

Brandon Select Board Meeting May 9, 2022

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, Michael Markowski, Tracy Wyman

Others in Attendance: Dave Atherton, Bill Moore, Shirley Markland

Other In Attendance Via Zoom: Neil Silins, Angelo Lynn, Marielle Blais, Matthew Clouser, Patricia Welch, Brian Breslin, Daniel Snow, Richarda.jamros

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins, Chair 7:03PM.

a) Agenda Adoption

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

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Select Board Minutes – April 25, 2022

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Mike Markowski to approve the April 25, 2022 minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager's Report

Dave Atherton provided the following report:

. Mr. Atherton attended the April 28th Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. There was a VTrans presentation on the Complete Streets Program and a discussion on cost effective solutions for pedestrian safety, especially in and around crosswalks. Shawn and he have been discussion ways to make a couple of the crosswalks more visible to traffic so this discussion was quite helpful.

. The Arnold District culvert replacement project has gone out to bid. There will be a pre-bid meeting on site on May 18th at 10AM and the bid opening will be at the Town Office on June 3rd at 10AM.

. Mr. Atherton has now received two of the three appraisals for the next round of property buyouts on Newton Road. Both property owners are satisfied with the appraisal results and will be moving forward with the buyout process.

. The caution signs for the Sanderson Bridge that the Town installed at the intersection of Long Swamp and Short Swamp Road have been stolen. This is very unfortunate as the signs were placed there to deter lost trucks from attempting to drive into the bridge. These particular signs were custom made for the Town and were expensive. Replacements will be purchased.

. Mr. Atherton will be out of town from May 11th to May 14th to attend a PACIF conference.

Rec Department News:

. The baseball diamonds and fields are full with baseball and softball players. There are over 160 kids playing on thirteen teams this spring.

. Another about Kindness and Safety Day at the Neshobe School is on May 14th. The Neshobe PTO/Brandon Rec/Brandon Area Toy Project sponsored event will be a great way for the community to reconnect. The ever-popular free Omya bike helmet give-away will draw a crowd.

. Archery is back at Estabrook Park starting Thursdays in June.

. The Miss Michaela Dance Class recital is on Saturday, May 21st at the Brandon Town Hall with a 6:30PM start time.

. Summer programming is being released on the brandonrec.com website.

Seth Hopkins asked if the Town Manager has spoken to the Town's attorney regarding the mosquito funding. Mr. Atherton has sent information to the Town's attorney to determine if there is specific wording about mosquito spraying.

4. Public Comments and Participation

There was no discussion held.

5. Union Street Sidewalk Alternatives Discussion

Seth Hopkins reported Brian Breslin from Dubois and King has been working on alternatives for the Union Street Sidewalk project. It was noted that three alternatives are a requirement for projects when using federal funds. Mr. Breslin advised the purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview of the project, background, history, purpose and need, and to present alternatives. This is approximately 900 feet in constructing both sides of the road. The project was initiated through the Town applying for a grant through the Alternatives Program. The flow chart can be found on the VTrans website that provides the process for projects when using federal funds. Previously there was a local concerns meeting on March 28th to obtain comments from the public. Driveway grades, right of ways, project schedule, property owner impacts and

drainage concerns were discussed. Due to federal funding, a purpose and need has to be determined, which will be for safety. The existing sidewalk corridor is lacking in ADA compliance and much of this information was taken from the Town of Brandon's grant application letter. A minimum of three alternatives that includes a "no build" option was provided. Alternative 2 is a build and proposes a curbed sidewalk with a 30-foot curb to curb width. In the application, it was indicated bicyclists also use them. It would be a granite curbing, or concrete as an alternative. There is a 5-foot concrete sidewalk and a 2-foot panel due to constructability in the event 3 people are passing on the same sidewalk. He noted there are a couple of areas with marble retaining walls and it is proposed to reconstruct those walls to mimic existing conditions. At the corner of Church Street and Railroad Avenue, there would be signage and crosswalk markings. It is also proposed to put in center line markings, edge lines and drainage. Driveways and walkways will be reconstructed, if impacted. The cost of Alternative 2 is in the range of \$572,000. There are several design assumptions that come into play, i.e., a 20% contingency and as the design is refined, that will go down to zero. They are carrying \$100,000 of stormwater improvements. Alternative 3 is similar to Alternative 2 with a difference in removing the vertical granite curbing and replacing with a grass strip. Pavement markings, signage, center line and edging are still included. The cost is around \$553,000 and a lot of costs are for stormwater improvements and contingency. The private walkways and porch impacts have not been fully evaluated with this option and may increase the price once further refined. Alternative 1 does not meet the need of the project. Alternative 2 has less resource impacts and would reconstruct on the existing area. Alternative 3 being pushed back further would have impacts. Regarding utility impacts, it is proposed to adjust the sidewalk around the poles so there is no need to relocate the poles. There is potential for water and sewer work with the proposed stormwater improvements. For private property impacts, Alternative 3 is further away from the roadway and would have the most impact. Both Alternatives 2 and 3 meet grant impacts. The construction schedule should be 2024, but potentially Alternative 3 could be further into the future due to property and right of way impacts. Construction costs are \$572,000 for Alternative 2 versus \$553,000 for Alternative 3. In order to move forward, the Town should make a decision about which alternative to proceed with. Shirley Markland of 15 Union Street stated the southern property line indicated is not her understanding of her property line and questioned who to talk to about this issue. She has her deed and pictures of the marker. Mr. Breslend advised the right of ways were taken from the Vermont Center for Geographical Information which can be inaccurate and going forward, Mr. Atherton will review the right of way deeds and come up with a meets and bounds to adjust what is actually there. Ms. Markland stated there is a spruce tree that is marked for removal and noted it was planted to block the noise four years ago that she purchased for \$500. She is not sure why the driveway reconstruction needs to be there as it used to be an old driveway. Mr. Breslend stated an action is assigned for each of the impacted trees or shrubs. This is a moment in time and he fully expects a lot of the action items would get modified based on property owner discussions. Mr. Breslend stated he believes the driveway in question was an existing entrance and they had heard that trucks need it to back into the store. Ms. Markland stated there is no driveway and no curb cut there. Mr. Breslend stated the driveway can be removed, but if it is decided to develop the property again, it would be good to have. Ms. Markland stated there is a driveway about half-way down the property. Mr. Atherton stated this could change once the property line is determined. Bill Moore asked whether there would be a difference from the road and the grass strip with Alternative 3, with the absence of curbing. Mr. Breslend stated the sidewalk would be about flush with the roadway. Tim Guiles

preferred Alternative 2 as it is helpful to have a clear delineation and a curb, with the least impact on homeowners. This would keep the sidewalk closer to the road. Mr. Atherton noted that Church Street is an example of the sidewalk next to the road. Tracy Wyman stated Alternative 3 could be major issues with right of ways. Seth Hopkins noted there was not a lot of interest for Alternative 3. Ms. Markland asked if a five-foot sidewalk is standard and Mr. Atherton advised that would meet ADA requirements. Mr. Hopkins asked the funding mechanism for the project. Mr. Atherton stated there is a \$300,000 VTrans grant and the additional of \$300,000 would come from the Local Options Tax fund.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Mike Markowski to approve Alternative 2 for the Union Street Sidewalk project with the funding of \$300,000 from the VTrans grant and \$300,000 from the Town's Local Option Tax Fund. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Markland stated her neighbors will be pleased with the vertical granite curbing to remain. Mr. Atherton noted there are many towns that do concrete curbing and the marble falls under Historic Preservation. Brian Bresland has spoken to their historian and the marble will be removed and reset, and additional investigation will not be necessary. If another material were to be used, it would need to be investigated.

6. Resolution for Grant Anticipation Note

Dave Atherton reported the resolution is a requirement of a USDA grant. Sue Gage did the research for this item and this is done for every project of that size that will cover cash flow until reimbursement is received.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to approve the resolution for the bond anticipation note as presented at a rate of 3.15% from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seth Hopkins noted this is not new borrowing but is a cash flow note. This is a line of credit and the Town only pays on what is used.

7. Fiscal

a) Warrant – May 9, 2022 - \$199,102.93

Motion by Tim Guiles/Tracy Wyman to approve the May 9, 2022, warrant in the amount of \$199,102.93. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board recessed at 7:49PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:56PM.

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Mike Markowski to enter into executive session at 7:56PM for 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.**

11. Executive Session

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tim Guiles to come out of executive session at 8:23PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There were no actions required.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Seth Hopkins/Tim Guiles to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:23PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary