

## **Brandon Select Board Meeting January 8, 2018**

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

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

**Others In Attendance:** Dave Atherton, Arlen Bloodworth, Richard Baker, Chris Brickell, Dick Kirby, Bernie Carr, Mike Frankiewicz, Bill Moore, Jeff Stewart, Sam Carlson, Michael Shank

### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins – Chair at 7:01PM.

#### ***a) Agenda Adoption***

**Motion** by Doug Bailey/Tracy Wyman to adopt the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

#### ***a) December 11, 2017 – Select Board Meeting Minutes***

#### ***b) December 20, 2017 – Select Board Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes***

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 Select Board meeting and December 20, 2017 Select Board Budget Workshop meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **3. Town Manager's Report**

Dave Atherton reported work continues on the storm water structure on Franklin Street for Segment 6. A meeting was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> with all of the utility companies to discuss the new underground utility work. The project is slowly shutting down for the winter. Bridge 114 went out to bid on January 5<sup>th</sup> and bids will be reviewed on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Easement deeds are being prepared for the Union Street Sidewalk project. The Town hopes to have the Churchill Road Bridge out to bid by the end of the month. Currently delinquent taxes are \$174,684.83 and delinquent sewer payments are \$102,431.39. Reports are being developed to forward to the attorney to start the annual tax sale process. Mr. Atherton met with Green Lantern to review the Town's first year and re-allocate the solar credits within the town's electricity account. In the Rec Department; thanks to a collaboration with the Pittsford Rec, Otter Valley and Mae's Place, pick-up volleyball is back at the OV North Campus gym on Monday nights from 7 – 9 PM. Indoor corn hole at the beautifully restored town hall starts back up on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9PM. The cost is \$25.00 per team and will last 8 weeks. Due to the inclement weather,

the start of U6-U8 basketball was pushed out to January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Rec Department is looking for volunteers for the Winter Carnival Committee. The Carnival is slated for February 3<sup>rd</sup> with indoor and outdoor events. Cult Movie Night starts February 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9PM on the big screen at the town hall and is sponsored by Lazy Acres Equines and Otterside Animal Hospital. Compliments to Tim Shields Construction and the Friends of the Town Hall for the work put into the stage renovation. Mr. Atherton provided a report on the highlights of activities of the Brandon Police Department for the last quarter. Brian Coolidge asked about the closing of the transfer station last Saturday. Mr. Atherton reported the vendor had emailed the Town Office concerning the closing of the transfer station due to the weather that day. Mr. Coolidge advised that he had called the vendor and suggested that the time the transfer station was closed should be made up. Mr. Atherton reported a notice had been placed on the Town's website concerning the closing and a decision was made that a link to the vendor's website would be placed on the Town's website that would direct people to their webpage for information in the future. Bernie Carr suggested that a sign placed at the end of the road about the closing would have been helpful to the public. Devon Fuller confirmed with the Town Manager the Bridge 114 construction would be this year.

#### **4. Park Street Update**

Dave Atherton reported the revolving loan information for the water has been submitted. There will be a meeting with the engineer for public comments in the near future. Devon Fuller asked if this project requires a positive bond vote and Mr. Atherton confirmed that it will need to be placed on the warning for Town meeting, which will be developed once all petitions have been received for appropriations and candidates running for office.

#### **5. Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

Bernie Carr requested an update on the large proposed solar field. Dave Atherton reported that he spoke with the landowner and was advised that Ranger Solar is not looking to see a completion of this project until 2019 or 2020. Seth Hopkins questioned whether the Town's understanding with Ranger Solar is still good and Mr. Atherton confirmed it was still in effect.

Dave Atherton reported he met with a member of the Pittsford Planning Commission concerning information that their town's attorney has brought to their attention concerning wildlife corridor information for their town plan update. The Pittsford Planning Commission will be holding a meeting this Thursday evening to discuss the boilerplate language for future town plans and encouraged interested parties to attend. The proposed language that Pittsford will be considering is the language their attorney has indicated will be boilerplate language. Bill Moore stated the language also speaks about not necessarily being specific to a town, but spaces adjacent to the town. Bernie Carr noted there was a lot of concern about landowner restrictions during the wildlife corridor discussions. Mr. Moore stated the language spells out that regardless of the town's boundaries, it would be contiguous land. Mr. Atherton stated this is something for the Planning Commission to look into because the state wants to have contiguous properties for the wildlife to run. Mr. Atherton has emailed the members of the Brandon Planning Commission regarding the meeting.

## 6. Appointments

### *a) Planning Commission (Remainder of a 3/year Term ending June 30, 2020)*

Dave Atherton advised there is a Planning Commission vacancy for the remainder of a 3-year term ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Atherton has met and received a letter of interest from Michael Shank and recommended Mr. Shank would be a good addition to the Planning Commission.

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Doug Bailey to appoint Michael Shank to the Planning Commission for the remainder of a 3-year term ending June 30, 2020. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins noted Mr. Shank has an extensive background and training in planning and the Town appreciates his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission.

## 7. Green Lantern Letter of Support

Sam Carlson of Green Lantern reported he met with the Town Manager concerning the GLC Solar project to do a re-optimization for the net metering credits to offset the expenditures on the Town's facilities, such as the treatment plant. The Town is receiving the tax payments and lease payments. An amendment revising the net metering credits will be sent to the Town. This will avoid the situation where the Town is buying more credits than it can use.

Mr. Carlson also requested the Town's support for a one-acre solar project that would be built on Ray Lamoureux's property at 3164 McConnell Road. Information on the project was provided with Mr. Carlson noting the project is surrounded by trees and is invisible. The property has been viewed by a representative from the Agency of Natural Resources and was cleared by ANR for developing the site for solar. The proposed array is one-acre with some tree clearing done to the east of the project to eliminate the risk of shading. Mr. Carlson reported the State has new net metering rules and noted this type of a project cannot be developed unless the Town designates the land as a preferred solar site. There is a signed Option to Lease Agreement, but Mr. Lamoureux knows the project cannot go forward until the Town and Regional Planning Commission designates the site as a preferred solar site. There would be tax payments on the array of about \$1,000.00/year and Green Lantern would try to get the Neshobe School as the off-taker for the credits to save on their electricity, with the next option to be Otter Valley High School. Mr. Carlson noted Green Lantern tries to obtain a Brandon beneficiary for the project. Mr. Carlson stated this is an appeal for the Select Board's support. He will also be doing a presentation to the Brandon Planning Commission for their support, followed by a request to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Carlson advised they have also done similar projects in Castleton and South Royalton and noted the towns are now having more of a say as to where the net-metered arrays can be placed.

Devon Fuller questioned what would make an area a preferred solar site. Mr. Carlson advised that it is up to the town to determine whether it is a preferred site and it typically has to do with aesthetics and whether it is offensive to neighbors. It would also need to comply environmentally and be in proximity to GMP utility lines. There is not any exact definition of a preferred site, but the State wants the towns to determine their preferred sites. Mr. Fuller asked if

the property owner has talked with their neighbors. Mr. Carlson stated the property owners are not required to notify their neighbors, but it is the right thing to do. This property is a 10-acre parcel and the solar array would be about in the middle of the property. There would be a full ring of forest around it and it would not be fenced to allow the wildlife to move thru. The only fence would be around the equipment rack that is required by code. Tracy Wyman advised that he knows the area and it meets all the criteria that would be required. Seth Hopkins stated in terms of the Town Plan requirements, which are for bigger projects, it would restrict visibility from Route 7 and Route 73 and people are encouraged to not use prime agricultural soils. Mr. Carlson reported this site would not be useful for agriculture.

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve and sign the preferred designation letter for the Green Lantern Group for 3164 McConnell as a preferred site under the net metering rule. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Carlson advised they will now present to the Brandon Planning Commission.

## **8. Bridge 114**

Dave Atherton reported the Town has received the letter from VTrans for the approval and authorization to advertise for bids for the Bridge 114 project.

## **9, Budget Discussion**

Dave Atherton provide the Select Board the December 21<sup>st</sup> draft of the proposed budget. Seth Hopkins noted there had been communication about some potential changes. Devon Fuller suggested increasing the Contracting line by \$2,000.00 after speaking with Mr. Burlett following the final budget meeting. He also suggested decreasing the Killington Valley line to \$1,295.00, which would more than make up the \$2,000.00 increase to the Contract line. Mr. Fuller reported he had discussed splitting the Killington Valley cost with the DBA and the Chamber, as it is important to the Town. Mr. Hopkins confirmed the changes would be to increase the spending on Page 7 for Contracts by \$2,000.00 and decrease the Economic Development line on Page 10 by \$2,588.00. Mr. Hopkins commended Mr. Fuller for reaching out to the Chamber and DBA and noted it is great that they will consider sharing the cost.

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Doug Bailey to increase the Contractors line item by \$2,000.00 and decrease the Killington Valley line item by \$2,588.00 in the proposed budget. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Bailey requested clarification of the bottom line of the budget with the changes. The total expenditures would be \$3,138,185.00, with the amount to be raised by taxes of \$2,578,045.00. Doug asked if the \$10,000.00 for the Boys/Girls Club was re-appropriated and Mr. Atherton advised that because it was an appropriated amount from last year, it would not go into the current operating budget, but would go into the General Fund. It is reflected as a revenue line and would be \$10,000.00 less that would need to be raised by taxes. The total increase in the proposed budget is 2.75%.

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Tracy Wyman to approve the 2018/19 proposed budget for submission to the voters in the amount of be \$3,138,185.00, with the amount to be raised by taxes of \$2,578,045.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins thanked the Budget Committee; Carol Bertrand, Doug Sawyer, Tony Paduto and Jan Coolidge, and the Department Heads and Town Manager. The Town continues with a stable budget and Mr. Hopkins noted the increase was kept to 2.75%, with 1.9% of the increase due to employee health insurance. Mr. Hopkins reported the Town Manager had successfully pursued changing from Blue Cross Blue Shield to MVP that saved the Town a substantial amount of money. Dave Atherton advised some of the other items that were increased were gravel and salt for the roads; noting the Town is still low, but are slowing boosting the amount up due to the types of winters we are now experiencing. Mr. Atherton stated there was not a lot of increase other than maintenance. Doug Bailey also thanked the Budget Committee and noted the Department Heads came well prepared and the process has become much smoother. He noted it is a tight budget, but it is a good process.

## **10. Fiscal**

### ***a) Warrant – January 8, 2018 - \$51,708.23***

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Devon Fuller to approve the January 8, 2018 warrant in the amount of \$51,708.23. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### ***b) Route 7 Segment 6 Construction Warrant – January 8, 2018 - \$230,616.29***

**Motion** by Doug Bailey/Devon Fuller to approve the January 8, 2018 Route 7 Construction warrant in the amount of \$230,616.29. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

Dave Atherton advised the VLCT will be hosting a 2018 Town Meeting Tune-up meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> and requested any Board member interested in attending the meeting to contact the Town Office to register.

Bill Moore reported that Expedia listed the 50 Greatest Places in the United States and Brandon was name as the location in Vermont.

The Select Board recessed to convene as the Board of Liquor Commissioners meeting at 7:49PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 8:11PM.

**Motion** by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to enter into Executive session at 8:12PM Pursuant to 1V.S.A. 313(a)(3) – The Appointment or Employment or Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**11. Executive Session Pursuant to 1V.S.A. 313(a)(3) – The Appointment or Employment or Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee**

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to come out of executive session at 9:05PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There were no actions required.

**9. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:06PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary