, Addy Boynton. He came through a work/training program and was available every night.

Miss Michaela Dance Classes are set to resume this fall with Tuesday and Friday classes. Tap, Ballet, Hip-hop and Adult classes are on tap with 3 sessions from October - May.

Working with Otter Valley to offer Pre-Season Field Hockey and Soccer camps this week. A great way for future Otters to work with current Otter players.

Planning for a Bark in the Park Dog Park fundraiser has begun. October 13th is the date and the details for this dog parade and gathering are forthcoming.

August 17th Estabrook will be hosting the second annual For the Luv of Dogs Car Show. This is a fund raiser for the Rutland County Humane Society.

August 18th is the Slide Out of Summer Waterslide event at Estabrook. A last gasp of the summer gathering for kids and families, this year we will also be hosting a rec equipment swap.

Bill Moore attended a Vermont Council on Rural Development meeting and represented Bandon with regard to a discussion about the work the Town has done around hazard mitigation. Mr. Moore noted the Town is miles ahead of many communities with proactive hazard mitigation and advised there is a warrant for another hazard mitigation buyout on Newton Road. Mr. Moore encouraged anyone that lives in a place experiencing flooding to reach out as there are many contacts at the State who work on hazard mitigation. Doug Bailey noted the Newton Road buyout has incoming money from the State.

Brian Coolidge posed several questions concerning the dog park fountains: 1) how much was the grant that was received, 2) does the Town have anything in writing from the Prudential Board, 3) what is the amount in donations for the fountains, 4) with Buildings and Grounds digging the trench - does that add to the workload, 5) what is the cost of digging and piping, 6) who is doing the hook-up, 7) will the Town receive water bills, 8) with these additions, what does it do to the Town's insurance costs, 9) do we have permission from the property owner. Mr. Coolidge is curious the cost to the taxpayers as the Town has to maintain them.

Mr. Moore provided the following responses: 1) the Town received a grant in 2019 to repair the Seminary Hill Park and established some of the funds due to the dog park fundraising. It was going to be done at Estabrook but used money for creating a park for pennies on the dollars. 2) Mr. Moore has had conversations with Ray Counter of the Water District and they were going to put a fountain in Green Park and promised to pay for a fountain. Mr. Counter has indicated that they will pay for a fountain from a promise to install a fountain in another park. 3) They had received a \$500 donation who would like to remain anonymous. 4) Building and Grounds - it is part of park maintenance and will have two fountains in a park that needs a fountain. 5) The cost for digging and piping was not known but Mr. Moore will research. 6) The Fire District will be doing the connection. 7) The Town will receive water bills and there was already a water bill when the hydrant worked. 8) New assets are reported to the insurance company but it is unknown what the additional cost may be. 9) The Town owns a portion of the dog park and the fountain will be installed on the part the Town owns. Mr. Moore did not have a breakdown of the yearly cost as there will be two fountains and it will be known after they have been in place for a year. Heather Nelson asked about the cost of the digging and Mr. Hopkins advised that the amount of time can be tracked. Mr. Coolidge noted he is not against this, but everything that is added in Town will add more to the budget. Ms. Nelson has major concerns about accessibility and if the Town is making changes, it needs to be sure that there is accessibility for all. She stated it is good to be inclusive and to her it is a responsible and respectful thing to do.

Susan Benedict had concerns at the vagueness of the cost of the fountains and everything should be researched and priced out before committing. She is not sure if she should be paying for dogs to have water as their owners appear to be carrying water. We need to know how much it is and keep it within reason. She does not see this as an important contribution to the need of Brandon. Bill Moore stated this fountain is funded through dog park donations and the dog park organizers wanted this as their next project. They will be having a 50/50 raffle and it is their intent to fund the fountains and he is facilitating this for them. Ms. Benedict stated the taxpayers should not be funding any part of this, including Mr. Moore's time. Doug Bailey

stated there is a basketball court and playground and there will be multi-uses. Mr. Moore stated there will be two fountains with one near the playground and one in the dog park. Sandy Mayo noted she was the donor and questioned the grant that had been received. She thought that Mr. Moore was disingenuous and asked why the taxpayers are having to pay for this. Mr. Moore advised that the Town owns half the dog park and the fountain will be installed on the Town's part. There will be an ADA fountain, water bottle filler, regular fountain and a dog fountain. Mr. Moore clarified that he did not receive a grant. Barry Varian stated as a frequent user of the park, he thanked Mr. Moore for all his efforts. It is a very busy place and the incremental improvements are good for the entire community. Mr. Moore stated for the record that he is not disingenuous and takes full offense to that comment. He welcomed anyone who would like to have a conversation with him about this subject. Cecil Reniche-Smith was in favor of the fountains and would like to reiterate that these are not just dog fountains but are water fountains for people that are using the playground and the dog park. Many people who bring their dogs do bring water bottles, but many people do not. To date there have been people that have been filling water jugs and leaving them by the fence for those who do not have water for their pets. This has been discussed at more than one Select Board meeting and the promise from Ray Counter has been discussed and it is not something that is being sprung on everyone. There are many projects that are being done for raising additional funds for the dog park. Ms. Reniche-Smith noted a dog park makes a town welcoming. Karen Rhodes asked how much of the land is owned by the Town. Mr. Moore stated he can provide a map to show what is owned by the Town. Vicki Disorda stated there are three other parks and asked why one could not be put in one of the other parks, rather than having two close together. Mr. Moore stated Ray Counter was going to gift one that was specific to Seminary Hill and he agreed that other parks could use fountains. Mr. Moore stated the cost for the fountains is \$3,000 and one-half of the dog park is owned by the Town. Ms. Disorda was under the impression that part of the dog park was up for tax sale.

6. Appointment to Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCWICD) (Representative and/or Alternate)

Motion by Tim Guiles/Ralph Ethier to appoint Wayne Rausenberger to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District as the Brandon representative. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins advised there needed to be a change to one of the other representatives to be an alternate.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Ralph Ethier to change Olya Hopkins to be an alternate to the OCWICD. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Bailey noted that Wayne Rausenberger and Sharon Stearns would be the representatives to the OCWICD.

7. Discuss VY26 Budget Writing Process, Timeline and Levels of Participation

Doug Bailey stated the budget advisory committee is to assist the Select Board in preparing the budget and bringing more eyes and ears to the process. The Select Board is responsible for selecting the budget and is the voting body. The advisory committee is to assist and meetings are open to the public and warned. He would like to request letters of interest for those who would like to be on the advisory committee, with interviews done and the Select Board choosing the committee. The Town has started a process for interviewing for appointments. He would like to hold a pre-budget meeting as it is important to discuss a process of how to work together and he would also like to have a general discussion to assess where we are and going forward. The Town does not want to go through another negative vote and having additional votes. Heather Nelson agreed there should be clear expectations so that no one has misunderstandings.

Tim Guiles emphasized that everyone is welcome to attend the budget meetings to share views and opinions on how to shape the budget. Mr. Bailey stated the budget committee would be committing to attend all meetings and the general public is welcome to attend when they would like. Ms. Nelson appreciates the input of a budget committee as she likes to have as many opinions during the budget process. Neil Silins suggested there needs to be a process change from looking at what each department indicates they will need for funds to a budget building process. Mr. Silins noted concern that with anyone sitting in makes the budget committee largely useless and having no particular authority or recognition. He expressed concern with the last budget process that the last meeting felt like the Select Board had decided what they were going to pass and it was made clear to the budget advisory committee that it is only the Select Board that voted on the budget. Barry Varian liked Mr. Bailey's comments and noted over the years he was on the committee there was not a lot of public participation and the initial

driver was to have a committee to get a non-board perspective, as well as having people invested for multiple years to gain knowledge. As membership on the committee changed, there was a disconnect and this has to be resolved as there was a lot of disharmony because of the roles and expectations. An advisory committee is a board appointed committee and if the Select Board decides to have one, the roles need to be clearly laid out and in interviewing the candidates the expectations have to be understood to not have disconnect. Karen Rhodes stated there should not be conflict of interest when appointing committee members. Vicki Disorda would like some socio-economic diversity on the committee. Jan Coolidge noted she has been on the committee since 2014 and this last year was the worst and was upset with the Select Board on how they were treated. Ms. Coolidge has been asking for a capital plan as it is difficult to do a budget when there is not a vision. The basic expenses need to be known and then a review of the wants and needs. Mr. Bailey agreed with all the comments and reiterated that the committee needs to be chosen followed by a meeting to discuss needs and desires without dollars and cents. Tricia Welch stated it is important for clarification of the committee's role as she participated on the committee not understanding the expectations and felt the group was committed to come up with the best budget for the taxpayers. She noted there are people that are not comfortable speaking and they would express their comments to the committee members. Ms. Welch agreed there needs to be a financial plan and she would like an understanding of the roles and expectations.

Tim Guiles supports the need for a long-term plan and what the authority of the budget committee will be. He stressed that everyone is welcome to attend and to try to influence the process as he noted concern if authority is granted to a committee of any kind, we have now elevated some people without the electoral process of voting them into a position. If the budget committee is allowed to weigh in, there could be a group of people that have a certain view and there is a problem with democracy happening. If authority is not given to the committee, Mr. Guiles questioned if there should be a committee and suggested the process would be healthier if all were on even footing and attend meetings and not have a budget committee. Jan Coolidge stated it did not feel the Select Board respected their input, but they did not expect voting authority. Mr. Bailey stated when he was on the committee side, he felt that the Select Board listened and last year when he was on the Select Board, he listened but may not have agreed and feels strongly the budget decisions have to come from the Select Board, with input of the advisory committee. Heather Nelson would appreciate the input from the advisory committee as there are many people that are not able to attend the meetings. Karen Rhodes stated all people have the right to their opinions and overrule the elected officials and there is discourse when there is not equal say and hearing on topics that are concerning people in this Town. Barry Varian stated having been on the committee for five years, last year was the most difficult for members being recognized. It is clearly the Select Board's decision and it sounds like there will be more collaborative discussions going forward as the approach that Mr. Bailey is thinking about should address the prior issues. Sandy Mayo agreed with having a vision and having a plan. She stated the advisory group can say what they want but the Select Board has the final say and suggested that all should have an opinion and not have an advisory group. Neil Silins stated the Select Board has the power to spread limited responsibility as it does that with the Town Manager and asked if it would be possible to give more than just advisory power to the budget committee. Judy Bunde noted she was impressed with how civil this meeting has been as there are a lot of concerns on the part of the Board that they do better. She also thinks that we need to remember how the system works as we elect the Select Board and they have the legal responsibility to approve the budget. To construct the committee in a way that it will work and discuss in detail their obligations and authority is important to understand. She applauded the committee that they are willing to put in the time but people need to understand what is expected. Ms. Nelson stated she could not do more meetings with the tone of the meetings last year. There are different opinions, but we want our town to be a nice place to live and we are all working towards that goal. We need to remember to keep things civil so that all can feel good about each other.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Heather to have a five-person advisory committee and ask the Town Manager to request letters of interest to serve on the committee.

Tim Guiles would like a description of the advisory committee for the next meeting. Doug Bailey stated the committee members would agree to attend as many meetings as possible and would understand that it is Select Board that has to approve the budget and it is the committee's job to give their advice and assistance. Susan Benedict asked the Select Board to advertise the qualifications and expectations when requesting the letters of interest. Seth Hopkins advised the Select Board that in Vermont it is beyond the authority of the Select Board to delegate voting to a committee. There could be a vote within the committee to make a recommendation to the Select Board but it would not be a binding vote. Neil Silins suggested the budget advisory vote so that it would be a more unified advisory group to the Select Board rather than having separate voices.

Jan Coolidge stated when the budget committee was originally formed, they would create a list of recommendations for the Select Board.

The motion passed with one no vote – Tim Guiles.

Mr. Hopkins stated for the benefit of the public, he will post the vacancies for the budget advisory committee tomorrow and will request interested parties to submit a cover and letter of interest by noon on Thursday, August 22nd. The postings will be on FPF, in the newspapers and on the Town's website.

8. Award Sidewalk & Road Paving Bids

Seth Hopkins reported there was a successful bidding process with three bidders for both the sidewalk and road paving. In both cases the low amount bid and second lowest bid were within the estimates and available funding. For the sidewalk, the second lowest bid was Bruce Meacham who constructed Newton Road and the lowest bid, Vermont Roadworks is from Brattleboro and Mr. Hopkins received a position recommendation for them. The two lowest bids for road paving were from Wilk Paving and Pike and both are local pavers.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to award the contracts to the lowest bids for both the sidewalk paving project and the road paving project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins stated there would be \$43,000 remaining from \$175,000 of ARPA funds for sidewalks. Tim Guiles stated there are more sidewalks that could be done. Mr. Hopkins suggested it could include the long portions of Carver Street and Pearl Street. He hesitates to do Union Street as this is a project to be replaced with concrete. Mr. Hopkins did look at Forest Dale and the hill part of Rossiter Street. There is \$317,000 in road paving funding with \$244,000 required that will leave about \$73,000.

Vicki Disorda asked why the hoop building was included in the sidewalk bid. Seth Hopkins advised the hoop building is at the highway department and it uses sidewalk-type equipment for the project which is why it was included in the sidewalk work. Mr. Hopkins would recommend considering the use of some of the road funds if this project does not want to be taken out of the sidewalk funding. Heather Nelson stated the cost to do the hoop building is \$8,000 and it would save the Town money to do it at the same time as the sidewalks with the equipment here. Mr. Hopkins advised that it was included in the sidewalks because they are different bidders and is based on the equipment and crews. Tricia Welch asked if the road bid is part of the appropriations outside the budget. Mr. Hopkins reported that \$32,000 is from a Class 2 paving grant and use \$85,000 that the voters approved in the article. The Town can spend \$100,000 that is a highway carry forward from the Arnold District project and only use a portion of the \$100,000 from the 1% Option Tax fund. Pat Snow asked how much money is going to be allowed for Carver Street. Mr. Hopkins reported the even side of Carver Street from where the concrete from Route 7 ends to the Carr residence. Mr. Snow noted the side from the Methodist Church to the Catholic church is bad. He also noted there are parts on Pearl Street that are bad and he has to ride on the edge for the road when the sidewalks are not in good shape. Heather Nelson would prefer to add the \$8,000 to the road project and whatever extra remains to do more sidewalks. She suggested paying with road funding sources for the hoop project from the 1% Options Tax funds as she agreed that more accessibility and walkable our sidewalks are, the better the Town will be.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Heather Nelson to spend the full sidewalk funding of \$175,000 that was voted on September 25th, excluding the hoop building with the additional sidewalk projects to be decided by the highway chief. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Heather Nelson/Doug Bailey for Vermont Roadworks sidewalk bid of \$8,000 for paving the hoop house to be paid by 1% Options Tax funds rather than ARPA funds. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Bailey stated \$35,000 of the \$100,000 of the 1% Option Tax fund will be used and noted that there is a \$350,000 Union Street project that is a year away for sidewalks and curbs.

9. Update Blanket Payroll Authorization

Seth Hopkins reported the August 12th revisions include the removal of Shawn Erickson due to retirement, Jeff Biasuzzi due to the end of his term and a correction for Winston Forbes.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve the updated blanket payroll authorization with the August 12th revisions. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Public Comment and Participation

Vicki Disorda stated there is rumor of the Town buying the remainder of the dog park property and she asked if there is truth to the rumor. Doug Bailey and Heather Nelson noted they had not heard about this. Bill Moore confirmed that the owner of the high school has made an offer to the Town to purchase that piece of property for \$25,000. Seth Hopkins stated there will be an executive session regarding this subject and the facts will be relayed to the Board to take this item under advisement. The Town has been working under a misconception and Mr. Hopkins spoke with the Town's para legal. She reached out to the attorney and they don't believe that a public vote is required for the Town to purchase property. Karen Rhodes asked if the Town is going to purchase the property, will it be an alternate project or for the dog park. Mr. Moore stated the landowner requested a meeting and made an offer, but there is not a solid plan at this point of whether to consider doing this but there is the possibility that exists that parking could be created on either side of the park but it is in the formative stages. Seth Hopkins stated if the Select Board's view is that they were not interested, that would be the end of the discussion.

Sam Glaser received a notice from the Northeast Mountaineers Airstream Club that they have been working with the Chamber and the Town to host a club event that will park airstreams along Park Street. Mr. Glaser asked where the public discussion happened regarding this event and stated it is ludicrous to have a public event on a residential street and turning Park Street into a campground. Mr. Glaser found it insulting to find out about it by a letter as it is inconsiderate and asked that this be moved to a public location like Estabrook Park. Bill Moore stated when this became an opportunity to have several people come to Town to spend money in our town and it was thought to be a good idea. The Chamber asked if the Town would be amenable and it was brought to the Select Board. Mr. Glaser strongly asked it be moved to another location. Tim Guiles did not remember this coming before the Select Board but noted he appreciated the Economic Development Officer increasing the activities in the town, however, he would not have been supportive to parking trailers on Park Street. He wants to respect economic development happening, but he would not have supported this. Mr. Glaser asked if it is known what will be spent in Town and demanded this be moved somewhere appropriate. Mr. Moore will reach out to the Brandon Chamber as they had been working with the Downtown Brandon Alliance on this event. Mr. Glaser would like a commitment from the Select Board that this be moved as the Economic Development Manager had overstepped his authority. Vicki Disorda stated it would also be taking away business from a local campground. Mr. Guiles stated it needs to be determined what commitment has been made. Mr. Moore apologized as he thought this would be an opportunity for more people to come to Brandon and he will reach out to Bernie Carr of the Chamber to make a move. Sandy Mayo stated the Town is turning into Disneyland and residents have a right to our privacy. She is getting concerned that Brandon is turning into a party town and agreed with Mr. Glaser. Mr. Moore noted concern that two different times he has been accused of being disingenuous and ignorant by Ms. Mayo during the meeting. He stated he chose to make Brandon his home and to insinuate that he wants to make money over his neighbors or the value of his Town is incorrect.

Jan Coolidge reported there was a budget committee meeting scheduled for August 22nd and asked if this will still be held. Seth Hopkins stated the current budget committee had not been appointed with terms that end and the committee requested a meeting be warned for the 22nd. It was thought the meeting should still be held.

The Board recessed at 9:43.

The Board reconvened at 9:55PM.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Doug Bailey to enter into executive session at 9:55PM regarding the negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options per 1 V.S.A.313(a)(2). **The motion passed unanimously.**

11. Executive Session

Brandon Select Board Meeting
August 12, 2024
pg. 7

The Board came out of executive session at 10:16PM. There were no actions required.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Heather Nelson to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 10:16PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63784 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/26/24 To 08/26/24

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
100015 ALLEN ENGINEERING & CHEMI	08/08/24	chlorine 112505398-01	20-5-55-50120 Sodium Hypochorite	3437.00	1968	08/26/24
101162 AQUAFIX, INC.	08/09/24	degreaser IN014466	20-5-55-43160 Maint. Supplies - General	629.50	1969	08/26/24
311044 BERK LINDSEY	08/14/24	ELECTION AUG 13 2024	10-5-13-10160 Election Workers	30.00	1970	08/26/24
100245 BRANDON AREA CHAMBER OF C	08/14/24	DDBA FUNDS 8-26-24	10-5-21-75100 Designated Downtown	2500.00	1971	08/26/24
310699 BRANDON GLC SOLAR, LLC	09/01/24	solar electric 212B	20-5-55-42130 Electric	1935.00	1972	08/26/24
310699 BRANDON GLC SOLAR, LLC	09/01/24	solar electric 212B	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	2365.00	1972	08/26/24
100280 BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	08/09/24	distilled water 49707/3	20-5-55-43160 Maint. Supplies - General	17.94	1973	08/26/24
100280 BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	08/15/24	keys 52031/3	20-5-55-43160 Maint. Supplies - General	15.96	1973	08/26/24
100280 BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	08/19/24	padlock 52643/3	10-5-22-43160 Parks Maint.	12.99	1973	08/26/24
100280 BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	08/19/24	fasteners 52681/3	10-5-22-43080 Highway Bldg Maint	2.32	1973	08/26/24
101163 BUCKLEY, IAN	08/19/24	clothing allowance 08/19/24	20-5-55-10320 Clothing Allowance	444.91	1974	08/26/24
100462 CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT	08/01/24	July trucking of sludge 3040583	20-5-55-50170 Trucking	2257.50	1975	08/26/24
301503 CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS	08/01/24	diesel fuel 537146	10-5-15-41130 Fuel - Vehicles HW	789.65	1976	08/26/24
101161 COAST TO COAST SOLUTIONS	08/12/24	barricade tape IVC0113730	10-5-14-30120 Professional Supplies	265.36	1977	08/26/24
310097 COMCAST	07/02/24	service: Jul 9 - Aug 8 EST 07/02/24	10-5-18-42100 Recreation Telephone	187.73	1978	08/26/24
310097 COMCAST	08/02/24	service: Aug 9 - Sep 8 EST 08/02/24	10-5-18-42100 Recreation Telephone	154.55	1979	08/26/24
310097 COMCAST	08/09/24	service: Aug 16 to Sep 15 TH 08/09/24	10-5-10-42100 Telephone Exp. Admin.	96.48	1980	08/26/24
310037 CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	08/02/24	service: Jul 06 to Aug 05 HWY 08/06/24	10-5-15-42100 HW Telephone	129.94	1981	08/26/24
310037 CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	08/06/24	service: Jul 06 to Aug 05 PD 08/06/24	10-5-14-42100 PD Telephone Service	55.33	1981	08/26/24
310037 CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	08/18/24	service: Jul 18 to Aug 17 TH 08/18/24	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	83.40	1981	08/26/24
310817 COOK, DEL	08/14/24	ELECTION AUG 13 2024	10-5-13-10160 Election Workers	88.86	1982	08/26/24
311213 COOK, SALLY	08/14/24	ELECTION AUG 13 2024	10-5-13-10160 Election Workers	61.52	1983	08/26/24
200241 D & F EXCAVATING & PAVING	07/31/24	hot mix 6858	10-5-15-46110 Paving Roads	890.00	1984	08/26/24
300466 DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	08/06/24	portable toilet fee 91907	10-5-18-30070 Little League Expenses	135.00	1985	08/26/24
100494 ENDYNE INC	08/19/24	testing 500263	20-5-55-22120 Testing	270.00	1986	08/26/24

08/23/24
02:12 pm

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63784 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/26/24 To 08/26/24

Page 2 of 5
Jacolyn

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
300187	08/10/24	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE stone 234965	56-5-07-10510 Wheeler Rd- MRGP Grant	2777.56	1987	08/26/24
300187	08/17/24	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE stone,rip rap,velco 235015	10-5-15-46140 Gravel	3625.09	1987	08/26/24
300187	08/17/24	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE stone,rip rap,velco 235015	56-5-07-10510 Wheeler Rd- MRGP Grant	317.68	1987	08/26/24
311201	08/01/24	FRESHYSITES, LLC Website host,backup,supp 63342	10-5-10-30134 Technical Support	300.00	1988	08/26/24
101089	10/01/24	GOVPILOT LLC subscription 10/24 - 9/25 2023-1669	10-5-15-10330 Dues & Subscriptions	1998.00	1989	08/26/24
101089	10/01/24	GOVPILOT LLC subscription 10/24 - 9/25 2023-1669	10-5-12-10330 Dues & Subscriptions	3996.00	1989	08/26/24
101089	10/01/24	GOVPILOT LLC subscription 10/24 - 9/25 2023-1669	10-5-10-30130 Service Contracts	3996.00	1989	08/26/24
311128	08/19/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE cable ties, shop towels 217870	10-5-15-41160 HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	94.46	1990	08/26/24
311128	08/21/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE power outlet 217944	10-5-15-41160 HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	10.49	1990	08/26/24
311128	08/22/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE medium funnel 217973	20-5-55-43160 Maint. Supplies - General	1.49	1990	08/26/24
310233	08/02/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER 7 Conant Sq lighting 08/24 047828	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	39.36	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/07/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER WWTP 480 volt service 08/24 079168	20-5-55-42130 Electric	3288.77	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Central pk/traffic lights 08/24 170028	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	706.57	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Estabrook Park 08/24 240302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	95.74	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Carver St pump station 08/24 290502	20-5-55-42130 Electric	51.06	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Green Park 08/24 317702	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	27.16	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Country Club pump station 08/24 338602	20-5-55-42130 Electric	30.45	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/02/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER 7 Conant Sq car chargers 08/24 339840	10-5-22-42500 Electric EV Car Stations	194.65	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Town Hall 08/24 451302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	323.69	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Brookdale pump station 08/24 467702	20-5-55-42130 Electric	34.68	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/02/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Crescent Park 08/24 737937	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	240.72	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Police Station 08/24 822212	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	127.51	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER street lights 08/24 851302	10-5-22-42130 Bldgs & Grounds Electric	3256.16	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER WWTP security light 08/24 860302	20-5-55-42130 Electric	28.98	1991	08/26/24
310233	08/06/24	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER Champlain St pump station 08/24 867202	20-5-55-42130 Electric	58.96	1991	08/26/24

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63784 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/26/24 To 08/26/24

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
100559	08/08/24	testing supplies 14143082	20-5-55-30120 Professional Supplies	1413.02	1993	08/26/24
100559	08/15/24	apparatus set - chlorine 14151685	20-5-55-30120 Professional Supplies	522.00	1993	08/26/24
311235	08/22/24	t-shirts- cheer camp 8/22/24	10-5-18-40090 Cheerleading	52.98	1994	08/26/24
310999	08/21/24	reimb 08/21/24	10-5-22-43120 Municipal Mowing-maint	53.50	1995	08/26/24
310033	08/14/24	ELECTION AUG 13 2024	10-5-13-10160 Election Workers	88.86	1996	08/26/24
311176	08/21/24	cleaning 082124	10-5-22-10130 Admin Custodian	306.25	1997	08/26/24
311176	08/21/24	cleaning 082124	10-5-22-10120 PD Custodian	175.00	1997	08/26/24
310630	07/09/24	floor mats, office supply 12116	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	39.43	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/09/24	floor mats, office supply 12116	10-5-14-30210 Office Equipment	45.48	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/10/24	radio battery 12122	10-5-14-20232 Radio Maintenance	162.23	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/11/24	1st Resp. Wellness Train. 12123	10-5-14-10340 Professional Development	103.00	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/15/24	lithium batteries 12124	10-5-14-30120 Professional Supplies	39.98	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/15/24	Emergency vehicle signs 12125	10-5-22-43090 PD Bldg Maint.	97.72	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/16/24	office chair 12126	10-5-14-30210 Office Equipment	74.27	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/16/24	reflective raincoats 12127	10-5-14-10320 Clothing Allowance	346.36	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/17/24	LED recharg. Flashlight 12128	10-5-14-30120 Professional Supplies	115.05	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/16/24	office supplies 12130	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	98.58	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/03/24	stamped envelopes 12206	10-5-10-30110 Office Supplies	444.40	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/03/24	stamped envelopes 12206	10-5-10-30132 Postage Expenses	2040.00	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/03/24	lights,baseballs,ice syru 12207	10-5-18-61050 Brandon Carnival	69.99	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/03/24	lights,baseballs,ice syru 12207	10-5-18-30070 Little League Expenses	194.97	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/03/24	lights,baseballs,ice syru 12207	10-5-18-40040 After School Activity	132.47	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/25/24	drug test kits 7/24/24	10-5-14-30120 Professional Supplies	99.46	1998	08/26/24
310630	07/29/24	dog food supplies 7/29/24	10-5-14-40440 Police Dog Expenses	196.83	1998	08/26/24
311081	08/20/24	1st quarter 11	10-5-17-71800 Mosquito Control	12808.00	2000	08/26/24

08/23/24
02:12 pm

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63784 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/26/24 To 08/26/24

Page 4 of 5
Jacolyn

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
310736	08/12/24	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL pest control: storage 36331	10-5-18-20500 Storage Unit Supply/Maint	50.00	2001	08/26/24
310736	08/12/24	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL pest control: Police Dept 36332	10-5-22-43090 PD Bldg Maint.	65.00	2001	08/26/24
100478	08/05/24	ROYAL GROUP, INC. replace keypad, batteries 713836	10-5-22-43090 PD Bldg Maint.	886.25	2002	08/26/24
300592	08/09/24	SUBURBAN PROPANE, L.P. propane WW main garage 545500	20-5-55-42110 LP Gas - Bldgs	29.38	2003	08/26/24
311173	08/13/24	USABLUEBOOK spectrophotometer INV00451583	20-5-55-41110 New Equipment-Misc Tools	5109.76	2004	08/26/24
311173	08/13/24	USABLUEBOOK glass fiber filters INV00451590	20-5-55-30120 Professional Supplies	335.44	2004	08/26/24
311173	08/13/24	USABLUEBOOK glass fiber filter INV00451596	20-5-55-30120 Professional Supplies	80.03	2004	08/26/24
330348	08/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Jul 14 - Aug 13 9971449837	10-5-21-10310 Travel & Expenses	20.25	2005	08/26/24
330348	08/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Jul 14 - Aug 13 9971449837	10-5-18-42100 Recreation Telephone	20.26	2005	08/26/24
330348	08/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Jul 14 - Aug 13 9971449837	20-5-55-42100 Wastewater Telephone	40.53	2005	08/26/24
330348	08/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Jul 14 - Aug 13 9971449837	10-5-15-42100 HW Telephone	40.53	2005	08/26/24
330348	08/13/24	VERIZON WIRELESS service: Jul 14 - Aug 13 9971449837	10-5-14-42100 PD Telephone Service	40.53	2005	08/26/24
200284	08/14/24	VMCTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 2024	10-5-13-10340 Professional Development	175.00	2006	08/26/24
310046	08/05/24	W.B. MASON CO INC toner 248249136	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	264.99	2007	08/26/24
310046	08/07/24	W.B. MASON CO INC paper 248298449	10-5-10-30110 Office Supplies	257.94	2007	08/26/24
310186	08/19/24	WYMAN'S TIMBER HARVESTING dumpster INV1040	20-5-55-42150 Outside Maint. - Bldgs	293.16	2008	08/26/24

08/23/24
02:12 pm

TOWN OF BRANDON Accounts Payable
Check Warrant Report # 63784 Current Prior Next FY Invoices
All Invoices For Check Acct 01(10 General Fund) 08/26/24 To 08/26/24

Page 5 of 5
Jacolyn

Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date

		Report Total		69906.05		

				=====		

Selectboard

To the Treasurer of TOWN OF BRANDON, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating \$ ****69,906.05
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town crews have been cleaning out the two-bay garage at Wastewater with the goal of maintaining that as heated storage, and reorganizing equipment and supplies so we can discontinue heating the four-bay garage.

The Town crews also successfully completed the riverbank stabilization efforts in the Neshobe at lower Barlow Avenue and along the grounds of the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

As noted in *The Reporter* and on Front Porch Forum and elsewhere, the Airstream Rally the last weekend of September will be stationed behind the Brandon Inn rather than along Park Street.

I met with Colleen Wright regarding the Town's partnership with the Toy Project on such events as the Brandon Carnival. We considered a draft Carnival MOU developed by Recreation Director Bill Moore and will work on it some more with the Bill's further participation.

The process of migrating our digital presence is underway. **Our Town website may now be accessed at www.brandonvermont.gov** . The Town has more than one technology vendor, and the e-addresses are being set up and will be announced when they are active. It is projected that a cost savings on the order of \$1,600 a year will be realized through changes the town management team is making to our technology subscriptions in conjunction with this migration.

I drafted an MOU between the Town and the Friends of Town Hall regarding their proposed donation of an installed flagpole in front of the Town Hall; Friends board action expected 1 September.

FOCUS AREAS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

I prepared and submitted initial applications for two Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) hazard mitigation grants, one for a private home in the Newton Road neighborhood to be bought out, and one for flood plain restoration in the area of Union Street and Pearl Street adjacent to the Otter Creek (this would have the result of decreasing the number of times those roads require closure due to overtopping of the roadway by floodwaters).

I assisted a local business that has worked with the Town by providing a letter of support for their Building Communities Regional Economic Development Grant application.

I shared VLCT guidance on Houselessness to our police chief for dissemination to the department.

We are working with Rutland Regional Planning Commission to apply for a grant to delineate a Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) basically surrounding our Designated Downtown. The Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD) lists these benefits of NDA designation:

- Qualified "mixed income" projects are exempt from Act 250 regulations
- Act 250 projects not qualifying for the exemption receive a 50% discount on application fees
- Agency of Natural Resources fees for wastewater review are capped at \$50.00 for projects that have received sewer allocation from an approved municipal system
- Exemption from the land gains tax

- Limitation on appeals of conditional use permits for residential development
- Municipalities receive priority consideration for state grants
- Pilot Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

Currently the only NDA in Rutland County is in the City of Rutland itself. The grant we are pursuing is for planning; the Town would still need to submit its NDA application and have it approved by ACCD. ACCD states: "This designation program increases housing options by reducing the time and cost of state permitting in areas within easy walking distance of commercial centers — whether converting a wing of a house into an apartment or developing an entirely new neighborhood."

Some extensive work was accomplished with a developer preparing to redevelop a long-vacant building into mixed-income (some low-income, some market rate) housing. This project would make 22 apartments available for Brandon families. One state grant has been secured through the efforts of the developer and Bill Moore our economic development officer; another state grant application is in progress.

I had communication with the State of Vermont regarding the dollar value we charge per gallon of reserved wastewater capacity when issuing permits. This is ahead of a projected update/revision of several public works policies that will be brought to the board for consideration and action.

I suggested to our code officer and DRB chair and clerk a new template for DRB meetings.

I worked with key Town finance staff (Bill, Jackie, Sue) regarding the projected 23% increase in premiums for 2025 health insurance plans approved by the State this month. We have determined the Town is ineligible for Cigna and our options are limited to BlueCross and MVP. Their rates are expected to be available late in September. This increase would be a stressor on the FY26 budget, on the order of \$80,000 (2+%).

I had many meetings with town officers, staff, townspeople, and responded to a number of requests for information from various parties, including Freedom of Information Act. Highway/tree and water/sewer matters were the most frequent topics.

I am preparing this on Thursday due to in-person training in Montpelier on Friday. The Financial Snapshot I customarily include here will be provided to the board as an update on Monday.

FOR AWARENESS OF THE SELECTBOARD

The (online) VLCT grant management training I signed up for was postponed from August 20 to September 24.

Vermont Roadworks (awarded sidewalk contract) met with our Highway Division Chief on Thursday afternoon to identify what other work could be incorporated into the sidewalk paving project given the available funding affirmed by the selectboard at the August 12th meeting.

A Brandon resident interested in public transit is sought as the Town's representative to the Marble Valley Regional Transit District ("The Bus"). Their regular meetings are monthly on the second Tuesday at 9AM. <https://thebus.com/meeting-material/>

Respectfully submitted,

