

**Policy on Consideration of State & Federal Matters
TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT**

A. PURPOSE

This policy expresses the sense of the selectboard (hereinafter, "board") regarding the propriety of board discussion, board-facilitated discussion by the public during board meetings, and board action related to matters over which the board is granted no authority in the Vermont Statutes.

B. BACKGROUND

Vermont municipalities and the officers thereof are granted those powers specified by the Legislature, and no other ("Dillon's Rule").

General supervision of the affairs of the Town of Brandon belongs to its selectboard. See 24 V.S.A. § 872. The selectboard has no authority to speak for the Town on matters outside this remit. Such matters properly reside with state and federal elected officials and judges.

This policy is adopted at a time when no specific petition/motion/discussion is before the board, with a view to consider and enact a policy at a time when the board may fairly choose a dispassionate and impartial course. The board is likely to be presented with opportunities in the future to take positions on issues of varying levels of controversy, and having such a policy in place beforehand may helpfully inform the board's response upon future occasions.

Harmony is essential to efficient operation of the selectboard. Debate of controversial issues over which the board has no authority tends to undermine harmony as well as rob the board of the time it rightly devotes to matters under its purview: the efficient operation of the Town of Brandon through financial, personnel, and policy oversight.

C. POLICY

Therefore, it is the policy of the board that on matters including but not limited to the federal or state constitutions, law, or policy, which are not clearly relevant to the board's charges in statute:

- 1 the board will take neither action nor position
- 2 the board will decline requests to consider petitions or deliberate thereon
- 3 the board will not permit public debate to consume undue time at its meetings

This resolution may be waived in any instance or rescinded in its entirety by majority board vote.

ADOPTED: *Steve M. Chapman*
D.A. Bean
[Signature]
[Signature]

Signatures

02/25/2020

Date

Brandon Selectboard Policy on Consideration of State & Federal Matters

A true record made this 25 day of

Feb 2020, A.D. at 12:30 pm

Attest: *[Signature]* Brandon Town Clerk