

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
February 26, 2024**

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, Sandy Mayo, Steve Bessette, Bernie Carr, Ralph Ethier, Steven Jupiter, Doug Bailey, Susan Benedict, Barry Varian, Dorothea Langevin, Jack Schneider, Karen Rhodes, Paula Ashley

Others in Attendance via Zoom: Bruce Jenson, Sue Gage, Adam Murach, Marielle Blais

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Tracy Wyman – Board Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approval of Minutes

a) Select Board Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to approve the Select Board minutes of February 12, 2024. **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.

Seth Hopkins advised there was a project tracker and paving analysis provided in the Board packet. As an update for the North Street Bridge, the engineers have indicated they accomplished what they could but are having trouble with cost estimates. They are looking at precast, traditional, and aluminum types.

Brian Coolidge thanked Mr. Hopkins for following up on the items from the last meeting. Mr. Coolidge requested additional information regarding the lampposts to be repaired. Mr. Hopkins reported the driver who damaged the Franklin Street lamppost was not insured and the other driver who damaged the other lamppost did have insurance. The driver who was not insured has come into the town office and spoke to Bill Moore. Mr. Moore stated the driver would like to make arrangements to pay for the damages. Mr. Hopkins advised that singles cost \$3600 and triples cost \$6500. There is a 6-month delivery for these items and the Town will be ordering an extra one in case this happens again.

4. Rec Director's Report

Bill Moore reviewed the Recreation Report that was included in the Board packet of February 12, 2024 that is available for viewing on the Town's website.

Springtime NYC Bus trip has been planned and tickets are selling fast. The Brandon Rec will be heading to The Big Apple on May 11th. A great way to see the city without the headaches of driving yourself!

As basketball season winds down, Mr. Moore thanked the Rec volunteer coaches for their hours of work with our PK-6th grade players: PK/K: Justin Martelle, Michael Johnson, Lindsay Romano, Bill Rose. 1st/2nd: Justin Martelle, Jon Brodowski, Bill Rose. 3rd/4th: Chad Disorda, Kayla Griswold, Ron Coble, Kasandra Coble, Mitchell Reid, Cynceree Reid. 5th/6th: Heather LaPorte, Laura Miner, Tanner Romano, Jamie Buzzell, Lindsay Romano. Mr. Moore noted this program could not happen without volunteer coaches. The program will end with a tournament at OV that is hosted by the Pittsford Rec on March 3rd.

The Randy Adams Youth Baseball League held its annual directors meeting on February 8th to review rules, regulation, and dates for the upcoming baseball season. A Rutland County Youth Softball meeting will be held in early March. The Brandon Rec youth baseball/softball sign-ups opened up on February 23rd. We are looking for volunteer coaches and team sponsors; the number of which will be dictated by sign-up numbers. We anticipate having 6 T-ball, 4 Mighty-mites, 2 Minor and 1 Major baseball teams and 1 minors softball teams for the spring season. Field clean-up and volunteer days will be scheduled as the weather breaks.

Spring prep for the Rec Department included the ordering of 2 new recycled plastic picnic tables that are being purchased using funds donated by the Brandon High School Alumni Association's Mary Force Committee. These are to honor the former BHS teacher. One will be placed at Seminary Hill Park and the other will replace a wooden one located on Park Street.

There were many activities that happened at the Town Hall that included the Creepy Carnival, Family Game Night and Brandon Idol-Round 2. Ongoing weekly Town Hall activities include Akido (Mon) Adult Disc Golf Putting League (Wed) Loud & Proud Teen Rock Open Mic (Sun). The Loud and Proud Teen event's concession will benefit the OV Walking Stick Theatre.

Pickleball has added an 8th 2-hour time slot with 49 individuals having attended this free Brandon-Rec/OV partnership activity at the OV North Campus Gymnasium in the past 6 months.

5. Public Comment and Participation

Heather Nelson encouraged people to view the Lego display at the Brandon Chamber display area next to the post office. Ms. Nelson noted there are 25 entries and the Chamber was gracious to offer their space.

Brian Coolidge presented a cake brought by Sandy Mayo to Tracy Wyman for his years of service on the Select Board.

Susan Benedict was reviewing the new flood maps and noted that her property previously was in a safe zone but is now in the flood zone. The flood zone now comes all the way up River Street according to FEMA. Ms. Benedict noted concern with the sewer line that runs along the river and suggested when the Town is talking about infrastructure for Brandon that this area should be included. She wanted to bring this forward because if the water is going to come up, the sewer will have to go through the back yards on Park Street. Ms. Benedict was advised that the reason it goes along River Street is that the owners of Park Street did not want sewer lines near their homes, but noted this may have been a long time ago. She wanted to ensure the Select Board does not forget about the line that runs along the Neshobe River.

Jan Coolidge thanked Tracy Wyman for also serving on the Budget Committee and having been accessible as a Chair of the Select Board. Tracy Wyman noted there is a good field of candidates and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Doug Bailey also wanted to thank Cecil Reniche-Smith for her work on the Select Board as it has also been appreciated. Mr. Wyman stated Ms. Reniche-Smith also did a lot of work on the Planning Commission.

Sue Gage reminded everyone that a week from today the town meeting will be held upstairs in the Town Hall and on Tuesday the polls will be open at the American Legion. For anyone who wanted to vote early, they need to get their ballots in by the end of the week. The last day for mailing ballots will be Thursday.

Bill Moore reminded everyone that the OVUU annual meeting will be held this Wednesday in the OV auditorium. The annual warning is in the Town's annual report and their budget will be discussed at that time.

6. Approval of BRAVO Coordinator Appointment

Seth Hopkins advised that he met with Paula Ashley who has been the BRAVO interim coordinator. Mr. Hopkins noted that the process is such that the Town Manager is to make the appointment and the Select Board is to approve it.

Motion by Heather Nelson/Cecil Reniche-Smith to appoint Paula Ashley as the BRAVO Coordinator for a two-year term ending at Town Meeting 2026. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Tim Guiles asked Ms. Ashley what her qualifications were for this position. Ms. Ashley advised she has been a teacher for most of her life, having taught in Florida, New Mexico, and Missouri and when retiring she moved back to Vermont three years ago. She has been getting to know many people and has enjoyed the people she has met. She found out about BRAVO and noted it is a very important part of Brandon. Ms. Ashley has spoken with the Police Chief and other members. She has been through the training. Ms. Ashley noted BRAVO is looking for new volunteers.

7. Fiscal

a) Warrant – February 26, 2024 - \$1,255,846.45

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Tim Guiles to approve the warrant of February 26, 2024 in the amount of \$1,255,846.45. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Brian Coolidge requested information about The Reporter invoices for the Energy Committee. Seth Hopkins reported the bills were for the two Button-up events held in October. The bill was sent to another party and was forwarded to the Town. The billing for current items in The Reporter would be billed in March.

The Board recessed at 7:25PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:45PM.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 7:45PM for the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee to include the Town Manager per 1 V.S.A. 313(3)(a)(3).

There was discussion which resulted in Ms. Reniche-Smith withdrawing the motion and there was no executive session held.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:55PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary