

Brandon Select Board Meeting November 23, 2020

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

All in Attendance via Zoom.

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

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Shari Vaccarella, Butch Shaw, Bill Moore, Brent Buehler, Chris Brickell, Joan Ballen

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

1. Call to order

a) Agenda Adoption – Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adopt the agenda. as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Addition of a discussion of NEEPA, the Police Benevolent Association, during the current executive session regarding a discussion of AFSCME, the employee’s union.

Addition of an executive session regarding a contract the Town is a party to in accordance with 1 V.S.A. (313) (a)(1).

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Select Board Meeting – November 9, 2020

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Tim Guiles to approve the minutes of the November 9th Select Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b) Select Board Budget Workshop – November 11, 2020

c) Select Board Budget Workshop – November 17, 2020

Motion by Tim Guiles/Doug Bailey to approve the minutes of the November 11th and November 17th Select Board Budget Workshop meetings. **The motion passed with one abstention from Tracy Wyman for both meetings and an abstention from Brian Coolidge for the November 17th meeting.**

3. Town Manager’s Report

Dave Atherton provided a report for the weeks of November 9th and November 16th, 2020.

Segment 6:

The bridge slab membrane was installed last week, area was backfilled, curbing installed, sidewalk prepped for Monday pour, road temporarily paved and both travel lanes are open. There will be permanent pavement done in the spring.

Other happenings:

The Town received a denial letter from VTrans stating that we did not receive the Union Street sidewalk grant. The reason was due to a high volume of applicants. An application will be submitted again next year. Mr. Atherton is also applying for a Transportation grant for this project that is due on Friday.

Mr. Atherton attended the Rutland Regional Transportation Council meeting on November 19th. Topics were the Municipal Roads General Permit and Regional Project Prioritization Updates. The Transportation Council rates the projects within the county as to what is prioritized for Class 1 roads.

Tim Guiles and Mr. Atherton had a Zoom meeting with Efficiency Vermont on November 17th. The meeting was productive. We will be looking into some inexpensive ways to make the existing buildings at the highway department as efficient as possible, however, the consensus was that it might be advantageous to pursue a new building option. There are some small things that can be done to save money for the Town.

Mr. Atherton will be meeting with the US Army Corp of Engineers on December 1st to start a Flood Loss Avoidance Study. This is going to be a joint effort with the State Hazard Mitigation. The Town was chosen for this study due to our past flood mitigation projects. This conversation started in the spring and was postponed due to COVID but is beginning again.

Another Local Option Tax payment in the amount of \$52,574.83 was received. This is for the quarter covering 8/11/20 through 11/12/20, however is thought that it is probably the third quarter installment.

As a reminder, the next budget meeting is Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00PM.

Rec Department News:

Due to COVID, the following programs have been suspended: Brandon 4th – 8th grade Cheering and Table Tennis at the Town Hall.

Bill Moore met with Jeanne Collins of the RNESU about the Rec being able to facilitate indoor youth programming at the school. It is not out of the question and would depend upon where we are with Vermont Department of Health guidance.

The Rec Department is partnering with the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce to expand the Holiday Light Decorating contest.

The Gifts Galore promotion headed by Stacey Mohan of the Brandon Area Toy Project that was scheduled for the Town Hall on December 6th has been turned into a virtual event that is COVID-safe and will allow for kids to shop for their parents.

Seth Hopkins questioned if the Town received the same letter that the Select Board had received from the Marble Valley Regional Transit with their annual request. Dave Atherton stated the Town also received the letter and the numbers have been added to the letter.

Brent Buehler stated regarding the flood plain evaluations, he has attempted to contact the person from FEMA and has not received a response on the re-evaluation of the floodplain and asked if the Town could submit a request an update on his behalf. Dave Atherton advised at a seminar he attended on this subject; they were told it is likely to be a five-year plan. Mr. Atherton stated landowners can request a notice of map amendment that is a LOMAR and they will come out and reassess where you are. Mr. Buehler noted a surveyor was at the Mobil Station and stated the road plain is four feet less than it used to be. Mr. Atherton stated this will be based on the elevation of each landowner's property and the culvert was supposed to change this information. Mr. Buehler had the flood plain evaluation done with his insurance company but can't do anything until he hears from FEMA. Mr. Atherton noted anyone that is on the flood plain can request this mapping. Seth Hopkins stated there may be others that could benefit from having this done. Mr. Atherton advised there was someone on River Street that just went through the map amendment and it worked out for them.

Bill Moore provided the following link for a LOMAR request:

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1490118979672-c9c3172e0cd7437cb033da371cf1751e/LOMA-LOMRF_Fact_Sheet.pdf

4. Public Comment and Participation

Doug Bailey noted there is a broken lamp at the southern end of the park. Dave Atherton reported the replacement has been received. The light had been hit by a truck and was covered by their insurance. Mr. Bailey asked if by the next budget meeting of December 9th, the Board could receive the fund balance for the Option Tax funds and how much will be spent on Segment 6. Dave Atherton advised the fund balance for the Option Tax is \$588,606.42 and as far as Segment 6, there is a grant anticipation note that will be paid in full, as it is not anticipated needing to use it again. The Option Tax funds will be used at the end of the project to cover the final expenses.

5. Swamp Lot Bid Results

Dave Atherton reported there was only one bid received from the Nature Conservancy with a bid of \$200 for Parcel 1, \$235 for Parcel 2 and agreement to cover the legal and advertising costs not

to exceed \$1,265.00. They would like to close no later than March 31, 2021. They will pay some taxes on this property. The total would be \$1700.00 for the two swamp lots.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Doug Bailey to accept the bid from the Nature Conservancy.

Doug Bailey noted it was a low bid, but the Town will likely not do anything with the lots. Seth Hopkins stated this process was begun from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife, but they decided not to submit a bid. Dave Atherton noted there was another person interested but attorney fees deterred them from bidding.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Fiscal

a) *Warrant – November 23, 2020 - \$1,933,127.96*

b) *Route 7 Construction Warrant – November 23, 2020 - \$20,864.31*

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Tim Guiles to approve the November 23rd warrant in the amount of \$1,933,127.96 and the November 23rd Route 7 Construction warrant in the amount of \$20,864.31. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins noted the first warrant is large because of the school payment and the grant anticipation loan payment. Doug Bailey asked if the grant anticipation loan pay off will be by the reserve. Dave Atherton reported this has been bonded for twice.

Butch Shaw stated the Legislature is struggling with the opening of the next session and noted it appears that it will be done with the same type of process as the past session due to the increase in COVID cases in Washington County.

Seth Hopkins wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to find that premature general public knowledge of the pending contract negotiations with AFSCME and NEEPA will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:23PM to discuss the Towns' pending contract negotiations with AFSCME and NEEPA, under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. Executive Session

The Board came out of Executive session at 8:08PM. There were no actions required.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Doug Bailey to find that premature general public knowledge of the pending contract discussions will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Tim Guiles/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 8:08PM to discuss a contract, under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1) of the Vermont Statutes to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Executive Session

The Board came out of Executive session at 8:15PM. There were no actions required.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Doug Bailey to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:15PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary