

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
December 11, 2023**

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

Board Members in Attendance: Tracy Wyman, Brian Coolidge, Heather Nelson, Tim Guiles, Cecil Reniche-Smith

Others In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Bernie Carr, Doug Bailey, Ray Marcoux, Jan Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Steven Jupiter

Others in Attendance via Zoom: Bruce Jenson, Jack Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Tracy Wyman – Board Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to approve the agenda as posted. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Minutes

- a) Select Board Budget Workshop Minutes – November 8, 2023***
- b) Select Board Budget Workshop Minutes – November 20, 2023***
- c) Select Board Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023***
- d) Select Board Budget Workshop Minutes – December 5, 2023***

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Cecil Reniche-Smith to approve the Select Board minutes in items a through 3 above. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Town Manager’s Report

A Town Manager’s report was provided by Seth Hopkins and is available for viewing in the Board packet on the Town’s website. Mr. Hopkins noted there were no additions to the report unless there were questions.

Brian Coolidge stated with regard to the building resilience structure grant it should be noted that this has been in the works for a while. Mr. Hopkins clarified that the previous management had applied for this grant but he was just advising the Board that the grant has been awarded to the Town.

Mr. Coolidge also noted there appears to be a conflict of interest with the Town Manager as a member of the Brandon Industrial Corporation Board when negotiating a lease. Seth Hopkins stated it is agreeable to the BIC and there are options available for any board member to act with integrity and he is to represent the Town. Tim Guiles stated when the BIC Board was set up, they wanted a representative from the Town and it seems odd that the Town would do something that would be a conflict of interest and he does not see this as a conflict of interest. Mr. Hopkins noted this is not a matter for the Select Board to determine the process of the BIC but is the authority of the BIC. Mr. Hopkins advised the main purpose of the BIC is to develop the lots that exist at the Brandon Industrial Park in the Arnold District. The five-member Board includes Brandon businesspeople and the Town Manager. Heather Nelson noted this would not impact one person’s personal business.

4. Rec Director’s Report

Bill Moore submitted a Recreation Report to the Board and is available for viewing in the Board packet on the Town’s website.

Mr. Moore provided a review of the report:

New Bus Trip Announcement – March 24th the Brandon Rec will be going to the Capital Region Flower & Garden Expo at Hudson Valley Community College. \$55- Residents/\$66- Non-residents. This will be a popular preview of all things flowers for the spring!

Brandon Rec/Brandon Public Library 2024 Quiz Night series is set to start on January 7th. The Brandon Inn will host for January and the Neshobe Golf Club will host in February. Takes place on Sundays at 6:30PM. Free registration is online and is an adult offering.

Working on the joint Brandon Rec/Public Library and Middlebury Rec/Isley Library Total Eclipse event on April 8th. Brandon Rec made a decision several years ago to host an event with Middlebury because that is the path of totality for the eclipse. The Brandon Rec will host their event in Middlebury at the Mary Hogan field and other events will be hosted in Brandon for the partial eclipse.

Jan Coolidge asked if administrative costs were added into the cost of the bus trip and Mr. Moore confirmed that they were. Cecil Reniche-Smith asked if the per ticket cost is a share of the full bus and whether there is a cut off when there are not sufficient tickets sold. Mr. Moore advised that Premier is excellent to work with and there is the ability to cancel a trip if there is not a sufficient number attending.

5. Public Comment and Participation

Cecil Reniche-Smith thanked Sue Gage for her thoughtful and well-written response to the concerns about the water and sewer rates on FPF. She provided an excellent explanation and was able to answer many people's questions.

6. VOREC Grant Opportunity

Bill Moore advised this grant is from the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation and is a 100% funded grant. Brandon Rec is looking to apply for this grant for the newly developing parcel of land behind the American Legion for a disc golf course. Mr. Moore has been working with Martin Fjeld on the grant application that is due Friday for a request of \$73,000. The minimum amount to apply for is \$50,000. Mr. Moore noted that disc golf is not equipment heavy and if approved \$50,000 would go to resurfacing the trailhead at the north end of the American Legion building that would be accessible for the Town's use and \$13,000 would be for moving the fence with the remaining funds used for buying baskets, tee-boxes and some forestry work. Tim Guiles noted he was impressed with the suggestion and thought disc golf is a good idea with a low footprint and parking available due to the American Legion facility. Heather Nelson agreed it is a great idea and suggested once there are some trails created, the use could possibly be expanded for bicycle trails.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve applying for the VOREC grant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Moore wanted to thank Martin Fjeld and his group who have put in over 200 volunteer hours into developing this plan.

7. Fiscal

a) Warrant – December 11, 2023 - \$389,950.14

Motion by Tim Guiles/Cecil Reniche-Smith to approve the warrant of December 11, 2023, in the amount of \$389,950.14. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Brian Coolidge questioned the \$2300 invoice for youth soccer. Bill Moore advised Brandon Rec will be working with the Pittsford Rec in hosting a soccer program as they have previously been paying a fee to participate in the Rutland Youth Soccer League. The invoice is for the purchase of a new set of goals.

Mr. Moore stated the Reverse Parade is scheduled for this Sunday from 5PM to 6PM, followed by a holiday concert at the Brandon Inn.

Jan Coolidge requested a warning be posted for the Budget Committee to hold a meeting prior to next Monday's meeting with the Select Board.

The Board recessed at 7:17PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:21PM.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to find that premature general public knowledge would place the Town of Brandon at a substantial disadvantage by revealing its negotiating strategy.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:22PM to discuss the Town's pending labor relation agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal employees Local 1201 Council 93, per 1 VSA (313)(a)(1) for labor relations agreements with employees, to include the Town Manager. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 7:48PM. There were no actions required.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:50PM for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 VSA (313)(a)(3). **The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:04PM. There were no actions required.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Cecil-Reniche Smith to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:05PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary