

**Brandon Selectboard Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 26, 2025 @ 7PM
Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont**

Zoom Meeting ID	253 279 4161
Zoom Link	https://zoom.us/j/2532794161
Telephone Option	Dial (929) 205-6099. Enter Meeting ID 253 279 4161 # then # again

- 1 Call to Order & Agenda Adoption
- 2 Selectboard Members' Remarks
- 3 Recurring Matters
 - a Selectboard minutes — May 12, 2025
 - b Warrant — May 26, 2025
- 4 Town Manager's Report
- 5 Community Development Report
- 6 Request for Tier 1B Designation for Brandon (Act 181 / Act 250)
- 7 Town Report Appropriation Request Info
- 8 Award purchase of new cruiser following sealed bid process
- 9 Selectboard statement regarding ethics report
- 10 Summer 2025 Road Paving Plan and Funding
- 11 Public Comment and Participation
- 12 Adjourn

**Brandon Select Board Meeting
May 12, 2025**

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

Board Members In Attendance: Doug Bailey, Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Jeff Haylon

Others In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Peter Franzoni, Jack Schnieder, Steven Jupiter, Karen Rhodes, Denise Franzoni, Patricia Welch, Sue Gage, Ettorinia Spazzano, Frank Spazzano, Janet Coolidge, Thomas White, Barbara Smith-White, Jon Peterson, Faith Daya, Bob Clark, Paula Ashley, Jim Leary, Todd Nielson, Beate Ankjaer-Jensen, Kate Schirmev-Smith, Brent Buehler, Barbara Richard, Carmel Caney, Kathy Clark, Molly Kennedy, Ken McFarland, Lauren Thomas, Steven Thomas, Zoe Armao, Tessa Cattermak, Matt Craig, Ryan Woods, Carl Zunnell, Barbara Richardson, Laurel Carey, Andrew Cliver, Vicki Disorda, Barry Varian, Bianca, Matt Drake

Others by Zoom: Neil Silins, Mary Long, Jessica Doos, Keith Whitcomb

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Doug Bailey at 7:03PM.

a) Agenda Adoption – Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Jeff Haylon to adopt the agenda, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Move Item 10 regarding proposed resolution to immediately following Item 2.

2. Select Board Members' Remarks

Doug Bailey reminded the attendees that there is a large crowd and to treat everyone with respect and keep remarks polite and kind, as there are differences of opinion. For the record and zoom attendees, anyone wishing to speak must go to the podium and state their name due to an experiment with AI notetaking for potential savings of money at a later time. Cecil Reniche-Smith stated when someone is speaking, please address any questions to the Select Board. Mr. Bailey will call people forward to speak at the podium. Ms. Reniche-Smith also advised people to wait to get to the podium before starting to speak for those on zoom to hear.

10. Proposed Resolution Regarding Due Process and the Constitutional Rights of all Brandon Residents

Sue Gage, Brandon resident and Town Clerk, requested this resolution be forwarded to the Board for consideration. It was sent to the Board members and her by Peter Franzoni. Ms. Gage read the following:

"Dear Brandon Select Board Members...I respectfully submit the attached resolution for your review and support. This resolution seeks to reaffirm the Board's commitment to the Vermont Constitution and the Constitution of the United States- specifically, their guarantees of due process, safety, and fairness for all individuals. It is symbolic in nature. I understand the statutory limitations of your elected position, but sometimes we are called as elected officers to reaffirm our commitments, especially when it sends a message to our constituents that we respect them, we are committed to their safety and we morally oppose any steps that compromise their rights and privileges within our town and within our state.

The Vermont Constitution explicitly recognizes that every person possesses "certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights," including the right to pursue "happiness and safety". Article 7 states that government is established for the "common benefit, protection, and security of the people," and Article 4 guarantees that "every person within this state" is entitled to seek legal remedies and obtain justice "promptly and without delay." Furthermore, Article 9 protects every individual's right "to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property." These principles collectively make clear that the right to safety and justice is guaranteed to all who reside in Brandon, and in Vermont, regardless of status.

The U.S. Constitution reinforces this mandate through the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits any state from depriving "any person" of life or liberty without due process of law, or denying any person equal protection under the law. Originally

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ratified to extend protections to formerly enslaved individuals, the Fourteenth Amendment embodies the foundational principle that liberty and justice must apply to all persons-without exception.

These constitutional provisions place an affirmative duty on government to protect all residents from harm. Vermont law further affirms that public officers are "trustees and servants" of the people, accountable to them in their official duties. There is no constitutional justification for limiting the right to bodily security based on immigration status or membership in any other marginalized group.

The principles of the Fourteenth Amendment and Vermont's founding documents remind us that safety is not a privilege, but a right essential to liberty and justice. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Select Board to adopt the attached resolution and, in doing so, reaffirm its solemn oath to uphold these constitutional obligations. Adopting this resolution will send a clear message that Brandon stands firmly in support of the constitutional rights and dignity of all who call our town home.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely, Sue Gage, Town Clerk and Treasurer"

Cecil Reniche-Smith asked if this is the original draft and Ms. Gage confirmed that this was the original draft submitted.

Jon Peterson noted he has been a teacher for 50 years and sees the current events through history. Mr. Peterson stated many states with the urging of municipalities passed personal liberty laws that stated people are entitled to due process. Given this became Vermont law and Brandon's active participation in anti-slavery, this is consistent with the traditions and history of our Town and the State of Vermont to support this resolution.

Peter Franzoni, a Rutland citizen, thanked the Town for allowing him to speak. His family immigrated from Italy and his grandfather was the first Vermont detective. Mr. Franzoni has helped many children and families in the area in a position that he held and has spent many years with the people of this community and considers this Town part of his home. He is a veteran and is proud of his service and has been of service to many veterans and it has been his honor to assist them, especially the combat veterans and noted he is humbled by his interactions with those individuals. Mr. Franzoni stated we have due process in America and do not disappear our citizens or anyone from America. We are asking the local boards to assure that our veterans sacrifice meant something. The constitution is the basis of the law. Mr. Franzoni recited the Preamble to the Constitution: *"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."* He noted when they wrote that they could have put what they wanted in the beginning but said everyone that was in America at that time and everyone after them. He noted that without our constitution there is no justice or liberty. If we are removing the rules, it could happen to everyone. He noted a federal agent could take you away and you could not call anyone, and if there is no due process you can't prove what you are being accused of. In DC, it is all about money. Everyone is scared on both sides of the isle, and they have us all hating each other. He asked the Select Board to pledge to a simple resolution.

Jan Coolidge suggested the Select Board table this discussion if the resolution was changed from what was posted. Cecil Reniche-Smith advised it had not been changed from the original one proposed.

Zoe Armao stated she has been a Brandon resident for 4 years and both of her boys were born here. Her family are immigrants and she is a first generation from Poland. Her grandmother was 6 years old when Hitler died and history is not that far behind us. Her relatives lived in Nazi occupied Poland and she understands what they lived. What we are seeing is how they were living, in fear. We are afraid of what is going to happen. This was a real experience with her mother growing up in government-issued condos. They were not allowed to speak ill of the government. Due process can be taken away and both her mother and grandmother are terrified as green card holders. This resolution is a small part starting on a town level, and putting pen to paper is a small step for people. She asked the Select Board to please let this be a moment because history and your townspeople will look kindly on you.

Bianca, a resident of Brandon, advised she became a naturalized citizen in 1986 and is approaching the age of 65. She called the Social Security office and was advised that she had to prove she was an American citizen. They said that she never contacted them in 1986 so that made her realize that if she had been stopped by ICE they could have taken her away without

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due process as she would not have been able to prove her citizenship with the document she had at home. She is sure that DOGE has her information and she could have disappeared. She stated this can happen to people in our Town and asked the Select Board to do the right thing and make sure the people of Brandon know that the Select Board has their back.

Ken McFarland, a resident of Brandon, supported everything that has been said and appreciated the comments. He asked the Select Board to adopt the resolution and thanked them for their service.

Cecil Reniche-Smith asked if everyone has read the resolution and it was confirmed that they have. She thanked Mr. Franzoni and Sue Gage for bringing it to their attention. As a general rule, the Select Board tries to keep out of things that are not in our sandbox and not address state or federal issues and have a policy to that affect that could be waived. This is on par with the declaration of inclusion and the Select Board recently adopted an amended version. The resolution is simply stating what should be the obvious that the constitution of United States and Vermont applies to everything we do and guarantees life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and due process. We may have questions about parts of the resolution but she does not see this as overstepping and the Board wants to be on the right side of history. There is a phrase that history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.

Jeff Haylon thanked all who were in attendance. He has not been on the Select Board very long and this is a big thing. He agreed with the resolution but also thought the Select Board and State should stay in their own sandboxes. He stated that one of his mentors would say it is time for shepherds and not sheep and if a vote is called, he intended to vote yes for this.

Ralph Ethier agreed with everything but thought that the Town should write its own resolution.

Claire Astone asked if the vote would be done in public and she did think it is worth re-inventing the wheel. In terms of what was read, it sounds familiar to people who have studied the constitution. She thought what was written was beautiful and she liked the comment about shepherds as people are scared and she hopes the Select Board vote will be open and she appreciates the Select Board's service.

Doug Bailey noted he had numerous conversations about this subject and appreciates all that has been said. It has been his feeling we play in a small sandbox and want to do things that are good for Brandon and the Board doesn't get involved in state or federal areas. In talking with Ms. Reniche-Smith, he suggested a change to the document and his feeling was the document has many bullet points and defines it as anti-administration. He had suggested taking out the second whereas and removing about the current administration messing up. Once that administration is gone, the Town is tied to this, however, if there is a motion for the original resolution, he will support it. He noted he really tries hard to keep state and federal politics out of this room, but this is a case where things are amiss.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Jeff Haylon that the Select Board adopt the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the United States Constitution guarantees due process, equal protection, and fundamental rights to all persons regardless of citizenship, immigration status, race, religion, or political belief; and

WHEREAS, recent action by federal authorities, including the detention of legal residents in Vermont without clear justification or timely access to legal counsel, represent a dangerous escalation of government overreach and a violation of these constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, history has shown that when the rights of any group are violated, it opens the door for similar abuses to be carried out against others-first against immigrants, then against dissenters, and eventually against anyone who does not conform to the views of those in power; and

WHEREAS, the silence of public officials in the face of such abuses amounts to complicity, and failure to act now will only embolden those who seek to dismantle the rule of law and divide our communities through fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Select Board of the Town of Brandon unequivocally condemns all violations of due process and the weaponization of government power over any individuals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Brandon affirms its unwavering commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of all people in our town, regardless of citizenship status, national origin, political belief, or any other identity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brandon Select Board pledges to oppose any policy or action- local, state, or federal- that targets individuals based on who they are, where they come from, or what they believe, and to defend Brandon as a community rooted in justice, accountability, and the equal dignity of all.”

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Recurring Matters

a) Select Board Minutes – April 28, 2025

Motion by Jeff Haylon/Cecil Reniche-Smith to approve the meeting minutes of April 28, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b) Warrant – May 12, 2025 - \$152,943.89

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Jeff Haylon to approve the warrant in the amount of \$152,943.89. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. 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 provided the following highlights from his report:

Sanderson bridge will be closed on weekdays at some point for repair. Naylor/Breen is waiting for a large beam and the bridge will be closed to allow people to work.

There are no signs, including temporary or sandwich, permitted in Central Park as it is a very active place and more distractions are not in the best interest of public safety. Larry Stevens, the Town’s Code Enforcement Officer, may provide information for other areas around town.

Mr. Hopkins sent out an RFP for the waterfall and a bid request for the police cruiser. The Town did not receive the grant for Class 2 paving funds. The funds requested exceeded the amount they could provide as they are distributed by an equity formula. Two years ago, the Town received six figure funding, a smaller amount last year, and this year nothing, but will be in a better position next year.

Mr. Hopkins met with Jeremy Disorda about Class 3 roads to pave this year. His estimates would be the Town Farm Road from where they stopped work north that would be about \$160,000 to resurface and Wheeler Road from the bridge to the end of paving at Richmond Road would be about \$230,000. Mr. Hopkins also met with Sue Gage and reviewed the 1% Local Option Tax fund. The quarterly distribution of \$66,000 was received and with that amount the fund is approximately \$480,000. The Board did commit to making the annual payment for the highway truck that will be \$25,000 per year and also the grant match for Union Street.

Regarding delinquent taxes, since July 2024 the Town has collected \$163,123.90. Since the attorney letter, the Town had the largest month with \$33,840 and the number of properties for tax sale that had been 74 is now 33 properties.

Kudos to Sue Gage in being on the Town Clerk’s Honor Role. Thanks to Jim Leary for coordinating a successful Green-Up Day. Mr. Hopkins also noted the Police Chief has hired Emily Taylor for the temporary part-time position. She grew up in Brandon and Mr. Hopkins extended a welcome as part of the staff.

Mr. Hopkins provided the Select Board an evaluation of the 2016 SUV that Gerard Lowell spoke about. Mr. Hopkins requested the Select Board discuss this as old business and let him know whether to retain it given the work required or authorize him to auction it off.

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Tanner Romano has resigned as a Trustee of Public Funds. His term was to expire of March 2026. Mr. Hopkins suggested announcing the vacancy and requesting letters of interest to be due next Thursday. The Board could interview interested candidates at the next Select Board meeting.

Cecil Reniche-Smith asked what additional work is needed on the SUV. Mr. Hopkins advised Gerard Lowell stated there is an exhaust problem that would cost \$2,000, a mirror in need of replacement and the rocker panels repaired at a cost of \$2,500. Ms. Reniche-Smith asked if the cost of repair is greater than the current value of the vehicle. Mr. Hopkins stated due to mileage, condition, and year it was thought to be. Doug Bailey did not think it is the safest vehicle to put a police officer in and if not needed now, he suggested putting up for auction. Mr. Hopkins noted it would be hoped to get delivery on the new cruiser around the beginning of July however some of the bids may need upfitting and that could be an additional six weeks but receipt should be by Labor Day. Ralph Ethier suggested selling the SUV at that time in case it is needed.

Doug Bailey stated it was suggested to spend \$100,000 from local option tax for paving. He asked Mr. Hopkins to provide an update of the Town's cash reserve at the next meeting to consider using some of that funding with the 1% tax money to get one of the two roads paved. He would prefer doing one road from start to finish rather than doing a partial. Mr. Hopkins stated every report has a snapshot and the fund balance does not change. There is some accounting that has to be done and he will ask the bookkeeper and treasurer to do an update. Mr. Bailey would like to see where the funding is at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hopkins noted it will be important to be able to go out to bid soon.

Jeff Haylon asked the status of the roof repair for the town hall. Mr. Hopkins advised it is expected the staging will start this week. The lower entrance will remain open and they will extend the porch towards Route 7. The front door entrance may not be able to be used. Bill Moore stated the Summer Concert Series that started at the Gazebo has decided to make the town hall its rain location, so those could be impacted. It was also noted the parking spaces next to the town hall are not going to be accessible.

Brent Buehler asked if there is a warning system on the Sanderson Bridge. Mr. Hopkins advised he has talked with the State wetlands division about making a broader turn around on the town side of the bridge. He will work with Jeremy Disorda and Chief Kachajian on this subject. There has been discussion about a telephone pole that swings but will depend on the insurance company. Mr. Buehler also thanked Mr. Hopkins for his presentation to the Trustees of Public Funds.

Claire Astone asked about Wheeler Road and Town Farm Road as they are great places to bike and people drive fast on pavement and many neighbors complain about traffic. Once it is paved, she is concerned about the traffic speed and suggested perhaps speed bumps should be put in. Doug Bailey stated there was a speed bump proposed in another part of the Town and the snowplows were severely damaged from it. Mr. Hopkins advised this is topping not new pavement.

Karen Rhodes stated Jane Young, Faith Guyette and she prepared a document for the Select Board to review regarding the trust. There are some suggestions as to how to look at distributions. Ms. Rhodes distributed the document to the Board and requested they read it and report back to the citizens that have questions. Ms. Rhodes noted she could be reached at Kjmc2@comcast.net.

5. Community Development Report

Bill Moore provided the following Community Development Report:

"The summer programming is heating up with some new and not-new offerings:

- Summer Softball will be offered again this year. With a 7-week season that starts in June, girls entering grades 7 - 9 will play home games at Otter Valley. This is a partnership with Pittsford Rec.

- Thanks to another partnership a weekly summer wrestling clinic featuring instructors from the nationally ranked Vermont State University- Castleton program will be on tap at Otter Valley. This is a partnership with the Parents of Wrestling Booster Club. Starts June 17th.

- An outdoor camp with adventure photographer, Josh Hummel, is a first-year offering being held at Estabrook Park July 28 - August 1.

- Still to be announced (Lego Robotics, Branbury Arts Camps, Basketball Camp, Football Camp)

The Brandon Vermont Coed Softball League started their league schedule on May 11th. 8 teams of adults will be playing at Estabrook Park on Sundays through August 24th. This past week was their first week. It had moved to Addison County and has now come back to Brandon. We are excited that adults will be using the field.

On May 25th, in partnership with The Brandon Museum at the Stephen A Douglas Birthplace, we will host a free showing of "Death in the Wilderness: A Love Story" with a Q&A session with filmmaker/historian/professor Dr. Kevin Thornton. Brandon's beautiful flower girl ceremony began at least as early as 1902 and has been an unbroken annual tradition since. The history of the flower girl tradition is told in this award-winning documentary. May 26th will be the Memorial Day parade and the flower girl ceremony will be part of that.

The folks at Ex Mortis Management had to cancel their May 31st metal concert BUT Red Clover Ale Co. will be sponsoring Central NY outfit Randy Miritello and the Hop City Hellcats who are an Americana, bluegrass, honkytonk, cosmic country act with excellent songwriting, killer instrumentation, and an energetic drive. Suggested donation of \$10 at the door to benefit the Town Hall. Doors open at 6:30pm."

Mr. Moore advised Mr. Hopkins and he met with VTrans and discovered that the match for the Union Street project would be an 80/20 match that would provide the Town with more funds.

Matt Drake, a resident of Union Street, questioned what the Union Street project consist of. It was noted this would be sidewalk replacement where Segment 6 ended to the railroad tracks and connection to the storm water on both sides of the street. Mr. Drake stated the speeding is bad on Union Street, urged the Board to consider some kind of reminder like the sign that tells how fast they are going and add a camera that could be taken to the Police with photo evidence. In terms of the sidewalk, Brandon is a walkable town if you are in the center. He would suggest a loop that would continue what has been proposed to go to the bottom of the hill. A walking path could be created from Union Street to Maple Street, which would be a benefit to the entire community.

Brent Buehler asked how many participants were in the Witches Walk. Bill Moore thought there were 20 participants. Mr. Buehler also agreed with Mr. Drake about the speed.

6. Appoint Emergency Management Director (Seth Hopkins) and Coordinator (Jeff Haylon) Through Next LEMP Adoption

Seth Hopkins reported he completed a course and is a certified management director. Mr. Hopkins spoke with Jeff Haylon who is willing to take on the education and the role as coordinator.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Cecil Reniche-Smith to appoint Seth Hopkins as the Emergency Management Director and Jeff Haylon as the Coordinator through the next LEMP adoption. **The motion passed – Jeff Haylon recused from voting.**

7. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Update and Adoption

Seth Hopkins provided the required part of the update in the packet and noted it is a light process to update. There was a cover-to-cover revision done 3 years ago and every 5th year it should have a thorough review. The update is for elected officers and department head changes and is a lot of the Town's state reimbursement for public works.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Ralph Ethier to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan as updated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Proposed Town Highway Service Contract with Town of Goshen

Seth Hopkins advised this was an arrangement requested by the Goshen Road foreman and Select Board Chair through Jeremy Disorda. Mr. Disorda and Mr. Hopkins weighed the pros and cons and the amount of work to be done by Brandon staff is limited and is specific, and it is further specified if scheduling is not convenient, it won't be done. Mr. Hopkins contacted the Town's insurance company and they indicated there is sufficient liability insurance and no extra coverage is needed. This agreement is an interlocal contract and is a one-year contract that is renewable for one-year terms and adjustments could be made to the labor and equipment rates. Mr. Disorda does not think this will compromise services for Brandon. They are asking for one street sweeping of paved roads, one roadside mowing in summer, and a dirt road grading in spring, summer, and fall. The Town's grader is the top of the line and our crew is good at using it and their grader is aged and not effective to use. Goshen has a lot of drainage issues to work on and Brandon's equipment is suited to take care of the jobs outlined.

Cecil Reniche-Smith stated during the periods when a Brandon employee is working in Goshen, will their schedule be adjusted to not incur overtime. Mr. Hopkins advised this is intended to be an assignment of the employee's work week. Jeff Haylon stated if Mr. Disorda thinks it will work, he does not see it an issue. Mr. Hopkins stated Goshen will provide some benefits and pay equipment time where there would normally be no revenue when the equipment is not being used.

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Cecil Reniche-Smith to approve the Town Highway Service contract with the Town of Goshen. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Neil Silins questioned if it would be the Town's or Goshen's insurance when the employee and equipment are working in Goshen. Mr. Hopkins stated the Town's insurer indicate the Town's insurance is sufficient and no extra is needed to work in the Town of Goshen. Mr. Hopkins also noted Goshen was voting on this subject tonight and if approved by both towns, it could start immediately.

9. Participation in FY26 Grants-in-Aid Municipal Roads General Permit

Mr. Hopkins reported this has been done successfully in the past. The State divides the town roads into segments and shows what roads are well drained or poorly drained and assist in getting grades up to standard. This is about hydrologically connected roads and the Town's match is in-kind work with no cash layout with a reimbursement from the State of an 80/20 match.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to approve participation in the FY26 Grants-in-Aid Municipal Roads General Permit as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

11. Public Comment and Participation

Seth Hopkins stated the Trustees of Public Funds inquired about using the Town's attorney to get a reading of the will. He communicated with the town's attorney as he did not want a conflict of interest and the attorney concurred that it would be. The Trustees have been advised that the attorney recommend seeking alternate counsel.

Brent Buehler stated the Trustees don't agree with Mr. Hopkin's assessment and continue the debacle and he hoped that the Select Board will institute Article 3 in the Conflict-of-Interest document to answer questions and if they are not in agreement to go to Article 4 and ask for resignations. He noted Mr. Romano's resignation indicated they raised \$300,000 of the fund, but Mr. Buehler stated they didn't do that. In questions about the VCC for \$10,000, it was indicated it was used for architectural services and bonding, and that is not feasibility study, and there is no accountability for this. He also requested the Trustees add to the next agenda \$20,000 for the water sampling at the sewer plant. They said that he could bring it up but not add it to that agenda. Also, in Mr. Romano's resignation, it indicated that Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Reniche-Smith and Mr. Haylon were going to clear their names. Mr. Buehler hoped the Select Board would support Mr. Hopkins to use the funds for what they were meant to be used for. If the sewer treatment plant does not have a name, it should be the Shirley Farr treatment plant.

Cecil Reniche-Smith stated the Town's Conflict of Interest policy does not apply to the Trustee of Public Fund's interpretation of the Shirley Farr trust. Whether their decisions are correct may be a question but it is not covered by that policy. There are concerns about decisions they have made, but they are not conflicts of interest. One possibility the Town could follow is the option of seeking a declaratory judgment but is usually for disputes over contracts. It is not technically a

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lawsuit but it is a binding decision but she was not sure if it should or could be discussed as it was something that Mr. Romano mentioned in his letter. Mr. Hopkins clarified he is not speaking for the Trustees on their position, but he is trying to prevent a conflict of representation. He stated it would be bad to use public money to fight the Trustees, but he does not know what their position will be. It is hoped that an independent counsel will agree that the Town is the owner of the trust.

Claire Astone stated this matter is important to many people in the community. She thinks it was a big charade with the community center and the Town should not be in a battle over the money left for this Town. The Town can't get the money that it requests and she thought there was another payout for the Energy Committee. She does not understand why SolarFest got \$20,000 for a pathway through the swamp. That benefits SolarFest and not the people of Brandon. The school already has a \$28 million budget and they are getting athletic funding and the Town can't keep giving away money when it is not what the money was intended for. She wants people to be held accountable and is glad that Tanner Romano resigned. She did not agree with the Trustees asking to use the Town's attorney. Seth Hopkins stated the legal expenses of the Trust can be used for the Trustees of Public Funds. Ms. Astone thinks we need to stand on principle and these are citizens that the community does not have trust in.

Vicki Disorda has concerns about Mr. Romano's resignation letter with the sentence about Ms. Reniche-Smith and Mr. Haylon clearing his name. She is concerned about promises being made with an ethics violation that has not been resolved and board members making promises. She also has concerns about relations as a Trustee of the Public Library. She noted there was also a boundary line adjustment on February 10th that mentioned 2 parcels and the second parcel belonged to the Workforce Housing LCC which is registered to one of the Trustees. She reminded the Board about the Vermont constitution, Article 7. Cecil Reniche-Smith stated no promises were made in the conversations while investigating the complaint. They interviewed Ms. Minor and Mr. Romano. She can't control what Mr. Romano can say or think. She stated a report will be written with their findings. Jeff Haylon noted he was shocked and concerned about that postscript but no commitments were made. Doug Bailey stated with regard to the boundary line adjust previously brought up, it was a boundary line error and did not change the boundary lines of the company in question and the property went with the property the Humane Society obtained. Mr. Moore stated there is no massive conspiracy to enrich Tanner Romano. Mei Mei Brown, who previously worked for Act 250, discovered this property that was thought to be the Town's, but had been taken care of by the prior owner of the property. The Town had no plans to do anything with that land and the boundary line adjustment was made when the Humane Society was taking over the property. There was no enrichment and the idea that Ms. Disorda thinks that level exists is absurd. Ms. Disorda stated she knows the property involved Workforce Housing LLC in the original presentation and this is a friendly reminder. You are only as strong as your weakest member and your weakest member are the Trustees of Public Funds. She hopes that holding everyone accountable is essential for the community to have confidence. She would like to trust that everything is on the up and up. She does not have a problem with the land going to the Humane Society. Doug Bailey stated the Brandon Select Board has had zero input on the Trustees who are elected officials by the voters. The Select Board got involved due to the ethics complaint but the Select Board cannot tell them what to do. They have never been advised by the Town in the past and the Select Board is trying to move forward. Under Vermont law if there is money given to a town, there has to be trustees appointed and the citizens of Brandon elected them. Ms. Disorda stated at the Trustees meeting, Mr. Bailey told them to hang in there and she felt that the community were the bad guys. Mr. Bailey stated a year ago the Select Board was under duress and they worked on the items of concern. The Trustees are not accustomed to having meetings with many people and he was allowing them the wisdom he has from being on the Select Board for 10 years. Everyone has their own opinion and he will be happy when it is resolved.

Brent Buehler stated it is admirable to admit when mistakes are made. Mr. Hopkins had outlined it is the Town's money and should be used for sewer and sanitation and the application for funds should come through him. Mr. Hopkins hoped the Select Board would support Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Buehler noted they have tabled everything until they could consult an attorney and if they are unsure about their mission, they should not disperse another \$10,000 to SolarFest in July. We are now paying attention and they need to admit they made a mistake.

Ms. Reniche-Smith advised the Select Board can't control how the Trustees disperse the funds, as it is their elected job. The Town can submit requests but the only way to fight them would be to use taxpayer money and take them to court.

Jan Coolidge stated the Town has a conflict of interest and ethics policy and there is a link to the Trustees of Public Funds on the Town's website. Their positions are voted on the Town's ballot so why do they not fall under the Town. Ms. Reniche-Smith stated the policies do fall under the Town, but the decisions they make are not conflict of interest and are their fiduciary responsibilities and the conflict-of-interest policy can't be used to go after their funding decisions. If there is a

decision that financially benefits one of them, that is when it falls under the conflict of interest. Ms. Reniche-Smith noted the State statute gives them their authority. Doug Bailey advised the Trustees report in the Town Report every year of what they have reviewed and whether they have funded or not funded.

Karen Rhodes stated at the last Trustee meeting, Mr. Hopkins stated taxpayer money could be saved if their funds were used for sewer or mosquito spraying. She suggested defending the Trust and maintain a safe and sanitary community.

Claire Astone stated there is not a lot of common sense with a \$12 million community center that had monthly fees and would add to the property taxes. The VCC is not incorporated or is a non-profit and there is the possibility of construction where they will make money. Doug Bailey stated the entire VCC item was put to bed. Ms. Astone stated the entire meeting was kept under wraps and this does not allow people to play both sides of the isle and to say there is no foul play is blind. Ms. Astone stated she is worried about Naylor/Breen and the contracts that the Town is providing them. Mr. Moore stated regarding the workforce housing project it is common practice to create an LLC to make things happen to be able to apply for funds. Mr. Romano was looking to build workforce housing for the area. Ms. Astone stated that if Naylor/Breen or Mr. Romano's name comes up, she is going to look closely. She thanked Mr. Hopkins for his statement last week. Mr. Hopkins stated the Trustees have to keep the money safe and optimize return and if the Town asks for funding in line with the bequest, they should meet it. They have an obligation to tell the Town no if it was to request funds to buy a police car, but if the Town needs wastewater sampling equipment they should say yes. Ms. Astone stated Mr. Romano is the kind of person that thinks he can threaten people and we are not afraid of him. When people come with a lot of money and are getting breaks, it is not okay.

Neil Silins asked if the Trustees are covered by the same conflict of interest policy. Cecil Reniche-Smith stated they are covered under the Town's policies but a lot of the decisions that are questionable and concerning go to the interpretation of the will and is not covered by the conflict-of-interest policy but may be an issue of fiduciary duties and is not something the Select Board can act on or investigate. Doug Bailey stated in the code of ethics, it would be for someone benefiting or a perceived conflict of interest and that is harder to define and clarify.

Faith Daya encouraged the Board to go back in time and read the minutes as they were in violation with the open meeting law. She thinks the Town be it the Select Board, should have a responsibility of how the funds are spent. It is a mandated committee but Shirley Farr's wishes need to be met and the spending that happened is in violation of the trust.

Vicki Disorda stated that their minute taking is very transparent. She thinks the offense is real and to the conspiracy theory, it appears clear. Ms. Disorda read the boundary line adjustment motion. Ms. Reniche-Smith stated the motions have to be detailed.

The Board recessed the meeting at 9:24PM.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brian Coolidge to enter into executive session at 9:35PM in accordance with 1V.S.A.313(a)(3) regarding the evaluation of a public officer. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board came out of executive session at 10:12PM.

In a previous executive session, the Select Board suggested a letter updating the community on the status of police hiring and have approved that for publication.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Ralph Ethier to approve the letter updating community on status of police hiring. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adoption of the report concerning Tanner Romano and Laura Miner of the Trustees of Public Funds was discussed by the Select Board. A copy will be immediately sent to the complainants, Tanner Romano, and Laura Miner, to be released publicly 24 hours later.

Motion by Cecil Reniche-Smith/Ralph Ethier to adopt the report concerning Tanner Romano and Laura Miner of the Trustees of Public Funds. **The motion passed unanimously.**

13. Adjournment

Brandon Select Board Meeting

May 12, 2025

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Jeff Haylon to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 10:16PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

05/23/25

01:31 pm

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Vendor	Invoice Date	Invoice Description Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
100015	ALLEN ENGINEERING & CHEMI	05/21/25 chlorine	20-5-55-50120	4139.00	3021	05/26/25
		112-50619401	Sodium Hypochlorite			
311015	BEN'S UNIFORMS	05/06/25 pants for DK #95	10-5-14-10320	92.30	3022	05/26/25
		211054	Clothing Allowance			
100245	BRANDON AREA CHAMBER OF C	05/14/25 appropriation	10-5-21-75100	2000.00	3023	05/26/25
		DDBA MAY	Designated Downtown			
100255	BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT #1	05/14/25 appropriation	10-2-00-02136	84400.00	3024	05/26/25
		MAY 2025	Fire District Payable			
311248	BRANDON GLC SOLAR LLC	05/19/25 monthly solar:4/3- 5/5/25	10-5-22-42200	3107.72	3025	05/26/25
		4220 B	Solar Credit Exp-BFD			
311248	BRANDON GLC SOLAR LLC	05/19/25 monthly solar:4/3- 5/5/25	10-5-22-42130	1427.22	3025	05/26/25
		4220 B	Bldgs & Grounds Electric			
311248	BRANDON GLC SOLAR LLC	05/19/25 monthly solar:4/3- 5/5/25	20-5-55-42130	126.76	3025	05/26/25
		4220 B	Electric			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/12/25 covers	10-5-22-43090	5.98	3026	05/26/25
		91878/3	PD Bldg Maint.			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/13/25 contact for asphalt drag	10-5-15-46110	20.78	3026	05/26/25
		91938/3	Paving Roads			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/13/25 American flag	10-5-22-43100	41.99	3026	05/26/25
		91948/3	Town Office			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/13/25 keys	10-5-18-30070	11.97	3026	05/26/25
		92063/3	Little League Expenses			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/15/25 painting supplies	10-5-22-43160	207.54	3026	05/26/25
		92530/3	Parks Maint.			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/15/25 painting supplies	10-5-22-43160	249.77	3026	05/26/25
		92593/3	Parks Maint.			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/16/25 painting supplies	10-5-22-43160	96.33	3026	05/26/25
		92646/3	Parks Maint.			
100280	BRANDON LUMBER & MILLWORK	05/21/25 brooms	10-5-18-30070	20.97	3026	05/26/25
		93565/3	Little League Expenses			
300967	BRANDON, TOWN OF	05/14/25 Closing-purchase park	56-5-21-30100	2908.15	3015	05/14/25
		5/14/25	W Seminary Park purchase			
311252	BRISCOE FRANK JR	05/14/25 Closing-purchase park	56-5-21-30100	20414.35	51425	05/14/25
		5/14/25	W Seminary Park purchase			
310449	BSN SPORTS LLC	05/06/25 baseball equipment	10-5-18-30070	869.78	3027	05/26/25
		929754671	Little League Expenses			
100860	CARROLL BOE PELL KITE PC	05/14/25 Closing-purchase park	56-5-21-30100	245.00	3016	05/14/25
		5/14/25	W Seminary Park purchase			
100462	CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT	05/01/25 April trucking of sludge	20-5-55-50170	2257.50	3028	05/26/25
		3140405	Trucking			
301503	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS	05/05/25 heating fuel @ HWY	10-5-22-42110	88.20	3029	05/26/25
		571030	Heating Fuel			
301503	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FUELS	05/07/25 diesel fuel	10-5-15-41130	350.35	3029	05/26/25
		571793	Fuel - Vehicles HW			
310097	COMCAST	05/02/25 service: May 9 - Jun 8	10-5-18-42100	160.64	3030	05/26/25
		EST 05/02/25	Recreation Telephone			
310097	COMCAST	05/09/25 service May 16 to Jun 15	10-5-10-42100	100.05	3031	05/26/25
		TH 05/09/25	Telephone Exp. Admin.			
310037	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	05/06/25 service: Apr 6 to May 5	10-5-15-42100	133.30	3032	05/26/25
		HWY 05/06/25	HW Telephone			

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310037	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	05/06/25	service: Apr 6 to May 5 PD 05/06/25	10-5-14-42100 PD Telephone Service	55.53	3033	05/26/25
310037	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIO	05/18/25	service: Apr 18 to May 17 TH 05/18/25	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	83.40	3034	05/26/25
100456	DUBOIS & KING INC	02/26/25	Union Sidewalk PR #22 225108	46-5-21-20120 Union Sidewalk Engineer	871.38	3035	05/26/25
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	05/14/25	portable toilet fee 98862	10-5-18-43130 Estabrook	130.00	3036	05/26/25
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	05/14/25	portable toilet fee 98862	10-5-18-60100 Seminary Hill	130.00	3036	05/26/25
300466	DUNDON PLUMBING & HEATING	05/20/25	portable toilet @ Neshobe 99044	10-5-18-30070 Little League Expenses	140.00	3036	05/26/25
100494	ENDYNE INC	05/20/25	testing 532045	20-5-55-22120 Testing	120.00	3037	05/26/25
100494	ENDYNE INC	05/22/25	testing 532283	20-5-55-22120 Testing	270.00	3037	05/26/25
300187	FLORENCE CRUSHED STONE	04/30/25	3/4 minus 5020463	10-5-15-46140 Gravel	4081.30	3038	05/26/25
100332	GAGNON LUMBER INC	05/15/25	wood chips 73954	10-5-18-43120 Parks Maintenance	360.00	3039	05/26/25
311128	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE	05/09/25	bearing grease 228269	20-5-55-41180 Maintenance-Vehicles	37.96	3040	05/26/25
311128	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE	05/14/25	connectors for trackless 228477	10-5-15-41160 HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	17.98	3040	05/26/25
311128	GREEN MOUNTAIN GARAGE	05/20/25	flute tap 228728	10-5-15-41110 New Equipment-Misc. Tools	25.49	3040	05/26/25
311254	HOLDEN, CHRISTOPHER & KAT	05/21/25	TAX OVERPAYMENT 0059-0035	10-2-00-02120 Anticipated Tax Credits	1641.36	3041	05/26/25
300600	HOLLAND COMPANY INC	05/16/25	sodium bisulfite FI-33084	20-5-55-50140 Sodium Bisulfite	2572.57	3042	05/26/25
101156	KONICA MINOLTA PREMIER FI	05/20/25	copiers 555984830	10-5-10-30130 Service Contracts	293.93	3043	05/26/25
310583	KV SBARDELLA SLATE, INC.	05/20/25	TH roof, 1/3 pymt @ start 5315	56-5-87-30500 ARPA-TH Roof exp	125865.00	3019	05/20/25
New roof as proposed: \$294,800 + plywood alt \$36,800 + masonry repointing							
\$46,000 = total contract \$377,600							
311176	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI	05/14/25	cleaning 051425	10-5-22-10130 Admin Custodian	131.25	3044	05/26/25
311176	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI	05/14/25	cleaning 051425	10-5-22-10120 PD Custodian	70.00	3044	05/26/25
311176	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI	05/21/25	cleaning 052125	10-5-22-10120 PD Custodian	78.75	3044	05/26/25
311176	LILY WHITE CLEANING SERVI	05/21/25	cleaning 052125	10-5-22-10130 Admin Custodian	227.50	3044	05/26/25
101164	MARBLE VALLEY FIRE LLC	05/14/25	extinguishers, inspection 2740	10-5-22-43100 Town Office	79.00	3045	05/26/25
101164	MARBLE VALLEY FIRE LLC	05/14/25	extinguishers, inspection 2740	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	85.00	3045	05/26/25
101164	MARBLE VALLEY FIRE LLC	05/21/25	extinguishers @ TH 2757	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	217.50	3045	05/26/25

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310630	MASTERCARD	03/31/25	toner 12142-2	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	89.48	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/07/25	mousepad 12143	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	14.98	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/07/25	refund for toner 12144	10-5-14-30110 Office Supplies	-169.50	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/21/25	top link,pin,grinder,batt 12234	10-5-15-41110 New Equipment-Misc. Tools	173.95	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/15/25	message credit-emerg text 12408	10-5-10-30150 Emergency Management	245.00	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/16/25	bike helmets-Safety Day 12409	10-5-18-40040 After School Activity	1070.00	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	199.00	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	20-5-55-41120 Safety Equipment	139.98	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-10-30130 Service Contracts	139.00	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	259.98	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-18-30110 Office/Equip. Supplies	104.99	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-18-30070 Little League Expenses	438.52	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	20-5-55-30110 Office Supplies	49.48	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-18-62000 DOG PARK EXPENDITURES	45.99	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	10-5-15-41110 New Equipment-Misc. Tools	51.45	3020	05/23/25
310630	MASTERCARD	04/01/25	monitor;dog waste bags;gloves;mop bucket;keyless door lock prime-lyr;lock;mic;bb equ 12410	20-5-55-42150 Outside Maint. - Bldgs	79.99	3020	05/23/25
301033	MOMAR INC	05/16/25	C-Cide solvent PSI616850	20-5-55-51310 Collection Systems	4152.48	3046	05/26/25
100788	NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL RES	05/08/25	Permit work,April/May-Ale 57106	10-5-11-22140 Property Assessor	1852.50	3047	05/26/25
310617	OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNIO	05/14/25	4th quarter tax portion MAY 2025	10-2-00-02137 Education Tax Payable	1309571.62	3048	05/26/25
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL LLC	05/20/25	pest control/Police Dept 42857	10-5-22-43090 PD Bldg Maint.	65.00	3049	05/26/25

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310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL LLC	05/20/25 pest control/Town Hall 42861	10-5-22-43150 Town Hall Repair/Maint.	40.00	3049	05/26/25
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL LLC	05/20/25 pest control/Town Office 42862	10-5-22-43100 Town Office	70.00	3049	05/26/25
310736	POCKETTE PEST CONTROL LLC	05/20/25 pest control/storage 42863	10-5-18-20500 Storage Unit Supply/Maint	50.00	3049	05/26/25
311251	POWERS & POWERS PC	05/14/25 Closing-purchase park 5/14/25	56-5-21-30100 W Seminary Park purchase	1052.50	3017	05/14/25
300375	RUTLAND CITY	05/16/25 Apr sludge processing 37694 SLUDG	20-5-55-50160 Sludge Disposal	6300.00	3050	05/26/25
311253	SOMERSET, TIMOTHY OR KATH	05/20/25 ach error/prop sold 7/24 0058-0006	10-2-00-03000 Tax Posting Variance	864.21	3051	05/26/25
310921	STEARNS SERVICES LLC	05/21/25 May PR processing 1291	10-5-10-30130 Service Contracts	360.00	3052	05/26/25
300592	SUBURBAN PROPANE LP	05/08/25 propane @ Town Office 549942	10-5-22-42100 Heating - Propane	276.61	3053	05/26/25
200277	THUNDER TOWING AND AUTO R	05/09/25 vehicle evaluation 8008	10-5-14-41180 PD Vehicle Maintenance	85.00	3054	05/26/25
311217	VALSOFT CORP INC DBA COTT	05/14/25 may host fee 401319	10-5-13-30123 Records Preservation	295.00	3055	05/26/25
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	05/13/25 service: Apr 14 - May 13 6113492963	10-5-14-42100 PD Telephone Service	40.44	3056	05/26/25
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	05/13/25 service: Apr 14 - May 13 6113492963	10-5-21-10310 Travel & Expenses	20.22	3056	05/26/25
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	05/13/25 service: Apr 14 - May 13 6113492963	10-5-18-42100 Recreation Telephone	20.22	3056	05/26/25
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	05/13/25 service: Apr 14 - May 13 6113492963	20-5-55-42100 Wastewater Telephone	40.44	3056	05/26/25
330348	VERIZON WIRELESS	05/13/25 service: Apr 14 - May 13 6113492963	10-5-15-42100 HW Telephone	40.44	3056	05/26/25
100019	VERMONT DEPT OF TAXES	05/14/25 Closing-purchase park 5/14/25	56-5-21-30100 W Seminary Park purchase	625.00	3018	05/14/25
310046	W B MASON CO INC	05/14/25 paper, envelopes, pens 254275375	10-5-10-30110 Office Supplies	250.99	3057	05/26/25
330427	WINNING IMAGE GRAPHIX	04/22/25 shirts 22668	10-5-18-10330 Advertising/Recruitment	320.80	3058	05/26/25
310186	WYMANS TIMBER HARVESTING	05/09/25 dumpster for Green-up INV1043	10-5-17-71440 Green-Up Day	383.93	3059	05/26/25

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	Invoice	Invoice	Description		Amount	Check	Check
Vendor	Date	Invoice	Number	Account	Paid	Number	Date

					1590770.24		
					=====		

Selectboard

To the Treasurer of TOWN OF BRANDON, We Hereby certify
that there is due to the several persons whose names are
listed hereon the sum against each name and that there
are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments
aggregating \$ *1,590,770.24
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

FOR AWARENESS OF THE COMMUNITY

There are now two vacancies on the trustees of public funds. Due to this change in situation, the Selectboard will keep open its window for applications through 4PM on Thursday, June 5th (submit to town manager via email or in person). Those interested in serving as a trustee of public funds should plan to make themselves available at 6PM on Monday, June 9th to meet individually with the Selectboard. The board may make one or both appointments as early as that evening's Selectboard meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Sbardella Slate has begun replacement of the roof on the Town Hall. We have activated the option to redeck the roof concurrent with the reslating. Sbardella will also rebuild the NW chimney and repoint all four chimneys. This will well and truly button up the Town Hall and will be our generation's contribution to this permanent monument to the value of civic and cultural life in Brandon. We have had a fire extinguisher inspection which revealed that we had insufficient extinguishers in the main auditorium, and that has now been remedied.

Work on the Sanderson Covered Bridge on Pearl Street has been delayed as the contractor awaits delivery of a large beam.

I met with Mr Wade Masure, our loss control consultant from our insurer (PACIF / VLCT) and Chief Kachajian and Officer Kelleher at the Sanderson Covered Bridge on Tuesday. We are on the right track with acceptable protective measures for this structure. I will be working with our State wetland ecologist, our highway department, our insurer, and our police department to bring a workable plan to the Selectboard, with a goal of implementation this warm weather season.

Our Wastewater team met with Adam Gamelin from the Department of Homeland Security on Friday to survey any vulnerabilities we may have in a possible cyber attack.

TOWN FINANCES

Delinquent tax collection update: The Town Treasurer has provided me the FY25 delinquent tax warrant showing \$340,633 in taxes newly delinquent. This represents what remained unpaid on May 15th when the FY25 final tax payment was due. The Town bills about \$9.6M in taxes every year, with most of that paid to the school district and a small part to the fire district and for appropriations. The portion retained by the Town is \$2.8M (as voted at Town Meeting). The number of taxpayers going to tax sale has been reduced from more than 70 to about 25.

Since July 1, 2024, the Town has collected delinquent taxes (including penalties and interest) amounting to \$181,961. Receipts since the attorney's letter of April 3rd are now \$51,676.

STAFFING

Police Chief David Kachajian will be making a conditional offer of employment to a Level 2 certified officer on Tuesday. This officer would be coming to us in a part-time capacity at first.

Highway Chief Jeremy Disorda has a verbal commitment from a well-qualified individual who may be able to start work in our highway department as early as Tuesday.

FOLLOW-UP

Our local emergency management plan updated was approved by the Vermont Department of Emergency Management.

I took part in the planning commission meeting with RRPC on May 13 and the trustees of public funds meeting of May 15. Lisa Peluso will be the planning commissioner on the workgroup that is revising the 2002 Brandon Workbook.

The trustees provided me Shirley Farr's will; Sue Gage digitized it, and I placed the page relevant to her bequest to the Town on the Trustees' page of the Town website.

Brian Kilpeck completed Goshen street sweeping and Jeremy Disorda completed the first of three seasonal Goshen road gradings under our new agreement. The next obligation we have up there is a road grading and a roadside mowing sometime after July 1st.

The 2015 police cruiser that is uninspectable due to rust did well on Municibid, with a leading bid at the time of this writing considerably more than we would have realized by scrapping. I will update the board as to the winning bid figure verbally on Monday night.

Rep. Todd Nielsen paid a visit to the town office and updated Bill and me about current Legislative action. In response to his interest in the topic, I provided him information regarding the State's municipal ethics requirements and the new problem with the state ethics commission unexpectedly suspending municipal services (both advisory opinions and receiving complaints).

Vermont's two health insurers have requested rate increases for 2026 of 13.7% for BlueCross and 7.5% for MVP. Needless to say, we will be sticking with MVP.

I had many meetings with residents, town officials, staff, a journalist, and filled a number of requests for information. Queries regarding the Shirley Farr bequest took considerable attention.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	
Unrestricted / Unassigned Fund Balance	\$482,043
1% (Local Option) Tax Fund Available / Undesignated	\$487,734
Known Grant Matches Not Yet Designated	UNION STREET (~\$200,000)
Delinquent property taxes	\$741,836 (was \$440,065)
Delinquent wastewater ([over 120 days])	\$237,879 (was \$205,465)

Respectfully submitted,



Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
10-4-09 Tax Revenues	3,185,442.00	2,962,841.69	93.01%
10-4-10 Town Administration Reven	1,750.00	1,371.59	78.38%
10-4-11 Assessor Revenues	2,000.00	2,013.00	100.65%
10-4-12 Code Enforcement Revenues	15,500.00	8,034.00	51.83%
10-4-13 Clerk/Treasurer Revenues	181,170.00	173,738.58	95.90%
10-4-14 Police Dept. Revenues	9,500.00	30,750.07	323.68%
10-4-15 Highway Dept Revenues	181,450.00	351,005.22	193.44%
10-4-17 Intergovernmental Revenue	0.00	7,718.00	100.00%
10-4-18 Recreation Revenues	76,500.00	100,664.40	131.59%
10-4-22 Bldg. & Grounds	11,800.00	43,159.27	365.76%
Total Revenues	3,665,112.00	3,681,295.82	100.44%
10-5-09 Tax Expenditures	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
10-5-10 Town Administration 10	415,005.00	405,443.94	97.70%
10-5-11 Assessor	41,190.00	25,259.18	61.32%
10-5-12 Code Enforcement 12	52,565.00	42,856.48	81.53%
10-5-13 Town Clerk 13	226,580.00	203,818.73	89.95%
10-5-14 Police Dept 14	856,400.00	761,400.47	88.91%
10-5-15 Highway 15	755,155.00	784,129.69	103.84%
10-5-17 Intergovernmental 17	255,235.00	228,823.23	89.65%
10-5-18 Recreation	186,088.20	193,405.70	103.93%
10-5-19 Debt Service 19	231,350.00	221,494.71	95.74%
10-5-21 Economic Develop. 21	50,341.00	38,293.19	76.07%
10-5-22 Bldgs. & Grounds	253,972.00	206,028.79	81.12%
10-5-25 Appropriations 25	336,230.00	324,271.74	96.44%
Total Expenditures	3,665,111.20	3,435,225.85	93.73%
Total 10 General Fund	0.80	246,069.97	
Total All Funds	0.80	246,069.97	

21/24 = 87½%



May 26, 2025

On May 14th, the Town closed on the purchase of the .74 acres that will complete the Seminary Hill Park.

On May 16th, we received the official grant award for the purchase van that will serve as a rec vehicle and eventual public transit connector. The Town will purchase a white VW ID buzz from Lundgren in Rutland.

Big thank you to Otter Valley advisories (Mr. Rose, Mr. Perta. & Ms. St. Raymond) for their work on May 16th. The stained the Thomas Overlook deck, spread wood chips at seminary and stained 10 of the 15 downtown park benches.

On June 7th, the former FOTH sponsored Silent Movie will be showing Saturday, June 7, 2025, 7 p.m.: "Underworld" (1927) starring George Bancroft, Evelyn Brent, Clive Brook. This is Director Josef von Sternberg's groundbreaking tale of big city mobsters, widely considered the father of all gangster pictures. Free Will Offering - Proceeds will support the 2026 future silent movie series.

Lego Robotics Camp is back. August 4th – 8th at the Brandon Town Hall. Registration for all programs can be found at brandonrec.com

The Upstairs of the town hall will be unavailable for use due to the Great Brandon Auction prep and sale through July 13th.

Bill Moore

TO Selectboard
DATE 22 May 2025
RE Act 181 Tier 1B Recommendation

You have had some information this winter and spring as prelude to this requested selectboard action.

On May 13, I attended the Brandon Planning Commission for their session with Logan Solomon of Rutland Regional Planning Commission on the Act 181 changes. Some key information from Logan's presentation are provided with this memo.

The Brandon Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Selectboard that the Selectboard request Tier 1B designation for Brandon.

Tier 1B represents our best opportunity to streamline the permitting process in areas where we already have density and water/wastewater infrastructure, and where we want to facilitate responsible infill growth and development, increase our housing stock, and grow the grand list. It will not contribute to sprawl. Development of this nature will sustain Vermont's historic settlement pattern of dense village centers separated by open countryside. We meet the eligibility requirements for Tier 1B.

Tier 1A is not well-suited to us, as we do not have local building inspection, design review, or required sufficient staffing in planning/zoning/administration. (Tier 2 is status quo; Tier 3 are critical natural resources areas where expanded Act 250 jurisdiction will apply — includes land at elevation in the eastern third of Brandon and the whole wetland complex in the western third — not optional.)

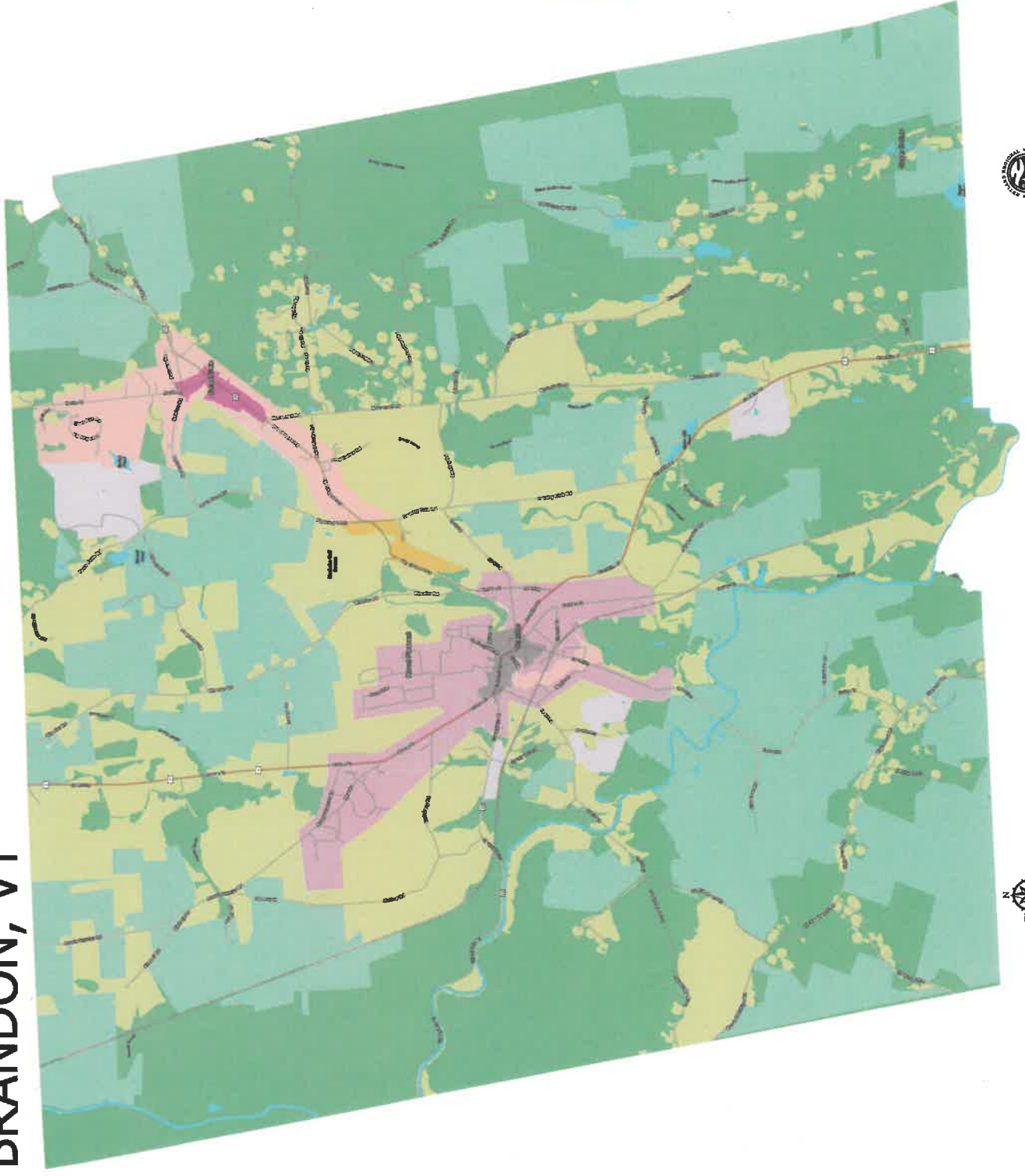
Please review the information provided by RRPC. On the map, the four areas that would be Tier 1B are the pinks and purples designated as Downtown, Village Center, Planned Growth Area, and Village Area. Essentially, these are Brandon village and immediate environs and Forest Dale village and immediate environs. There are Enterprise areas marked on the map (Alta Woods in the south; gravel pit in the northeast) that would not fall within Tier 1B scope. Those would still be Act 250 areas as currently administered.

I recommend the Selectboard vote to request Tier 1B designation for Brandon as part of the provisions of Act 181 related to modernization of land use to foster the intentional and thoughtful future growth of Brandon.

Respectfully submitted,



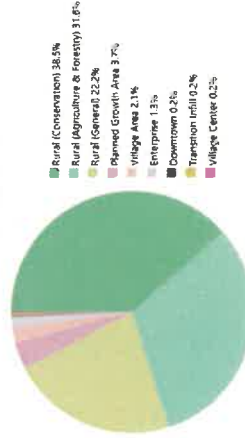
DRAFT REGIONAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP BRANDON, VT



Legend

- Downtown
- Village Center
- Planned Growth Area
- Village Area
- Transition Infill
- Enterprise
- Rural (General)
- Rural (Agriculture & Forestry)
- Rural (Conservation)
- Water

Brandon % of Land Area





Act 181 for Municipalities

Act 181, passed into law in June 2024, overhauls Vermont's land use planning framework. It aims to uphold the state's long-standing goal of planning development that maintains Vermont's historic settlement pattern, characterized by compact downtowns and village centers surrounded by rural countryside. However, it modernizes how Vermont directs public investments to designated areas and accelerates the transition of Act 250 to location-based jurisdiction.

NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES

Act 181 defines 11 new land use categories to guide development by designating areas for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors. Four land use categories - Downtowns, Village Centers, Planned Growth Areas, and Village Areas - coordinate with the State Designation Program and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction areas. See pages 1-3 for more information on the new land use categories.

REGIONAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP

All regional planning commissions must use the new land use categories to create a Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Map. The Map was developed using a standardized statewide methodology and will be used to determine areas eligible for the State Designation Program and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction.

NEW STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAM

All areas currently enrolled maintain benefits. The Regional FLU Map shows areas eligible for:

Center Designation

Downtown & Village Center

Neighborhood Designation

Planned Growth Area & Village Area

The Designation Program is designed to encourage new development and redevelopment in these compact, designated areas. Benefits and incentives are for public and private sectors within the designated area.

See pages 4-5 for more information on the program's benefits and incentives.

LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

Location-based Act 250 jurisdiction means reducing or eliminating Act 250 permitting in areas planned for growth and increasing Act 250 permitting in critical natural resource areas that lack suitable State-level review and protection.

Tier 1A & 1B Areas: Areas with capacity for growth where limited or no Act 250 jurisdiction will apply. Shown on Regional FLU Map.

Tier 2 Areas: All areas that are not Tier 1 or Tier 3 and existing Act 250 jurisdiction applies.

Tier 3 Areas: Areas with critical natural resources where expanded Act 250 jurisdiction will apply.

See pages 6-8 for more information on the location-based Act 250 jurisdiction tiers.

Questions? Contact Logan Solomon at: logan@rutlandrpc.org

Shape Our Future Together!



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

Act 181 establishes three tiers for location-based Act 250 jurisdiction. Location-based Act 250 jurisdiction means reducing or eliminating Act 250 permitting in areas planned for growth (Tier 1 areas) and increasing Act 250 permitting in critical natural resource areas that lack suitable State-level review and protection (Tier 3 areas).

Tier 1A and Tier 1B Areas

Areas with capacity for growth where limited or no Act 250 jurisdiction will apply. The Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Map shows areas eligible for Tier 1A and Tier 1B Act 250 exemptions. The table below summarizes the key attributes of Tier 1A and Tier 1B areas.

Tier 2 Areas

All areas that are not Tier 1 or Tier 3. Existing Act 250 jurisdictional thresholds will remain based on acreage, units, or lots created. Additionally, Act 250 jurisdiction will apply to the construction of a single road if it exceeds 800 feet in length or if all roads/driveways constructed exceed 2,000 feet. This provision, known as the “Road Rule”, will apply starting July 1, 2026. More information on Tier 2 at: <https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-2-area-report>

Tier 3 Areas

Tier 3 Areas contain critical natural resources that merit consideration in the Act 250 permitting process. The Tier 3 rulemaking process is scheduled to begin in April-May 2025. The Land Use Review Board is required to deliver proposed final rules for Tier 3 areas by February 1, 2026. Act 250 jurisdiction in Tier 3 areas will begin on December 31, 2026. More information on Tier 3 Rulemaking at: <https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report>

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
Which areas are eligible?	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village) and Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village), Planned Growth Areas , and Village Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.
What are the Act 250 exemptions?	All development is fully exempt.	50 units or fewer on 10 acres or less for housing and mixed-use development is exempt.
Will our municipality have to enforce existing Act 250 conditions?	Yes. Within Tier 1A areas, municipalities must carry forward conditions of <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits for new development permits, with a few exceptions. In approved Tier 1A areas, the Land Use Review Board will no longer enforce permit conditions unless the municipality fails to do so.	No. The Land Use Review Board will continue to enforce <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits and conditions in Tier 1B areas.



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
How do we apply?	Municipalities will apply to the Land Use Review Board for Tier 1A jurisdiction. More information on Tier 1A Approval Guidelines at: https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-1a-approval-guidelines	Municipal request to RPC. RPC submits to the Land Use Review Board on behalf of the region's municipalities through the Regional Plan adoption process. The RRPC will provide a municipal resolution form for the Selectboard to sign.
When do municipalities have to decide?	Any time after January 1, 2026.	No later than July 1, 2025, to align with the necessary timeline for Regional Plan adoption.
What happens if we don't pursue Tier 1 Act 250 exemptions?	A municipality is <u>not</u> required to opt in. In a municipality that does not opt in, after the interim Act 250 exemptions expire, development projects will be subject to standard Act 250 jurisdiction throughout your community.	
What other requirements must municipalities meet for Tier 1 eligibility?	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. §6034(b).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The municipality must have an approved municipal plan. Tier 1A boundaries must be consistent with and be within Downtowns, Village Centers, or Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map. The municipality must have adopted bylaws that are at least as strong as the state model flood hazard bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. § 755) and river corridor bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. §1428). The municipality must have adopted permanent zoning and subdivision regulations without broad exemptions for obtaining municipal permits. In the Tier 1A area, adopted municipal bylaws must further smart growth principles, regulate physical form and scale, allow for at least four stories in areas served by water and sewer, and follow other guidelines to be established by the Land Use Review Board. The Tier 1A area must be compatible with the character of adjacent historic 	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. 6033(c).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The municipality must request Tier 1B status from the RRPC. The municipality must have an approved municipal plan The municipality must have permanent zoning and subdivision regulations. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must exclude or adequately regulate flood hazard areas and river corridors. In the Tier 1B area, there is adequate public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems capacity for compact housing; in Village Areas, this may be in the form of soils that can accommodate a community system. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must have adequate municipal staff, municipal officials, or contracted capacity for development review and zoning administration.



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
	<p>districts and sites and significant cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>G. In the Tier 1A area, the municipality must plan to maintain significant natural communities and RTE species or exclude them from it.</p> <p>H. In the Tier 1A area, public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems can support additional development.</p> <p>I. In the Tier 1A area, adequate municipal staffing exists for comprehensive planning, capital planning, development review, and zoning administration.</p>	



Municipal Request for Tier 1B Area Designation

Submit on or before July 1, 2025, to Logan Solomon at: logan@rutlandrpc.org

Municipalities and the Regional Planning Commission fill out this form to request Tier 1B Area Designation. Each element of eligibility per 10 V.S.A. § 6033(c) is outlined below and must be certified.

MUNICIPAL SECTION

Municipality Name: _____ Date of Submission: _____

Municipal Contact (Name/Position): _____

Municipal Contact Email: _____

Municipal Contact Phone: _____

§ 6033(c)(1) The municipality has requested to have the area mapped for Tier 1B.

☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement. Selectboard meeting minutes documenting this request are attached. A municipality may have multiple noncontiguous areas receive Tier 1B area status. Describe requested Tier 1B Area(s): _____

§ 6033(c)(2) The municipality has a duly adopted and approved plan and a planning process that is confirmed in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4350.

☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement. The letter of Confirmed Planning Process by the Regional Planning Commission Executive Director certifying a duly adopted and approved plan and planning process is attached.

Municipal Plan Adoption Date: _____

§ 6033(c)(3) The municipality has adopted permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §§ 4414, 4418, and 4442.

☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement.

Unified Development Bylaws? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the municipality has unified development bylaws (zoning and subdivision in one document), fill in the same adoption date twice.

Zoning Bylaws Adoption Date: _____

Subdivision Regulations Adoption Date: _____

§ 6033(c)(6) The municipality has municipal staff, municipal officials, or contracted capacity adequate to support development review and zoning administration in the Tier 1B area.

☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement.



Municipal Request for Tier 1B Area Designation

Submit on or before July 1, 2025, to Logan Solomon at: logan@rutlandrpc.org

Municipal Certification

By signing below, the undersigned certifies that 1) the municipality requests Tier 1B Area Designation for areas eligible under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 and 10 V.S.A. Chapter 151 and 2) the above information is accurate and complete to their knowledge.

Authorized Municipal Official Name/Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION SECTION

§ 6033(c)(4) The area excludes identified flood hazard and fluvial erosion areas, except those areas containing preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development as defined in § 29-201 of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule unless the municipality has adopted flood hazard and river corridor bylaws applicable to the entire municipality that are consistent with the standards established pursuant to subsection 755(b) of this title (flood hazard) and subsection 1428(b) of this title (river corridor).

- ☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement because:
- ☐ The municipality has adopted flood hazard and river corridor bylaws applicable to the entire municipality. If the bylaws are in the same document, fill in the same date twice.

Flood Hazard Bylaw Adoption Date (if applicable): _____

River Corridor Bylaw Adoption Date (if applicable): _____

OR (select one of the options below)

- ☐ The municipality lacks bylaws, so all flood-risk areas are excluded from the Tier 1B area.
- ☐ The municipality lacks bylaws, so all flood-risk areas, except preexisting infill development, are excluded from the Tier 1B area.

§ 6033(c)(5) The municipality has water supply, wastewater infrastructure, or soils that can accommodate a community system for compact housing development in the area proposed for Tier 1B.

- ☐ Yes, the municipality meets this requirement because:
- ☐ There is an existing public or community water system in the area proposed for Tier 1B.
- ☐ There is an existing public or community wastewater system in the area proposed for Tier 1B.
- ☐ The area proposed for Tier 1B lacks an existing wastewater system but is mapped as having an Onsite Sewage Disposal Soil Rating of Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3.



Municipal Request for Tier 1B Area Designation

Submit on or before July 1, 2025, to Logan Solomon at: logan@rutlandrpc.org

Regional Certification

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission certifies that the above requirements for Tier 1B Area Designation (10 V.S.A. § 6033(c)) have been reviewed and documented for submission to the Vermont Land Use Review Board. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission certifies if the municipality is seeking Tier 1B eligibility for a Village Area FLUA, that the Village Area FLUA is mapped in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4348a(a)(12)(C).

Rutland Regional Planning Commission Executive Director: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Regional Plan LAND USE

Act 181, passed into law June 2024, overhauls Vermont's land use planning framework. It modernizes how Vermont directs public investments to designated areas and speeds up Act 250's transition to location-based jurisdiction.



Plan development to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact downtown and village centers separated by rural countryside.

New Land Use Categories



Shape Our Future Together!

Regional Plan FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The 2026 **Future Land Use Map** will guide development by designating areas for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors.



Downtown Center	Village Center	Planned Growth Area	Village Area	Transition Area	Enterprise Area	Resource Recreation
------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

Centers	Neighborhoods
39 Designated Centers 9 Downtown Centers 30 Village Centers	16 Designated Neighborhoods 9 Planned Growth Areas 7 Village Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.4% of land area • 6.5% of buildings (2,978) • 26 of 27 towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1% of land area • 32.1% of buildings (14,733) • 14 of 27 towns

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2% of land area • 1.3% of buildings (612) • 4 towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4% of land area • 0.8% of buildings (347) • 12 towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.9% of land area • 6.5% of buildings (2,974) • 11 towns
---	--	--

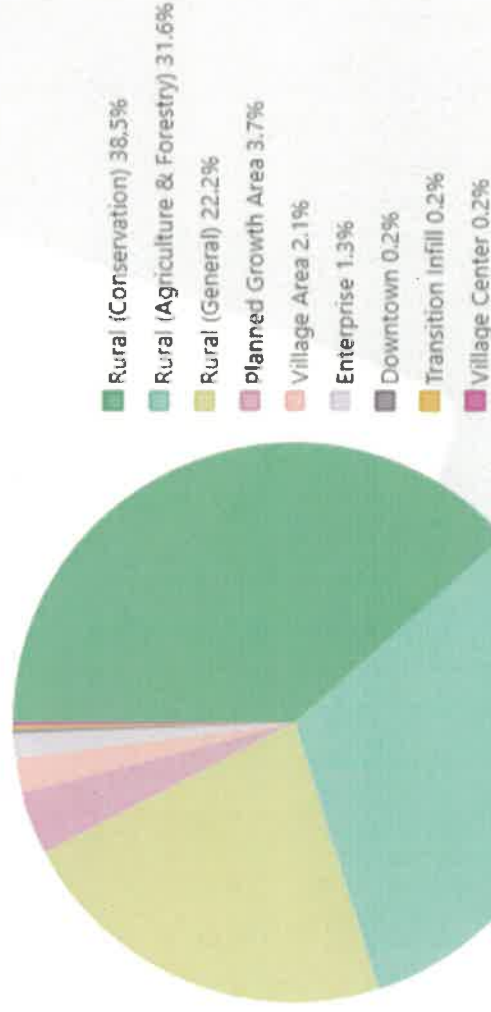
Percent of Total Land Area Designated for Higher-Density Growth: 6%

Shape Our Future Together!

Regional Plan FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The 2026 Future Land Use Map was developed using a **standardized statewide methodology** provided by the Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA).

Brandon % of Land Area



1 Legislation limits opportunities to adjust the proposed future land use area boundaries. Adjustments may be possible on a case-by-case basis. **Questions and/or revision requests must be made in writing and submitted within 3 weeks (by June 4, 2025) to Logan Solomon – logan@rutlandrpc.org**

2 If eligible, does your municipality want to opt-in to the Tier 1B area for Act 250 housing exemptions? **Decision form due by July 1, 2025.**



Shape Our Future Together!



TOWN MANAGER

TO Selectboard
DATE 22 May 2025
RE Police Cruiser Bids

The sealed bids tabulated on the following page were received in good order by the Town's published deadline of 3PM on Thursday, 22 May 2025.

I have reviewed the eleven bids in person with Chief Kachajian. He advises that he and Officer Kelleher both assess that the All-Wheel-Drive Dodge Charger sedans to be the most value for money and the most appropriate vehicle for our needs. They are pursuit-rated and sufficiently commodious for all of the equipment the officers wear on their persons while on duty. These are vehicles E and G on the table below. He has a slight preference to work with Utilitac (vehicle G) due to previous positive experience with them.

Other vehicles he believes worth consideration of the Selectboard are the hybrid Ford police utility All-Wheel-Drive (vehicle D) and the Ford Ranger (vehicle K), although the Ranger is not pursuit-rated. [The two cruisers we would retain in our current fleet are both pursuit-rated.] He considers the hybrid to be a higher risk for maintenance costs.

The Chief feels A and C are not good options because the cabin seating is too restricted for the gear the officers wear, and because each will require full upfitting, for which we have only an estimated cost, and which will extend the

time before the cruiser can be put into service for us. They would also require installation of a charger at the police station. The Chief feels B, F, H, and J could be eliminated from consideration based on cost. Lastly, the F-150 listed as vehicle L is pre-equipped already, and the dealer's selections of equipment are not in near alignment with the Town's specifications. There are certain brand compatibility issues and overall costs that he feels are outside the scope of what the Town requires or desires to pay for.

Any of the pre-equipped vehicles may require slight modifications of the installed equipment to meet the Town's needs.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend the Selectboard vote to approve an amount not to exceed \$65,000 for purchase of a police cruiser as bid at letter G in the table from Utilitac. This vehicle is the second-lowest priced in the list of eleven, and only second if the lowest-price does realize the full value of rebates calculated and if its upfitting comes in at or under estimate.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth M. Hopkins

ID	Make	Model	Fuel Type	Price	Upfitting	Source
A	Chevrolet	Blazer (SUV)	Electric	\$55,170 less Federal Rebate \$7,500 less GMP Rebate \$2,200 = \$45,470	ADD-ON (approx.) \$16,000	Alderman's Rutland VT
B	Ford	Police Interceptor SUV	Gasoline	\$72,255	INCLUDED	Legacy Brothers Douglas, GA (Delivery included)
C	Tesla	Model Y AWD	Electric	\$53,808	ADD-ON (approx.) \$16,000	Tesla S Burlington, VT
D	Ford	Police Utility AWD	Gasoline & Electric Hybrid	\$64,637	INCLUDED	Colonial Plymouth, MA
E	Dodge	Charger AWD	Gasoline	\$62,879	INCLUDED	John Jones Corydon, IN
F	Dodge	Durango	Gasoline	\$71,152	INCLUDED	(Delivery included) John Jones Corydon, IN
G	Dodge	Charger AWD	Gasoline	\$62,436	INCLUDED	(Delivery included) Utilitrac Ridgeway, PA
H	Dodge	Durango	Gasoline	\$71,266	INCLUDED	(Delivery included) Utilitrac Ridgeway, PA
J	Dodge	Ram	Gasoline	\$69,090	INCLUDED	Utility Ridgeway, PA (Delivery included)
K	Ford	Ranger	Gasoline	\$63,072	INCLUDED	Utilitrac Ridgeway, PA (Delivery included)
L	Ford	F-150	Gasoline	\$66,993	INCLUDED	Dana Safety Supply Jax, FL (Delivery included)

From: Jim Emerson sirjimes@gmail.com 
Subject: Electric Police Cruiser Purchase
Date: May 22, 2025 at 8:03 PM
To: Seth Hopkins Manager@brandonvermont.gov
Cc: David Martin artifactvt@gmail.com, Serge Cotnoir sncotnoir@gmail.com

JE

To: Brandon Select Board

From: Serge Cotnoir for the Brandon Energy Committee

Re: Purchase of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV)

We are aware that the board has voted to purchase another police cruiser for the town of Brandon and would suggest that you seriously consider the purchase of an EV cruiser which would support the Brandon Green Fleet Policy.

Presently our police force is understaffed, and we feel it would be an opportune time to purchase an EV cruiser allowing time for the department to acclimate to the new vehicle.

For reference the town of Claremont, NH has just been awarded a Ford F-150 Lightning Pro Special Service Vehicle. They could be contacted as to how well the vehicle is meeting their needs. Check the following links:

<https://www.wcax.com/2023/08/12/claremont-pd-rolls-out-new-electric-cruiser/>

Donated

Ford F-150 Lightning Pro SSV One of the First on the Road - Police - Government Fleet

Benefits of EV service vehicles are said to be:

- Reduced Maintenance costs
- Zero tailpipe emissions and low carbon footprint
- Lower fuel costs – one study showed that EV vehicles driven 15,000 miles per year (using nationwide fuel and electricity cost averages) ICE costs were \$9,490 versus EV cost of \$4,295.
- Charging at the Police station with a lower electric rate in collaboration with Green Mountain Power
- Instant torque and a quiet ride – police departments in urban areas have found that when pursuing an EV vehicle with an ICE vehicle they are at a considerable disadvantage due to the EV rapid acceleration capability.

Several manufacturers state they are now producing EV PPVs and SSVs:

- 2025 Ford Lightning Pro PPV
- Blazer EV PPV launched in 2024 is first all-electric police package
- 2025 Silverado PPV is in its third-year model and states it also comes with off-road packages for officers with diverse terrains and conditions
- A company called UP.FIT retrofit's Tesla and other EV vehicles as PPV's, as well as more local companies, such as Hardwired in Waterville.

We understand purchase costs for EV cruisers are in line with comparable ICE vehicle costs recently, we understand they may be more affordable due to incentives still on the books from the Federal government (\$7,500) and from Green Mountain Power (\$1,600).

In addition, the track record of operating costs and down time for servicing electric vehicles has proven to be about 50% of ICE vehicles according to a recent European study.

We encourage you to make the commitment of the Town of Brandon to our Green Fleet Policy real by your serious consideration of an EV PPV.

Additional references: We find many references that document the viability and desirability of EV Cruisers. The following is a comprehensive, even handed overview.

**EV-Police-Car-
Report-Version-4-...**

1.3 MB



Making the Case for Electric Police Cars

Savings with Superior Performance



PFC Jason Kirkner, Fleet Manager for SPD (Maryland) and Chief Michael Spaulding with Tesla Model Y — Image credit: Kerry Chaney

About

This paper was researched and written by John Kondos of [Clean Energy NH](#) (CENH) and staff of the [Monadnock Sustainability Hub](#) (MSH). CENH's mission is to promote clean energy and technologies through education and advocacy for a stronger economic future for all Granite Staters. MSH is the region's catalyst for climate solutions, and strengthens the sustainability and resilience of our region by working collaboratively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach 100% clean energy. CENH and MSH partner to inspire and conduct local sustainability initiatives and actions that strengthen our shared social, economic, and environmental resilience. This includes programs and projects focused on energy efficiency, electric transportation, renewable energy, and other sustainability projects within our region.



Version 1 - December, 2021
Version 2 - Updated January, 2022
Version 3 - Updated March, 2023
Version 4 - Updated August, 2023

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- 4.1 EV Charging Information
- 4.2 Retrofitting Examples

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Part One: Report Summary

Clean Energy NH and the Monadnock Sustainability Hub (the Hub) have researched electric police car experiences across the United States. Individual car owners are not the only ones reaping the benefits of switching to an electric vehicle (EV); police departments across the country are adding EVs to their police fleets for good reasons. Key motivations for transitioning a police fleet to EVs include significant cost savings on fuel and maintenance expenses, superior performance, enhanced safety features, and positive health and environmental impacts. These benefits are further detailed in the following report, in addition to information on EV charging and retrofitting, and accounts of successful EV police car applications in the rural United States.

While most police department experiences have been with Teslas so far, the Ford Pro all-electric police pilot vehicle based on the 2021 Mustang Mach-E SUV became the first

all-electric vehicle to pass the Michigan State Police 2022 model year evaluation w/ some qualifications. Additional EV models including SUVs and pickup trucks are being introduced by automakers. Claremont, NH is trialing an electric Ford F150.

Chevrolet has announced a version of the E Blazer, the EV police pursuit vehicle (PPV) which appears to be the 1st EV manufactured for police use. The Blazer EV PPV interior features cloth police-specific front seats contoured to accommodate duty belts, a vinyl rear seat with heavy-duty vinyl flooring, center console options, prewired police equipment infrastructure, etc. The all wheel drive powertrain in the Blazer EV PPV makes up to 498 horsepower and 531 foot-pounds of torque. Two electric motors are powered by a standard 105-kilowatt-hour battery pack that offers a GM-estimated range of 250 miles on a full charge when equipped with the traditional emergency equipment. Available in early 2024 at a base price of ~\$60K, for more info watch a GM video [directly on YouTube](#).

This report concludes with a list of action steps for interested parties to consider. Please reach out to the Monadnock Sustainability Hub at info@monadnocksustainabilityhub.org with questions about the report or to discuss the next steps for bringing an EV police car to your community.

Part Two: Key Drivers

2.1 COST SAVINGS

There are significant cost savings in switching from traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) police cars and SUVs to electric police cars.

Electric cars have a significantly reduced life cycle cost. The total cost of the vehicle over its lifetime, including initial purchase cost, outfitting, maintenance, operational expenses, and the residual value of the vehicle at the end of its applicable lifetime provide a lower total cost of ownership. Although the upfront cost of EVs may be higher than that of ICE vehicles, significant cost savings occur in vehicle maintenance and fueling. The higher initial EV cost has been recovered in the first or second years.

This report shows that Police EVs have saved taxpayers over \$5,000 per year, per car. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides an added incentive of up to \$7,500 available as an elective payment (aka direct payment) to municipalities, per eligible vehicle purchased.

Due to their less-complex mechanics, EVs require far less maintenance than ICE vehicles. EVs do not require oil changes or exhaust and transmission repairs. Thanks to regenerative braking—where the electric motor acts as a generator converting much of the kinetic energy typically lost when braking and decelerating back into stored energy—there is reduced wear on the brakes, meaning less frequent brake replacement. In addition to the maintenance savings, electric police vehicles have reduced maintenance downtime, yielding a more reliable fleet.

Police departments also experience significant savings on fuel costs. The reason for this is twofold: vehicle efficiency and cost of fuel. EVs are three times more efficient than ICE vehicles, converting about 77% of their electrical energy into power. ICE vehicles, on the other hand, can only convert between 12% and 30% of the energy stored in gasoline into power [15]. This means we get more power out of the money spent on fueling an EV. The overall cost of electricity is typically more than 60% less than gasoline. As of early 2023, an "eGallon" (the cost of fueling a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar vehicle that runs on gasoline) was \$1.85 in New Hampshire [16]—significantly lower than the state's average price of a gallon of gasoline (\$3.37) [25].

Such maintenance and fuel savings are reflected in the experience of police departments with electric police vehicles. The Bargersville Police Department in Indiana saved \$6,755 in fuel alone within 13 months of operating its 2019 Tesla Model 3 police car. With officers driving 22,000 miles on average annually [11] the department's Dodge Charger had a yearly combined gas and maintenance cost of \$7,580, whereas their Tesla Model 3 had a combined electricity and maintenance cost of only \$825 [1]. The Sheriff's Department in Windham, Vermont also found considerable operational savings with its Tesla Model 3—purchased in 2020—estimating that it would save about 80% of the costs of running a comparable ICE vehicle. The department found that fueling costs for its electric police car was 5 cents a mile, compared to 26-28 cents for an ICE police car with similar duties at \$2.41 per gallon.

The Falmouth, ME Police Department became one of the first police forces in Maine to start electrifying its fleet, beginning their transition away from fossil fuels with a Ford Mustang Mach-E and four level 2 chargers in their fleet parking area. In Sykesville, MD, the only maintenance cost for the PD's Tesla Model Y patrol vehicle in its first year has been the purchase of an additional battery to power auxiliary police equipment.

2.2 PERFORMANCE & SAFETY

Superior performance and safety are key drivers of the adoption of EVs for police use. EVs offer superior handling, quick acceleration, silence, and less downtime. EVs lack the sound of the engine, reducing exterior and interior noise. Superior handling derives from the low center of gravity due to the battery's position in the undercarriage which reduces rollover potential. The direct torque provides faster acceleration, with some EV models accomplishing 0 to 60 mph acceleration in under three seconds [20].

Tesla vehicles, which have been the electric vehicle of choice for many police departments across the country, provide industry-leading safety features and software. Such features include an advanced crumple zone—which is "optimized to absorb energy and crush more efficiently" [18]—forward collision and lane departure warnings, crash imminent braking, and dynamic brake support. Their low centers of gravity, rigid passenger compartments, and fortified battery packs prevent intrusion into the EV's batteries or cabin during a crash and reduce rollover risk [18]. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration gave the Tesla Model 3 and Model Y a 5-Star safety rating in every category and subcategory, with the Model 3 having the lowest probability of injury of all cars the agency has tested to date [19]. Teslas are also equipped with

cameras that aid in surveillance and accident prevention; for example, the Tesla Model 3 has eight 250 meter-range cameras that provide 360 degrees of visibility around the vehicle [26].

An electric engine consists of approximately 20 moving parts, compared to nearly 2,000 moving parts in a typical internal combustion engine [21]. With significantly fewer parts, and in turn less required maintenance, EVs have reduced downtime. The Fremont CA Police Department's Tesla Model S averaged about 39 days of maintenance downtime annually, compared to 66 days of that of their gas-powered Ford police pursuit vehicles [3].

Interior space, ease of installation of interior security partitions and ground clearance have been concerns expressed about early EVs for police use. These reflect the still limited current range of offerings by manufacturers. The reports of the forthcoming (late 2023) Chevrolet Blazer police version may address these better than the Ford Mach E or Tesla Y with 6" of ground clearance and relatively small interiors.

Recently Tesla and others have adopted heat pumps which are much more efficient than resistance heating, preserving driving range in cold weather. Another performance enhancement is the second trunk or "frunk" (front trunk) in EVs. This additional storage compartment enables less secure items—traffic management, safety, rescue, etc.—to be accessed while reserving the rear secure trunk for police access only items. Another benefit includes EV's heated steering wheel and seats, comfort features not normally offered by police vehicles.

2.3 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Carbon Monoxide and other toxic exhaust gasses can be lethal. The lack of exhaust with EVs provides a healthier and more comfortable environment inside and outside the vehicle.

In the United States, based on 2020 data, the transportation sector contributes 27% of our overall greenhouse gas emissions [24] In New Hampshire it reaches 40% [29]. Burning a gallon of gas releases roughly 19 pounds of CO₂ [5], a major contributor to climate change. EVs have a significantly lower environmental impact than traditional ICE vehicles. Depending on where the user sources the electricity to charge their vehicle, EVs can be driven entirely on clean energy.

For municipalities with carbon emission reduction goals, such as Fremont CA, transitioning police fleets to EVs is an important step towards lowering municipal carbon emissions. Fremont is committed to reducing its 2005 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and achieving long-term carbon neutrality by 2045. Their municipal fleet's annual greenhouse gas emission impact totals about 2,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, over half of which is attributed to police vehicles—they found a single Ford police vehicle contributed 42,198 lbs. of carbon emissions each year. Transitioning their 388 City vehicles to EV is estimated to reduce their fleet's greenhouse gas impact by 53% by 2030 [3]. Bargasville IN estimated a similar impact with their Tesla Model 3 police vehicle, which has about 60% lower greenhouse gas impact than their usual Dodge Chargers, even though about 66% of the electricity used to charge their Tesla was generated from coal [11].

Falmouth ME's Police Department prides itself on local and regional climate leadership. They regard fleet conversion to hybrid and all-electric vehicles as critical steps to move away from fossil fuel use and advance sustainability. A municipal solar farm launched operation in March 2023 and is expected to satisfy 75% of the PD's needs from the outset, with the intent to add capacity in the future.

Part Three: Examples of EV Police Cars

3.1 Bargersville, IN

In 2018, Bargersville, Indiana police chief Todd Bertram was looking for cost savings to address hiring needs. Fuel and maintenance were significant line items that he thought an EV might reduce. The \$6,755 first-year gas and maintenance savings for a Tesla 3 compared to the Dodge Charger more than offset the initial added cost of the Tesla and charging equipment. Chief Bertram figured that the Tesla has a cost of ownership of \$0.37/ mile compared to the \$0.65/ mile for the Dodges, excluding the sale of used vehicles [11]. As a result, the department added three more Tesla Model 3s to its fleet [26].

Given that they purchased the Tesla Model 3 with a 120,000 mile warranty, the department expects to get six years of use out of the EV. Their usual Dodge Chargers come with a 100,000 mile warranty, which tends to last only 4.5 years [11]. Over this six year lifespan, the department expects to save approximately \$38,000 with one Tesla, netting about \$23,500 per vehicle when accounting for the difference in purchase price. With the four Teslas in their fleet, they are on track to save over \$150,000 over these next six years [26].

In a June, 2022 update, officer Jeremy Roll said "I think it has been a great investment for us so far". The department currently has **seven** Teslas and will be getting two more. Roll said that investment has more than paid itself off. The Teslas cost the department about \$60 per month compared to the gas cars that cost more than \$550 per month [27].

3.2 Westport, CT

In December of 2019, the town of Westport, Connecticut purchased a Tesla Model 3 with all wheel drive to add to its police fleet. According to Police Chief Foti Koskinas, the department's decision to add a Tesla to their fleet was motivated by environmental concerns, the Tesla's superior performance and crash ratings, and the Model 3's collision avoidance technology. Their story is a prime example of how a police department can achieve cost savings with an EV while also meeting other department and community priorities, such as their town's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions [22].

The vehicle's range is another common concern for many potential EV owners, especially in the case where the vehicle's reliability and available range are crucial. Given that the Tesla Model 3 has an average range of 310 miles—which is decreased to 200-220 miles given the way a police car is used—the Westport Police Department noted the EV provided sufficient range for two shifts per day. On average, they noted their officers drove 50 to 80 miles per shift. The department has a level two (240 volt) charger at their police headquarters for charging in between shifts [23].

In a June, 2021 report issued to the town by the EV Club of Connecticut, which promotes the adoption of electric vehicles, its analysis found, among other things, that the town will save \$12,582 in fuel alone after four years of using electricity to power the vehicle. While the purchase price for both the current and next Tesla was \$52,300, that's significantly higher than the Ford Explorer, which had a purchase price of \$37,000. The report data and conclusions were validated by the town's finance department [30]. See Appendix A for a cost summary by year.

The EV Club of Connecticut report states it cost \$38,900 to customize the Ford, compared with \$14,300 for the current Tesla (thanks to one time, pilot discounts) and \$30,700 for the next Tesla model, which is the relevant comparison basis used herein. One EV customization cost was the charging station at \$1,000 for hardware and installation. The department is getting two shifts per day on a single charge and charging the vehicle overnight. This is assumed to be the usage pattern of future Teslas, in which case the charging equipment expense will be required for each EV procured. There could potentially be a savings opportunity in the future with a dual-port charger.

The operations and maintenance costs were calculated based on driving 23,000 miles in a year. The savings of \$8,300 was due to the lower fuel costs for the electricity, along with the savings of quarterly oil/filter changes, brake servicing, and tire replacement for the Ford. From there, the savings accrue even more quickly due to ICE parts (e.g. water pump and catalytic converter) needing to be replaced, "so that by the time we get to 4 years, these savings total \$31,500". This is considerably more than the purchase premium and almost as much as the purchase cost of the Ford. The savings continue to build on a year-by-year basis, the report states and, by year four, "given the lower cost of running an EV, the total cost of ownership of the Tesla pilot is projected to be \$79,400, while the next Tesla is \$95,800, and the Ford is \$120,200."

The Westport police Tesla experience demonstrates that payback of the cost premium happened in the first year and the savings are substantial after four years. The EV also saves 23.5 tons of CO2 emissions annually. [28] The EV is expected to last longer than the ICE vehicle; if so, this increases the relative savings.

3.3 Windham County, VT

When Windham County, Vermont Sheriff Mark Anderson was ready to replace a vehicle in 2020 he was interested in evaluating an EV. When the lead time for a typical replacement stretched into 2021 compared to the ease of getting a Tesla Model 3, he was persuaded. It was ordered

on 8/4/2020 and received on 10/14/2020. The vehicle was upfitted by Global Public Safety in Hudson NH and a Level 2 (240 volt) charger was installed by a local electrician. There are fast chargers in Brattleboro that can be used if needed and a policy to compensate officers for charging at home has also been developed. According to Sheriff Anderson, range has not been a problem; they can drive to the Hartford, CT airport and back to Newfane, VT. For longer hauls, however, the department is still using ICE vehicles.

Sheriff Anderson reports that after a year, they “were measuring 5 cents per mile traveled for fuel cost compared to 26-28 cents for an ICE vehicle with similar duties, at \$2.41 a gallon”. Tires have been the only maintenance expense. Maintenance for “another new ICE vehicle has been about \$2,000.” Tesla requires special tire balancing (Road Force Balancing) that costs \$300 for each balance. So every winter-summer tire changeover costs an additional \$300 to balance unless they can purchase a second set of rims for the winter tires and pay \$300 for each set once.

Sheriff Anderson notes that, in considering a next EV, it would likely be a Tesla Model Y because it has higher ground clearance (6”), better ergonomics for the driver and more storage for officer’s equipment.

3.4 Sykesville, MD

Reliability, cost and effectiveness were major factors in the Sykesville, Maryland police department’s decision to purchase a Tesla Model Y sedan in 2022. Chief Michael Spaulding reported the request was an easy sell with the town’s mayor, who had a focus on “going green”. Elements of design and function favoring the selection included EVs’ low center of gravity (providing stability), the model’s “unmatched” acceleration and speed, sudden stopping ability and its 5-star safety rating.

The PD’s research led them to estimate recouping the larger initial outlay by year 3, due to considerably lower maintenance and fuel costs. Chief Spaulding projected additional savings from their new patrol car remaining in service years longer than their ICE vehicles, due to EVs’ reduced wear and tear.

In January, 2023, after nearly 1 year of ownership and operation, the Chief reported that they were very pleased with their purchase decision. The only maintenance cost the PD had incurred to date was the addition of a 12 volt battery (\$181), to support the demand for auxiliary police equipment.

Fuel expenses were much lower than operating an ICE vehicle, even though they were charging exclusively at a relatively expensive 3rd party’s installation at the town offices. However, since officers brought their vehicles home at night, and residential electric rates (\$0.10/kWh) were less than one-third the rate they were paying for the commercial fast charger (\$0.32/kWh), they were thinking about installing level 2 chargers at staff homes, with the help of the IRA’s 30% tax credit for such projects - for even greater operational savings.

Due to the Sykesville PD's favorable experiences with the Model Y, they ordered a Ford F-150 Lightning and expect delivery in February or March 2023.

3.5 Dearborn MI

Since June 2022 the Dearborn Police Department has been utilizing a Ford Mustang Mach E as a patrol vehicle. They have been favorably impressed with its operation and lack of any maintenance expense as of early 2023. Corporal Mohamed Farhat reports the Mach E has been, "very stable, good in rain and snow; I haven't had any issues driving the vehicle."

They have observed that its range is greatly impacted in cold months by the need to heat the car. Its range has diminished from about 240 miles in summer to approximately 110 miles with the heat running.

The Dearborn police have been utilizing a Level 2 charger (see 4.1 below), and are interested in considering how to access a fast charger to reduce charging downtime. The higher fees for faster power may be offset by greater availability of the vehicle.

Part Four: Charging and Retrofitting

4.1 EV CHARGING INFORMATION

The most basic EV charging Supply Equipment (EVSE) is UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved to safely supply electricity to the vehicle and provide lights to indicate when it has started and stopped charging. More sophisticated ("smarter") units are available with a variety of additional features although these increase the cost of the EVSE unit. The use of a 120 volt outlet, a Level 1 charger, will charge at up to 5 miles per hour. More appropriate is a 240 volt, Level 2 charger which ranges from 30 amp to 100 amp. These will provide about 15-40 miles per hour of charging. The next level is DC fast chargers which are rated at 50-350 kW. These are installed on high-traffic corridors and by businesses and communities that want to attract EV drivers. Fast chargers can provide 50-150 miles within a half hour depending on the capacity, and even more powerful chargers are being developed.

Financial assistance for charging device purchase and installation exists but varies by location, and the landscape is rapidly evolving. Level 2 charger hardware and installation run from \$1,000- \$2,000/unit although this cost decreases for multiple L2 charger installations. Currently at least one vehicle manufacturer offers Level 2 charger installation as part of vehicle purchase price. Some electric utilities pay for or underwrite charger installation. Tax credits and possibly rebates are being rolled out from recent federal legislation: the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Which incentives can be accessed may depend in part on a police department's use case for their EVs. When officers bring the police vehicles home at

night, home charging may make the most sense, by preventing downtime during operating hours and to take advantage of lower electrical costs for residential vs. commercial/municipal customers. Residential purchase and installation incentives can apply - currently a 30% federal income tax credit - and PDs can reimburse the difference and the (lower) power costs as fleet expenses.

4.2 RETROFITTING

To date there has not been a manufacturer designed police pursuit vehicle (PPV). The Chevy Blazer EV police pursuit vehicle appears to be the 1st EV dedicated to police use. Available in early 2024, this vehicle runs on a 400-volt heavy-duty electrical architecture and gets standard police features such as:

- a heavy-duty suspension,
- underbody skid plates,
- Firestone Firehawk Pursuit tires mounted on 20-inch steel wheels,
- 6-piston Brembo front brake calipers on 15.3-inch rotors, among other accessories.
- a certified speedometer,
- cloth police-specific front seats contoured to accommodate duty belts,
- a vinyl rear seat with heavy-duty vinyl flooring,
- center console delete option, and more.

Westport, CT: To retrofit their Tesla Model 3 for police use, the Westport Police Department spent about \$5,000 on additional lighting. They swapped out the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) battery for a deep cycling 12V battery that allowed for sustained power over a long period of time. In addition, they installed a charge guard timer on the battery system that allows officers to keep the vehicle's lights on for up to an hour without having to remain in the vehicle or wake the vehicle by hitting the accelerator. They also adapted the OEM lighting to utilize the latest traffic safety features. They worked with Whelen Engineering to complete these upgrades. They noted challenges with the vehicle's headlights, which are set to go off after 1 minute; as this is a safety issue with night time traffic stops, they are working with Tesla to override this feature. They also noted difficulty with producing a partition between the front seats and back seats, as the vehicle dimensions differ from typical patrol car partition sizes [23].

Windham County, VT: The Windham County Sheriff's Tesla Model 3 was upfitted by Global Public Safety in Hudson, New Hampshire. Because of the glass roof in the Model 3, a light bar was not possible. The vehicle has Whelen lights in the front windshield, front bumper and flashing in the fog lights. There is side lighting in the side windows, a rear deck light bar, license plate lights, and the brake/reverse flashing patterns.

Sheriff Anderson reports "The people at Global were sensitive to our desire to resell this vehicle. As such, they were able to install nearly everything without drilling holes into the vehicle. We didn't install a mobile data terminal (i.e. in-car computer) because the Model 3 is capable of accessing our computer-aided dispatch (CAD)/records management system itself".

Global Public Safety's New Hampshire address is 5 Executive Dr, Hudson, and they can be contacted at (603) 617-7178.

Part Five: Next Steps to Bring an EV Police Car to Your Community

As taxpayers, we're excited by the significant cost savings of approximately \$5,000 per year per vehicle for electric police cars in our communities. As citizens and parents, we are grateful for the reductions of the greenhouse gasses (GHGs) that threaten the world future generations will inherit. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides a \$7,500 incentive available as a Direct Payment to tax exempt entities such as municipalities, reducing the added purchase price for an EV.

Due to the demand and supply chain issues, there can be extended wait times for certain EVs. Placing reservations at the earliest opportunity is recommended. In some cases, municipal rules for purchasing may need to be adapted to these supply chain issues.

CENH and the Hub offer encouragement and support to police departments, municipalities, and residents who are interested in bringing an EV police car(s) and/or other municipal EVs to their community. This information is summarized in a one sheet, two sided Bulletin. It is available to introduce the topic and explain why EV-Police Vehicles are smart investments. The Hub has an active EV team of EV owners who are willing to share their experiences and offer test drives. CENH provides information and support through [Drive Electric NH](#).

Interested police/town staff or residents can contact the Hub at info@monadnocksustainabilityhub.org to discuss next steps. Interested police chiefs/officers also have the option to contact Windham County, VT Sheriff Mark Anderson for questions about his department's experience of purchasing and owning an EV police car. (Please reach out to the Hub for his contact information.) We also encourage readers to dive deeper into successful EV police car cases by exploring the references linked below.

Learn more about EV programs at www.monadnocksustainabilityhub.org or <https://www.cleanenergynh.org>

Part Six: Appendices and Sources Cited

6.1 APPENDICES

Appendix A - Comparison of 2020 *Tesla Model 3* actual costs with adjustments for the next EV's costs vs 2020 *Ford Explorer* annual costs and savings. This includes actual and projected costs in consultation with the police and was reviewed and the conclusions are supported by the Town's Finance Department. Source: EV Club Of CT with Westport CT Police Department, [30]

WESTPORT, CT FORD EXPLORER & TESLA COSTS & PROJECTED SAVINGS				
FORD EXPLORER				
Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Purchase	\$37,000			
Customization	\$38,900			
Ongoing operation & maintenance	\$10,400	\$20,800	\$31,400	\$44,300
Total cumulative cost	\$86,300	\$96,700	\$107,300	\$120,200
TESLA MODEL 3				
Cost	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Purchase	\$52,300			
Customization	\$30,700			
Ongoing operation & maintenance	\$2,100	\$6,400	\$8,500	\$12,800
Total cumulative cost	\$85,100	\$89,400	\$91,500	\$95,800
Savings for EV	\$1,200	\$7,300	\$15,800	\$24,400
<i>Mileage = 23,000 per year</i>				

In this case payback on the EV occurred in the first year and the average savings after four years is expected to be \$6,100/year on a cash basis, greater if amortized. The customization savings were largely due to "the license plate reader, for a savings of \$10,000 (\$8,000 vs \$18,000) due to taking advantage of the technology native to the Tesla". The Ford maintenance expenses rose in the later years due to replacements including the catalytic converter and water pump.

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Statement Re: Report on Ethics Complaint/Trustees of Public Funds

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of the Brandon Select Board, the Board approved and adopted the Report on the Investigation of Ethics Complaints against two members of the Trustees of Public Funds regarding a pledge for \$20,000 by the TPF to the Otter Valley Athletics Association. After the report was distributed, the original complainant contacted the authors of the Report and demanded the report be withdrawn and changed. The complainant was upset that the Report addressed the issue of potential financial conflicts of interests on the part of the Trustees, even though the complaints themselves did not expressly allege the existence of a financial conflict of interest.

The complainant is correct that his complaints did not expressly state that either Tanner Romano or Laura Miner had an undisclosed financial interest in the outcome of their decision to pledge \$20,000 to the OVAA.

However, both complaints did allege that the OVAA was simply acting as a “pass-through” for another entity, the VCC, and alleged that Trustee Romano was a “member, and probable director” of the VCC. A reasonable reader could understand the complaint to be concerned not only with any personal interest the Trustees had in the OVAA, but also with the possibility that, as a “probable director” of the VCC, Mr. Romano may have had financial interest in the funds request. Moreover, once the complaints were accepted by the Board for investigation, the Board had an independent responsibility to analyze the allegations in light of Brandon’s policy on conflicts of interest in light of information gathered during the investigation. Finally, appropriate analysis of the issue required examining all the forms which a conflict of interest could manifest, and address whether any of those forms were implicated. That is what the Report did.

The Report is available for review on the town’s website. Citizens are advised to read the Report for themselves, rather than rely on media interpretations or word of mouth. The Board understands that many readers of the Report have been dissatisfied with its contents. That is to be expected in these situations. The Board stands behind its investigation and its Report. The Board considers this case to be closed.

Select Board Report on Investigation into Municipal Ethics Complaint

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to address concerns raised by a member of the public regarding an action by the Brandon Trustees of Public Funds (TPF); specifically, complaints that two of the trustees committed ethics violations when voting to approve an award of \$20,000 to the Otter Valley Activities Association (OVAA) on March 3, 2023. For the reasons set forth below, we conclude that, at most, one trustee's past association with the OVAA could cause a reasonable person to believe that the trustee had an indirect, non-financial personal interest in the outcome of the vote and, pursuant to the Town of Brandon's policy on conflicts of interest and ethical conduct, should have disclosed that association.¹ We also conclude that the complaint was partially the result of a perceived lack of transparency on the part of the TPF and, therefore, offer certain recommendations on how to avoid such complaints in the future.

Background

On March 9, 2025, a resident of Brandon filed a pair of ethics complaints alleging that two members of the TPF had violated the state's newly effective Municipal Code of Ethics when, in 2023, they voted to approve a request by the OVAA to fund a feasibility study for a regional recreational center. The complaint alleged that both trustees had a direct conflict of interest in regard to the request and further alleged that they had misused their positions in granting the request.

Specifically, the first complaint alleged that, at the time of the OVAA's request, Tanner Romano was a member "and probable director" of an entity called the Valley Community Center (VCC), and that the OVAA was simply a "pass thru" for the VCC to obtain funds "to develop plans for the recreation center that would have limited membership, dues, and require property taxes from towns." The complaint also noted Mr. Romano's past involvement in OVAA activities. The complaint further alleged that the disbursement to the OVAA did not fall within the guidelines of Shirley Farr's will that established the trust, because "it involves [a disbursement to] a quasi-private entity and not to the direct benefit of the village." Finally, the complaint alleged that on February 26, 2025, when discussing a proposal that the school district transfer certain property to the VCC for construction of a community center, Mr. Romano referred to a feasibility study as

¹ The Vermont Code of Municipal Ethics (the Code) came into effect on January 1, 2025. The events underlying the complaints predated the effective date of the Code by almost two years and, therefore, are not subject to the Code. The Town of Brandon's policy was adopted in 2019, however, and thus was in effect at the time of the decision under review. Accordingly, the town policy applies to the substance of the complaint.

“the next step” in the process, suggesting that any disbursed funds had not yet been used. The complaint did not ask for any specific action be taken against Mr. Romano but did demand that any funds disbursed for the feasibility study be returned to the Fund.

The second complaint regards Laura Miner and appears to be based solely on her familial relationship with one of Mr. Romano’s employees, stating that her relationship “is obviously a conflict and ethical violation.”

Investigation Process

Following receipt of the complaints, the Select Board determined that, on their face and without resort to outside evidence, the allegations in the complaints could be read by a reasonable person to state a potential violation of the town’s conflict of interest policy. Accordingly, by reference to the process adopted by the Select Board prior to the receipt of the complaints, the Board appointed two members to investigate the complaints. The team reviewed the complaints and the supporting evidence provided by the complainant and the applicable policies.² The team then conducted interviews with the named trustees.

Findings

1. The Trustees of Public Funds are elected officials, three in number, who have been tasked with administering a bequest to the Town of Brandon by the late Shirley Farr “to be used by [the town] primarily for proper sewage disposal, drainage of swamps and other sanitary improvements and any amounts not needed and expended for such purposes shall be used for spraying trees or in the general improvement of the village in ways not sufficiently provided for by taxation.” The TPF have an application process by which individuals or entities may propose projects for funding. Each year, the TPF publish a record of their activity in the Town Report.
2. The TPF is subject to Vermont’s open meeting rules. The TPF do not hold regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year; rather, they meet on an *ad hoc* basis to discuss and vote on requests for funding as they are made. Once a year the TPF meet to conduct business related to the endowment as required by law. In recent years, the TPF have conducted their meetings at the offices of Naylor & Breen on Route 7, usually on weekday mornings.

² Again, in this case, the applicable policy is that adopted by the Town of Brandon in 2019 and not the Code of Ethics enacted by the Vermont State Legislature, which was not in effect at the time of the complained of acts.

3. The Otter Valley Activities Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves as a “booster club” for the various activities (athletic and otherwise) engaged in by students at the Otter Valley Union Middle and High Schools (OVUMHS).
4. The Valley Community Center (VCC) was a concept for a community center that would be located on land adjacent to OVUMHS that would provide athletic facilities to be used by the school as well as recreational facilities available to surrounding towns. To succeed, the plan relied on the school district transferring the property to the VCC for a *de minimis* amount. After a majority of district voters rejected the proposed property transfer, the OVAA and the VCC discontinued their efforts to move forward with planning for the center. At the time of the vote, the concept was still in the draft phase.
5. Mr. Romano was last elected to a three-year term in 2023.
6. Ms. Miner was last elected to a three-year term in 2024.
7. Mr. Romano is the owner of a local construction firm, Naylor & Breen. In that capacity, he is frequently asked to support charitable causes, including the OVAA. Mr. Romano has also been actively involved in the sports programs at OVUMHS, which are among the activities supported by the OVAA.
8. Of the \$20,000 pledged by the TPF to the OVAA, only \$10,000 was disbursed in fiscal year 2022- 2023. Although the TPF’s portion of the annual Town Report for fiscal year 2023-2024 showed an expenditure of the second \$10,000 pledge, Ms. Miner explained that was the result of a bookkeeping action that the TPF used to reflect pledges that were made in a fiscal year but which the recipients might not be ready to receive, so as to ensure that the TPF stays within its annual spending limits. The OVAA never received the second \$10,000 pledged.
9. The TPF does not require grantees to provide receipts or progress reports on the projects it funds. Once they have disbursed the funds, the TPF does not track how the funds are applied.

Discussion

In May 2019, the Brandon Select Board adopted a Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct for the Town of Brandon (<https://tinyurl.com/3drrk9r2>). The stated purpose of the policy is

[T]o ensure that the business of this municipality will be conducted in such a way that no public officer of the municipality will gain a personal or financial advantage from his or her work for the municipality and so the public trust in its officers will be preserved. It is also the intent of this policy to ensure that all decisions made by public officers are based on the best interests of the municipality.

The policy “applies to all individuals elected or statutorily appointed to perform executive, administrative, legislative or quasi-judicial functions of the Town of Brandon.” As relevant to this discussion, the policy defines a “conflict of interest” as

A real *or seeming* incompatibility between a public officer’s private interest and his or her public or fiduciary interests to the municipality her or she serves. A conflict of interest arises when there is a direct or indirect personal or financial interest of a public officer or a person or group closely tied with the officer including his or her spouse, household member, child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, aunt or uncle, brother- or sister-in-law, business associate, or employer or employee, in the outcome of an official act or action, or any other matter pending before the officer or before the public body in which the public officer holds office. A conflict of interest may take any of the four following forms:

- a. A direct financial conflict of interest arises when a public officer acts in a matter that has a direct financial impact on that officer.
- b. An indirect financial conflict of interest arises when a public officer acts in a matter that has a financial impact on a person or group closely tied to the officer.
- c. A direct personal conflict of interest arises when a public officer acts in a matter that has a direct impact on an officer in a non-financial way but is of significant importance to the officer.
- d. *An indirect personal conflict of interest arises when a public officer acts on a matter in which the officer’s judgment may be affected because of a familial or personal relationship or membership in some organization and a desire to help that person or organization further its own interests.*

(Emphasis added)

The policy further provides that “a ‘conflict of interest’ does not arise in the case of an official act or action in which the public officer has a personal or financial interest in the outcome * * * that is no greater than that of other persons generally affected by the decision.”

The policy requires an official who may have a conflict of interest—whether real or perceived—in a matter before the public body of which the officer is a member to publicly disclose the

potential conflict before any action on the matter. The policy further provides that, after making such disclosure, the officer “shall declare whether he or she will recuse him or herself and explain the basis for their decision.” The policy allows the public officer to avoid recusal if, in spite of the conflict, the officer “believes that he or she is able to act fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.” In such a case, the officer shall state for the record why they believe they meet that criterion. Where the official is an officer of an elected body, the other members may state their opinions on the issue, but absent a governing ordinance or charter, they may not force the recusal of the officer.

As noted above, the TPF are elected officials that administer a bequest to the Town of Brandon from Brandon resident Shirley Farr. Upon Farr’s death and the receipt by the town of the bequest, Vermont state law required the town to elect trustees to manage the bequest, but the trustees act independently of town government. The trustees consider applications for grants based on the text of Ms. Farr’s will and, where the text is ambiguous, their interpretation of the text. As officials elected to administer the Farr bequest, the TPF are subject to the town’s conflict of interest policy.

The complaints under review challenge Mr. Romano and Ms. Miner’s decision to act on the OVAA’s application for a grant to fund a feasibility study for a community recreation center. Specifically, the allegations in the complaint against Mr. Romano suggest that he had a direct financial and personal interest in the grant for the feasibility study because he is a member “and probable director” of the VCC and “quite possibly also a party to the activities of the OVAA.” The complaint against Ms. Miner alleges that her vote in favor of the OVAA request was “obviously a conflict and ethical violation” because she has a relative that works for Mr. Romano’s construction business.³ The complaints taken together also appear to suggest that the complainant is concerned that Mr. Romano’s construction business would somehow benefit from the grant.

Our investigation reveals no direct or indirect financial conflict of interest in the OVAA vote for either Mr. Romano or Ms. Miner. There is no evidence that, at the time of the vote, the VCC as an entity existed or, even if it existed, that either trustee would see any financial benefit from the creation of the recreational center. To conclude that either trustee, at the time of their vote, stood to benefit from it financially would requires too many speculative leaps: that the VCC existed; that Mr. Romano was a member/director of the VCC; that Mr. Romano’s construction company would bid on, and be awarded contract for, construction of the recreation center; and that Mr. Romano and his employees would benefit financially from the operation of the VCC. In

³ The complaints also alleges that the TPF’s decision as to the OVAA request “is also questionable as to whether the request for funds fell within the guidelines of the Shirley Farr Fund[.]” This concern is outside the purview of the Town’s conflict of interest policy or of the Select Board. Concerns about the relationship of requests for funding and the Fund’s guideline are best presented to the TPF for response.

short, there is no evidence that either Mr. Romano or Ms. Miner had a financial interest in the outcome of the vote “greater than that of other persons generally affected by the decision.”

That leaves the allegation that Mr. Romano had a personal interest in the outcome of the vote because of his alleged involvement in the VCC and his past involvement in other OVAA activities. The town policy defines a direct personal conflict of interest to include matters “of significant [non-financial] importance to the officer,” and defines an indirect personal conflict as “a matter in which the officer’s judgment may be affected because of a * * * membership in some organization and a desire to help that * * * organization further its own interests.”

Again, it requires too many speculative leaps to determine that—at the time of the vote on the OVAA’s request for funds for a feasibility study—Mr. Romano had a relationship with the VCC and desired to help the VCC. Mr. Romano’s relationship with the OVAA, on the other hand, merits more discussion.

As noted above, the OVAA is a booster club for student activities at OVUMHS. Mr. Romano has acknowledged that he has a relationship with the OVAA and has donated services to the OVAA in the past, as well as assisted with fundraising. It is at least arguable, then, that Mr. Romano had an indirect personal interest in the outcome of the vote to the extent that his vote could help the OVAA further its own interests. In other words, because a reasonable person could question Mr. Romano’s association with the OVAA at the time of the vote on the grant for a feasibility study, there is a *perception* of a conflict of interest, even if there was no actual conflict. And as is too often the case, the perception of a conflict can be as damaging to the reputations of the parties involved as an actual conflict.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, we find that neither Mr. Romano nor Ms. Miner had any direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the vote on the OVAA’s request for funds for the feasibility study. Further, Ms. Miner had no direct or indirect personal interest in the outcome of the vote. However, Mr. Romano had what could be perceived by a reasonable person as an indirect personal interest in the outcome of the vote because of his relationship with the OVAA. That perception could have been cured by Mr. Romano stating his relationship with the OVAA on the record, and then either recusing himself or explaining why, despite his perceived conflict of interest, he was nevertheless able to act “act fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.”

The town policy provides that, in the event that an elected official has been found to have taken an official act despite an actual or perceived conflict of interest, without first following the procedures for revealing the conflict and explaining their decision not to recuse themselves, the Select Board may admonish the officer at a public meeting, provided the officer is given the

opportunity to address the admonishment. The policy further provides that the Select Board, on a majority vote in an open meeting, may request—but not order—the elected official resign from his or her office.

Before this report was finalized, Mr. Romano announced his resignation as a Trustee of Public Funds. Accordingly, we do not believe that the public interest would be served by either a public admonishment of Mr. Romano, or by a request that he resign his position. It is clear, however from the content of the complaints and the discussion that has surrounded them, that there are public concerns about the TPF and their review of requests for funds. We believe that most of those concerns can be alleviated by more interaction between the public and the TPF.

Accordingly, we offer the following recommendations:

- In conformance with other public bodies, the TPF should schedule regular meetings at which to discuss requests for funding received during a designated time period and at which the public can raise any questions about requests for funding. Those meetings should be held in an easily accessible public place, such as the meeting rooms at Town Hall or the library, at a time that would allow for more public participation. Offering a ZOOM link for remote meetings is also helpful but should not be a substitute for a more accessible place and time. These meetings need not be numerous and can be canceled if there is no business to conduct.
- The TPF should add the Brandon Front Porch Forum to the list of places that it publishes its warning and agenda for meetings, to ensure a more widespread notice.
- In any case in which a reasonable person might perceive that a trustee's vote may be affected by the trustee's other affiliations or relationships, the trustee should follow the procedure set out in the town's policy regarding disclosure and recusal. We understand that in a small town like Brandon there is a relatively small pool of individuals willing and able to volunteer for public office, and there will be cases in which the perception of a conflict cannot be avoided. Accordingly, we emphasize that the test is what an objectively reasonable person would perceive from a set of provable facts; it does not require the trustees (or any public officials) to entertain concerns based on pure speculation, or which require the piling of inference upon inference to reach a conclusion. Rather, it simply requires the trustee to take an objective view of his or her relationships with the organizations appearing before them and consider how those relationships may appear to a member of the public.⁴
- To ensure transparency about the use of public funds, the TPF should require grantees to provide updates on the use of the funds and the results of the projects funded and should make those updates available to the public upon request.

⁴ This third recommendation is applicable to ALL town officials, elected or appointed; not just the TPF.

- Finally, if any funds disbursed to the OVAA for the feasibility study remain unspent, the TPF should make efforts to recoup those funds.

NOTE Added May 13, 2025:

Mr Romano, Ms Miner, and Mr Buehler were provided this report immediately after the selectboard vote of May 12, 2025 adopting the report. The board voted to make the report public 24 hours after providing the report to the complainant and subjects of the complaint.

Mr Romano disputes Finding #7 and the conclusions drawn therefrom.

In line with the vote of the selectboard, the report is made public with his response above added following the final page of the document.

**Respectfully submitted,
Seth Hopkins, town manager**

TO Selectboard
DATE 23 May 2025
RE Summer 2025 Road Paving Plan

As I reported to you at the May 12th Selectboard, the applications for Class 2 paving grants in our VTrans District great exceeded the amount provided to the program this year, and Brandon was not successful in securing any Class 2 paving funds.

Accordingly, we are moving to a plan to pave Class 3 roads this summer. Class 3 roads are, by definition, never eligible for Class 2 paving grants, but a number of our Class 3 roads are well-traveled and in need of improvement for drainage, safety, and comfort.

Our highway division chief Jeremy Disorda has identified Wheeler Road and Town Farm Road as the priority candidates for resurfacing this year, and has calculated the quantities of asphalt needed for shim (primarily this is bringing wheel ruts up to level) and topcoat/overlay (the "wear course" we drive on). His estimates are as follows:

- Wheeler Rd north of (not including) culvert and bridge at south end to end of existing pavement at Richmond Rd: 2,419 tons / \$230,000
- Town Farm Rd north from end of previous work at golf course to end of existing pavement at Richmond Rd: 1,643 tons / \$160,000

Assumptions:

- 1 Selectboard had planned to use \$100,000 of 1% Fund money (local option tax)
- 2 Union Street sidewalk match now forecast at \$200,000 rather than \$350,000
- 3 Approximate balance in 1% Fund is now \$487,734
unbooked obligations include \$25,000 / year HWY truck payment

It seems prudent that the Selectboard could authorize spending from the 1% Fund the \$100,000 it had determined during the FY25 budget-writing workshop PLUS an additional amount to pave one of those two roads (either an additional \$60,000 for Town Farm Rd, or an additional \$130,000 for Wheeler Rd).

I do not recommend doing both this year but do recommend the board authorize going out to bid for one or the other, with the full cost to be borne by the 1% Fund rather than the operating budget / property tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

