

Brandon Select Board Meeting December 13, 2021

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

Board Members in Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Brian Coolidge, Tim Guiles, Tracy Wyman, Michael Markowski

Others in Attendance: Dave Atherton, Bill Moore, Butch Shaw, Jim Emerson, Barry Varian

Other In Attendance Via Zoom: Keith Whitcomb

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins - Chair at 7:02PM.

a) Agenda Adoption

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Mike Markowski to adopt the agenda as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Add Item 7b - Warrant in the amount of \$22,458 for the Brandon Library grant.

Add Item 8 - Executive Session – to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee.

Seth Hopkins requested a moment of silence for the passing of Bob Ripley, a former teacher, coach, and bus driver who had contributed so much to the community.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a) **Select Board Budget Workshop – November 15, 2021**
- b) **Select Board Minutes – November 22, 2021**
- c) **Select Board Budget Workshop – November 29, 2021**
- d) **Select Board Budget Workshop – December 6, 2021**

Motion by Brian Coolidge/ Mike Markowski to approve the minutes noted above. **The motion passed with one abstention – Tracy Wyman.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton provided a report for the weeks of November 22nd and December 10th.

. Most of the last two weeks have been spent working on the FY22 budget.

. Mr. Atherton had three interviews for the Chief of Police position. All three are very strong candidates.

. On December 10th, Governor Scott announced the Flood Resilient Community Grant recipients and the Town of Brandon was granted funding for three residential property buyouts on Newton Road that were 100% grants. Mr. Atherton had submitted applications for four properties, but one was commercial and was not eligible.

The borings on the Arnold District culvert site have been postponed due to scheduling issues by the contractor. It is hoped to get it out to bid by the end of the year, but Mr. Atherton is not certain this will happen.

4. Public Comment and Participation

Representative Shaw indicated the Legislative session will start in three weeks and advised anyone with concerns or comments can contact him.

Bill Moore provided a Rec Department update:

Youth Wrestling Registration has opened up. Practices for 3rd – 6th grades start in January. Kindergarten – 2nd grade starts in February.

Kindergarten - 4th grade basketball registrations are still open. Practice for 3rd – 4th grades start December 27th and Kindergarten – 2nd grades start January 8th.

Dance classes will be back starting January 4th. This will be a January – April class with a final performance to button up the class. Ages 3 – 6 will be on Tuesdays at the Town Hall and ages 7 - 11 will be on Saturdays at the Rossiter Street building.

Quiz Night will be back at a new location, the Neshobe Golf Course, starting January 9th. This collaboration with the Brandon Free Public Library is immensely popular. Sign-up at brandonpubliclibrary.org.

Pick-up Cornhole at the Brandon Town Hall will start on January 9th at 6:30pm. Show-up and throw with the best!

5. Public Input on Policing

Seth Hopkins noted the Select Board had requested public input for the Chief of Police search. Chief Brickell will be leaving the Department as of Friday. Dave Atherton reported he received one email and the only concern is that whoever is hired would continue to support BRAVO. All three candidates have a similar program in their towns and they are all aware of the program. Bill Moore noted Mr. Brickell has been a phenomenal Police Chief. Mr. Hopkins thanked the Town Manager for inviting the Board Chair to sit in on the interviews and he agreed that any of the three candidates would be excellent for Brandon. Mr. Hopkins asked if there was a response

from the VLCT posting. Mr. Atherton advised that he had not received any responses from the VLCT website and two of the three candidates heard about the position from WCAX. Mr. Atherton noted there has been a good list of questions for the candidates and the process has gone quite well. Mr. Hopkins was also pleased to hear that the candidates have had positive awareness of Brandon.

6. Cancel December 27th Select Board Meeting

Dave Atherton noted the last couple of years there has not been a meeting around the Christmas holiday and he will not be in Town the week between Christmas and New Years. The office is quiet at that time and computer work is scheduled to be done during that week.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Mike Markowski to cancel the December 27th regular Select Board meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins stated due to the budget workshops the Select Board and Town Manager have been meeting more frequently and if something comes up that needs a prompt response, there can be discussion at one of the budget meetings. Mr. Atherton stated if there is something that requires a meeting, he will assure that it is posted in a timely fashion.

Seth Hopkins reported Tim Guiles and he have been working on the annual Town Report. All departments and committees should submit their report for the Annual Report as soon as possible, as the first deadline has passed.

7. Fiscal

a) Warrant – December 13, 2021 - \$111,029.15

b) Warrant – December 13, 2021 - \$22,458.00

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Mike Markowski to approve the two warrants of December 13, 2021, in the amount of \$111,029.15 and \$22,458.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Atherton advised for the second warrant, the Town is a pass through for the grant that the Brandon Library was awarded for their addition that is for their scope and study. When the money is sent to the Town, it is passed through to the Library and any fees that the Town has paid is taken out of the grant.

Bill Moore reported he is participating on the Search Committee for the new OVUHS principal. Candidate forums are being held that the public can attend.

The Select Board recessed at 7:17PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:22PM.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:22PM to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, to include the Town Manager per 1 VSA 313(3)(a)(3). **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40PM.

There was no action required.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:40PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary