

Brandon Select Board Meeting September 23, 2019

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

Board Members In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Brian Coolidge, Tim Guiles, Doug Bailey, Tracy Wyman

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Mike Frankiewicz, Brent Buehler, Russell Jones, Dennis Reisenweaver, Charles Powell, Ray Jobst, Steve Bissette, Barry Varian, Marielle Blaise, Bill Moore, Wayne Rausenberger

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins – Chair at 7:00PM.

1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Seth Hopkins noted the minutes of the September 9th Select Board meeting were not in the Board packet and requested action to table the minutes.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to table approval of the September 9th Select Board minutes to the next meeting. **The motion passed with one no vote – Tim Guiles.**

a) September 9, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

3. Town Manager’s Report

Dave Atherton provided a report for the weeks of September 9th and September 16th.

Segment 6 - Two-Week “Look Ahead”:

Mr. Atherton summarized the Segment 6 work noting a lot of paving has been done and sidewalks are being poured. The contractor has also begun some demobilization.

Other Happenings:

Bat study and tree removal at the Churchill Road culvert location. Bid documents were reviewed today for the culvert installation and will be sent out tomorrow.

Union Street sidewalk work continues. Barlow Avenue will be closed to through traffic for contractor to prep sidewalk crossing and drainage. There is one-way alternating traffic on Union Street controlled by temporary traffic lights. It is hoped the project will be done in about 3 weeks.

Traffic study will start on the dirt portion of Town Farm Road on 9/24 to determine speed and traffic count.

Subgrant Agreement has been signed for the property buyout at 477 Newton Road. 250 Newton Road has opted out of the buyout. There was a prebid meeting for the demolition of 419 and 449 Newton Road, however only one contractor was present. Another prebid meeting was held today and nine contractors were present. The bid openings will be held in October and this project is 100% grant funded.

We have posted a job opening in the Highway Dept. No responses yet.

Mr. Atherton, Mr. Guiles and Mr. Hopkins attended the VLCT Budget Workshop on 9/18.

Mr. Atherton has been appointed the Administrator for the Estate of George Dinn on behalf of the Town. This will allow the Town to sell the property and pay up some of the back taxes. Mr. Atherton advised there are no other family members and an estate had to be opened as the property has been accruing delinquent taxes. The Town must wait 30 days and after that time, the Town will be able to put the property out to bid to pay off back taxes.

Recreation News:

The Town of Brandon Recreation Department was awarded a \$10,000 Recreation Facility Grant for improvements at Seminary Hill Park. The grant requires a 1:1 match and will be a part of a larger project to replace the fencing, installation gates, groundwork to create a handicap access and parking areas. This is phase one of a project to create a safer, walkable park that will eventually house a portion of the donated play structure from McDonalds, as well as a pole shade pavilion.

Speaking of the playground, Assistant to the Rec Director, Colleen Wright, in her capacity as Director of the Brandon Area Toy Project, was able to secure a \$2,500 grant from the Walter Cerf Community Fund to aid in the "putting into the ground" the donated play structure.

On September 20th, local country music singer, Logan Riesterer played at the town hall, with teen band, the West Road Rockers opening. A great time was had by all and it is nice to see musical talent here in the Otter Valley.

Harvest Festival @ Estabrook Park is on Sunday, October 6th from 1pm - 4pm. The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce misnamed Leaf people will be available to construct and purchase. Many food vendors and activities including a hay wagon ride and fall

photography will be available to enjoy. Thanks in advance to collaborations with the Brandon Area Toy Project, BACC, Neshobe School PTO & the Brandon Library for making this 3rd year the largest yet!

Quiz Night is back for the fall open session. Brandon Free Public Librarian, Molly Kennedy and your Recreation Director serve as Quiz Mistress and Master at this open session of the popular team trivia activity at the Center Street Bar event space, On 4 consecutive Sundays starting October 13 @ 6:30pm, twelve teams of 2-5 people will compete for prizes and bragging rights. Sign up your team at brandonpubliclibrary.org today.

The Sudbury Road race is back October 19th starting at 10am. This race will be a collaborative effort/fundraiser for Otter Valley Cross Country Team and the Otter Valley Student Council. The Rec Department is working with past organizers to bring this traditional road race back after a one-year hiatus.

Doug Bailey asked when the Seminary Hill Park project would be done, as it would likely have to include the match. Bill Moore advised the Town would like to do the work in the spring. There has been a discussion with Markowski about doing some of the groundwork for the parking area and the slope for the new gate when they are doing the Park Street project.

Mike Frankiewicz requested clarification about the Newton Road demolition. Mr. Atherton advised there had been a prebid meeting for the Lee and Harrison houses, however, only one contractor had attended. There were multiple contractors who attended the second prebid meeting.

4. Public Comment and Participation

Seth Hopkins advised he is collaborating with the Town on the Summer Concert Series. The Walter Cerf Fund has also granted \$5,000.00 for the pavilion. The pavilion is almost completed and will have been built debt-free.

Mr. Hopkins wished to clarify that Dolores Furnari had recently retired after 29 years of service as a lister and as the assessor's assistant.

Brian Coolidge has heard positive comments about the transfer station and noted it is long overdue. Dave Atherton advised work is being done with the State to enable the transfer station to do electronic, battery and fluorescent light recycling. Tracy Wyman advised the transfer station is also taking used motor oil and they are working with the area garages that have their permits.

Mr. Hopkins noted that under the Public Comment and Participation, those wishing to speak should address their comments to the Board Chair and that order is to be maintained.

Wayne Rausenberger questioned the status of the crosswalk area on the north end of Route 7 project, when Union Street will be paved and the reason for the manhole covers that are now too low since the paving has been done. Dave Atherton advised the crosswalk area will be done with a specialty material and it is planned to be done this fall. Union Street from Hannaford's will be paved this week and the manhole cover work is not completed yet and they will either be covered or will be raised to make them level with the road.

Ray Jobst has heard about a rash of break-ins to local businesses that happen in the early morning hours and questioned if the Town is aware of them. Dave Atherton advised the Brandon Police are aware of the situation. Mr. Jobst stated there should be public awareness that there are issues happening.

5. Adoption of New Town Road and Bridge Standards

Dave Atherton advised this is the new version of the form that was done in the spring and will be what the form will look like going forward. VTrans wanted it redone as it touches on the hydrology and road erosion that the Town is receiving funding for. Seth Hopkins noted an error on the first page that indicates August 8th and it should read April 8th. Mr. Atherton agreed and noted it will be changed.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Tracy Wyman to adopt the new Town Road and Bridge Standards as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Fiscal

a) P. O. 52147 to Cargill, Inc. for Road Salt - \$76,000.00

Dave Atherton reported this invoice is for road salt. Seth Hopkins questioned if this is the state bid price and Mr. Atherton confirmed it was and noted it is \$3/ton less than last year.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to approve P. O. 52147 to Cargill, Inc. for Road Salt for \$76,000.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Atherton reported that last year the Town used 1100 tons of salt. Seth Hopkins noted the State bid pricing is a very good program and he is glad the Town takes advantage of these prices. He was also interested to learn about other items that have state bids. Mr. Atherton noted most of the suppliers the Town uses provide state bid pricing.

Tim Guiles asked if there are other environmental options that could be used. Dave Atherton stated the Town tries to use only salt on the pavement and sand on the dirt roads. The trucks have sensors and the Town has been doing a thinner coat than in the past. Seth Hopkins noted Lover's Lane is in better shape than it has been in a long time. McConnell Road and Smalley Road have also been paved. Doug Bailey stated the Route 73 project near Paint Works Road is a huge improvement. Mr. Bailey thought that all the side work that the Public Works Department has been doing along Smalley Road and McConnell Road will help keep the roads in better shape.

b) Warrant – September 23, 2019 - \$59,320.75

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to approve the September 23, 2019 warrant in the amount of \$59,320.75. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

Doug Bailey questioned the warrant for a flask. Mr. Atherton advised it is used by the wastewater treatment plant.

c) Route 7 Construction Warrant – September 23, 2019 - \$664,863.08

Motion by Doug Bailey/Brian Coolidge to approve the September 23, 2019 Route 7 Construction warrant in the amount of \$664,863.08. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

Dave Atherton reported he has received the information from Dubois and King regarding the Route 7 construction warrant and has reviewed the warrant.

The Select Board recessed at 7:27PM.

The Select Board reconvened at 7:35PM.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to find that premature general public knowledge of a possible pending litigation will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing confidential attorney-client communications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to enter into executive session at 7:37PM to discuss confidential attorney-client communications under 1 V.S.A. paragraph 313(a)(1). **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Executive Session

The Select Board came out of executive session at 8:17PM. There was no action required.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:18PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

