

## **Bristol Selectboard Meeting**

**August 8, 2011**

Selectboard Attendance: Chairman Joel Bouvier, Alan Huizenga, Sharon Compagna, Carol Wells, John "Peeker" Heffernan, Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Town Clerk Therese Kirby. Filmed for NEAT TV by Mary Arbuckle and reported for the Addison Independent by Andrew Stein. Also attended by Corey Mack, Peter Grant, Rick Kehne, Will Simmons, and Karen Wisell.

1. Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The first appointment was with Corey Mack of R.S.G. Transportation Consultants. He was here to present alternatives for the Rockydale Bike/Pedestrian Improvements Study. He was here in the spring for a public hearing, met with Bristol residents, took their ideas and was back to present his findings. His very preliminary estimate was three million dollars for a sidewalk from East Street to the Lincoln Road with several options for the location, including both sides of the road and up on a terrace where there is a water main on A. Johnson land. He also presented an estimate of four million dollars for a 10' wide bike bath on the south side of the river on National Forest and private lands. Corey presented an overview of all three of the possible designs and took questions throughout the presentation. The Selectboard thanked Corey and Rick Kehne for their time.
2. Public Forum: Rick Kehne will prepare a report on the traffic counters placed on the Lower Notch Road. They were not active as long as he would have liked, so he will try again at a later date. Alan Huizenga would like to wait until the South Street Bridge is open before placing traffic counters on the Lower Notch Road again, as he feels that will give the Selectboard more accurate information. The Selectboard and Rick agreed.
3. Discussion and setting of the FY 2011/2012 tax rate. The municipal tax rate will be set at \$.5866 creating the following tax rates: \$.21042/Homestead Tax Rate, \$.21984/Non-Residential Tax Rate, \$.23692/Homestead Tax Rate for the Police District and \$.24634/Non-Residential Tax Rate for the Police District. Sharon Compagna moved to set the property tax rates as presented. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted.  
Discussion of penalties for late filed Homestead Declarations. Therese Kirby explained when the Legislature eliminated the requirement of annual filing of the HS-122 (homestead declaration); they increased the penalty for filing for a property that is not a homestead or failing to file for a property that is a homestead. Since Bristol's homestead tax rate is lower than their non-homestead tax rate, the penalty would be 8% of the education tax. The Legislature did decide that municipalities have the discretion to assess or not assess the penalty. Therese stated the joint recommendation of her and Peter Ryan would be for the Selectboard not to assess the penalty. She gave the example that 8% of the education tax on a \$200,000 home would be 242.82. Sharon Compagna moved to not assess the penalties for a late filed homestead declaration. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.
4. Discussion of a draft warning for a possible special Police District meeting. This would be to ask the voters of the Police District to move the annual Police District

meeting to Town Meeting night, with the budget to be voted via Australian ballot the next day. Alan Huizenga moved to set the special Police District meeting for September 26, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Holley Hall. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

5. Discussion of Four Hills Farms request for a work in the right of way permit to install a waterline that would cross Burpee Road. Four Hills Farms has a well on one side of the road they would like to connect to. Alan Huizenga asked if the water line would be sleeved. Bill Bryant said yes. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the work in the right of way permit for Four Hills Farms. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. Four Hills Farm also requested a waiver of notice for a methane generation facility application to the Public Service Board. This request was tabled until the August 22, 2011 meeting.

6. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the July 25, 2011 minutes. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

7. Peeker Heffernan moved to hire the Law Offices of Kevin T. Brennan PLLC to handle the 2010/2011 tax sales. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

8. Selectboard Roundtable: Carol Wells spoke of AmeriCorps volunteers coming to Town to perform some infrastructure work in August for two weeks. Carol has been working with other non-profits to come up with a list of projects. This is happening at no cost to the Town of Bristol. Alan Huizenga moved to authorize Bill Bryant to sign the AmeriCorps agreement. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. Sharon Compagna said the Recreation Department had a fund raiser to benefit their scholarship fund Friday night at the American Legion and it was a nice event. She also said the Touch a Truck event they held the next day was fun for children and parents. Sharon commended Darla and Val for their good work. Sharon also wanted to remind people not to enter the fountain as it is slippery and it is recycled water. She also stated Terry McKnight of Addison County Community Housing will be here on September 19, 2011 to speak to the Selectboard regarding housing opportunities in Bristol. Joel Bouvier asked about the timeline to replace hydrants.

9. Town Administrator's Report: Bill Bryant reported the Carriage House is in terrible shape, so White Dog Construction/Chuck Richardson, gave Bill an estimate to complete all of the repairs. If it is repaired soon, AmeriCorps volunteers will paint it for free. Alan Huizenga moved to waive the purchasing policies requirement for other estimates due to time constraints and accept the bid of White Dog Construction to make repairs to the carriage house. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. Carol Wells will speak with Ann Cousins regarding repairing the wheel in the bell tower and report back to Bill. The Safe Routes to School Bids are due this Thursday, August 11, 2011. Bill had assistance earlier today by the Bristol Police Department to quarantine a dog at the dog pound that bit a child. Francis & Diane Heffernan have made a request to extend the waterline on Plank Road to their property on the corner of Plank Road and Jay Drive. Alan Huizenga suggested tapping into the water line as a service connection and laying an 8" pipe if more services tie on at a later date. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the service connection on the west side of Jay Drive, with a curb stop on the north side of

Plank Road with the connection to be made under the road if possible. Carol Wells seconded. So voted with Pecker Heffernan abstaining from the vote. At such time as the installation takes place, the Heffernan's will come to the Selectboard for approval of a work in the right of way permit. Bill Bryant updated the Selectboard on the South Street Bridge, the Hendee's sewer allocation, emailed Tori Prouty for an update on the half marathon and is waiting to hear back from her, Farmer's Market is going to bring in their own trash cans to deal with the trash over flow created on the park Saturday morning, he updated the Selectboard on a meeting Kristen Underwood held regarding the New Haven River, and the handicap access fishing pier started construction today at Eagle Park. Bill also updated the Selectboard on mediation between parties in the Lathrop gravel pit zoning and ACT 250 appeal.

10. Sharon Compagna moved to go into executive session regarding personnel matters involving the appointment, employment, or evaluation of public officers or employees and legal matters/real estate negotiations involving the Town where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:33 pm to 9:45 pm. The Selectboard adjourned at 9:46 pm and no motions were made.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Therese Kirby  
Clerk