

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
September 23, 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, Jack Schneider, Todd Nielsen, Steve Bissette, Ray Marcoux, Stephanie Jerome, Sandy Mayo, Steven Jupiter, Susan Benedict, Tom Kilpeck

Others by Zoom: Neil Silins, Cecil Reniche-Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:24PM by Doug Bailey – Board Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

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

Bill Moore advised there is a warrant for Premier Coach in the amount of \$10,026 that is over the Town’s spending limit and could either be included in the warrant or pulled out for separate approval by the Select Board. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the item in the warrant.

Seth Hopkins requested a second executive session be added in accordance with 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(1) regarding labor relations agreements with employees.

2. Select Board Remarks

Doug Bailey reminded the participants that we are all neighbors and to be respectful of others. Mr. Bailey also noted that the beginning of fall foliage will be bringing additional traffic to Town.

3. Recurring Matters

a. Approval of Select Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024

Motion by Heather Nelson/Brian Coolidge to approve the Select Board minutes of September 9, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Budget Workshop Minutes – September 16, 2024

Motion by Heather Nelson/Brian Coolidge to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of September 16, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Warrant – September 23, 2024 - \$1,533,983.35

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve the warrants of September 23, 2024, in the amount of \$1,533,983.35. **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.

Seth Hopkins advised he spoke with the Town's attorney about the tax sale and they will be providing recommendations to reinstate the tax sale process regarding the revisions of the law to assure compliance. It was revised for taxpayers for those whose properties are to be brought to sale and there is a notice required that there be an abatement process available to them prior to the tax sale. Mr. Hopkins advised that Vermont Roadways is in Town and have started the Pearl Street sidewalk construction. There is no additional information on the roadwork by the contractors. Heather Nelson stated someone had brought up the idea of asking Vermont Roadways about the cost of doing the tennis courts, similar to what is being done at the hoop house. Bill Moore advised the bidder will be providing an updated bid and he can ask Vermont Roadways to do another bid.

5. Community Development Report

Bill Moore reviewed the community development report submitted:

"The Pow Wow organizers donated all of proceeds to the town of Brandon Recreation department to set up a scholarship fund for youth that have parents/guardians that are experiencing financial troubles due to illness.

The Vermont BGS recreational facilities grant has been submitted to support the purchase of the land on the southern end of the Seminary Hill lot. December will be when the state announces the list of projects that have been awarded.

The first Brandon Rec adult musical was a rousing success. Many thanks to Jeff Hull (Director), Kenny Cifone (Musical Director) and the many volunteers that volunteered to make "Lucky Stiff" a wonderful community collaboration. Next up will be a winter youth play and other smaller productions.

HarvestFest is coming! October 6th from 1PM – 4PM there will be leaf (stick) people, wagon rides and many, many vendors for this annual fall rite of passage at Estabrook Park.

Bootified Brandon house decorating competition registration is open!

The SOLD-OUT three busses to Salem will be heading down on October 3rd. There are still only about 20 tickets left for the NYC trip (2 busses) on December 14th.

The annual Celtics bus trip has been scheduled for December 19th when the defending 2024 NBA Champs take on the Chicago Bulls. The first 15 kids paid will have a chance to stand in front of the players during the National Anthem. These tickets will go fast."

Doug Bailey asked when the fountains will be installed with all funds secured and water fountains are here. Bill Moore stated it is on the water engineer's and fire department's schedule to have them installed this fall.

Neil Silins stated the Powwow event was an excellent addition and was well done. Mr. Silins suggested repeating it annually. Bill Moore advised the organizers were overwhelmed with the community support and would like to hold the event 9/19/25 thru 9/21/25 and open it to the school children to attend during the opening event.

6. Award Bid for Demolition of FEMA Buyout at 110 Newton Road

Bill Moore reported there were 7 bids received ranging from \$64,000 to \$228,000, with the low bidder being Jack Bowen Excavating and the State has asked the low bidder to be approved. Heather Nelson noted the Town is the pass-thru for the funds from the federal government and is not a cost to the Town.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to award the demolition bid for the FEMA buyout of 110 Newton Road to the low bidder, Jack Bowen Excavating. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider Purchase Order 45041 to Cargill, Inc. for De-icing Salt - \$87,250

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Seth Hopkins advised this is beyond his spending authority and is for 100 tons of de-icing salt at \$87.25/ton. It had been forecasted at \$90,000. The usage last year was about 20% under this amount but would be good to have the purchase order authorized for up to this amount.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Ralph Ethier to approve Purchase Order 45051 to Cargill, Inc. in the amount of \$87,250 for de-icing salt. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Public Comment and Participation

Heather Nelson stated in the interest of transparency, the FEMA buy-out is her dad's business on Newton Road. Seth Hopkins noted the building is not owned by Heather's family but is owned by the Town.

Doug Bailey advised the second budget workshop will be held on Monday, September 30th to discuss the Highway Department and Town Management. Mr. Bailey thought the first meeting was a good discussion. He noted the Airstream group will be in Town this weekend. Bill Moore advised they will be located on the Brandon Inn lawn. Mr. Bailey stated they will be providing a free concert on Saturday and they will be arriving on Friday. Brian Coolidge questioned if the Town has any liability for this event. Mr. Moore advised this is being held on the Brandon Inn's property and is a Brandon Chamber function. Susan Benedict asked if the Brandon Inn has made arrangements for dumping their sewage. Seth Hopkins stated the Airstreamers are not connecting to a water supply or sewer connection and will be leaving with what is collected. Mr. Bailey noted he had an Airstream and he could go a week without having to dispose of sewage and was sure they have arrangements for dumping the waste. Cecil Reniche-Smith noted that Airstreams do not require sewer hookups.

Ray Marcoux requested police presence on Union Street as there are cars that are speeding. He had contacted the police department about this issue previously. Heather Nelson agreed that traffic does speed on that road. Mr. Marcoux noted it is a handful of cars but is a daily thing. Tim Guiles agreed that they do the same thing on Carver Street and the citizens need to continue to contact the police department. Seth Hopkins noted he had an email conversation with a Union Street resident about this same topic and he has asked the police department to do a direct patrol of the area. Mr. Hopkins stated the speed cart could also be placed in the area. There has been a request for a permanent sign like on Franklin Street and Grove Street, but those signs are in the \$4,000 range and there are currently not funds in the budget for this item. Tim Guiles encouraged people who can identify the cars to advise the police department. Mr. Guiles did not suggest vigilantism, and we need to allow the police to do their job but gathering information for them can help them do their job. Mr. Marcoux also reported there is a big beehive near Edgar Greeno's house on Union Street. Mr. Hopkins advised that would be under the authority of Green Mountain Power.

Bill Moore advised the deadline for submitting comments to the municipal project manager regarding the Brandon-Forest Dale connector trail is September 25th.

The Select Board recessed at 7:48PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:56PM.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:57PM regarding the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(3) to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:08PM. There was no action required.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to enter into executive session at 8:09PM regarding labor relations agreements with employees per 1 V.S.A.313(3)(a)(1) to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 9:50PM. There was no action required.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:51PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary