

Bristol Selectboard Meeting

December 5, 2011

Selectboard Attendance: Chairman Joel Bouvier, Carol Wells, Sharon Compagna, Alan Huizenga and 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: Slim Pickens, John Moyers, Rep. Dave Sharpe, Rep. Mike Fisher, Rep. Diane Lanpher, Naomi Drummond, Martha Evans Mungeon, Sue Minter, Mike Hedges, Bunny Daubner, Randal Freeman, John Pandiani, and Bruce Duncan.

1. Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Sue Minter, Deputy Secretary Vermont Agency of Transportation and Mike Hedges, Chief Structures Division Vermont Agency of Transportation, and Martha Evans-Mongeon, also of Vermont Agency of Transportation, were here to update the Selectboard on the Route 116 "Stoplight" bridge, and the South Street Bridge. Martha presented a map of the "Stoplight" bridge and answered questions regarding the design. Bill Bryant wanted to know the time frame for construction. Mike Hedges said the redesign had already been worked on before Hurricane Irene. Discussion regarding parking, detours, and location of the temporary bridge. Martha said she feels the time frame has been slowed by six months from their previous estimate and they may be able to start work on the temporary two lane bridge in late 2013. Representative Mike Fisher wanted to know if the completion date was also pushed out six months. Martha said yes. Mike Hedges said preliminary plan design has been completed on the South Street Bridge and those plans will be submitted to the Selectboard for their review within the next few weeks. That bridge replacement is slated to begin in 2013. Rep. Diane Lanpher wanted to know how regular communication during the project can occur. Sue said VTrans is looking to local County Regional Planning Commissions to assist VTrans with needed outreach in the future. Martha said once the project starts there will be a resident engineer on site and they would be able to answer questions and update the Town on the project. The Selectboard thanked Sue, Martha, and Mike for their time.

2. Public Forum: John Moyers would like first consideration to be given to previous applicants for the opening on the Planning Commission. John is still interested in serving on the Planning Commission. He would like someone appointed who sees other citizens as collaborators not as a nuisance. John wanted to know who the Selectboard thinks their appointed boards serve. The Selectboard agreed it is the wider public not them as the Selectboard. John wants the Selectboard to take an active interest in the legal process regarding the Lathrop appeal. Alan Huizenga said the applicant is going through the ACT 250 process and he believes in the process. John would like the Selectboard to either argue for or against the application, but not to be passive. Bunny Daubner wanted to know the process of how people are appointed to boards. Joel Bouvier said they complete an application, they are interviewed by the Selectboard in open session, and then the Selectboard chooses an applicant. Carol Wells said they ask the applicants questions regarding their background, to see if they have skills that would help a specific board and why they are interested in the position. Sharon Compagna said they try to find the right fit between the applicant and the boards. Bunny asked if there were term limits. Carol said no. Bruce Duncan asked if the Selectboard had viewed the DVD of the November Planning Commission meeting. The Selectboard said they had viewed the DVD. Bruce again offered his time to facilitate community participation.

3. Carol Wells moved to accept the contract and sign the engagement letter with Sullivan, Powers & Company regarding the FY 2010/2011. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.
4. Carol Wells moved to accept the agreement with changes made tonight with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission for consulting services for the zoning rewrite for \$3,984.01 to be paid for by the balance of a planning grant. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. Carol Wells wanted to be clear Adam Lougee is not telling Bristol what the zoning rules should be, he is only assisting in facilitating the process.
5. Discussion of the Draft Certification from the Agency of Natural Resources for Bristol Landfill. This certification will be valid until 2016. Bill Bryant said the certification is available for public inspection.
6. Discussion of the Planning Commission vacancy. Sharon Compagna moved to accept the resignation of Planning Commission Chair Tom Wells, with regrets and appreciation for his service. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. Bill Bryant said the notice of vacancy needs to be posted and asked if the Selectboard wanted to interview in January or wait until March when they make other appointments. Alan Huizenga wanted to know if this person will complete Tom's term. Bill said yes. Alan Huizenga moved to wait to fill the vacancy until March. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. Carol Wells would like Bill to make past applicants aware of the vacancy.
7. Bill Bryant went over the schedule for the budget work sessions. The first Stormwater bond payment will be due and health insurance costs have remained stable.
8. Alan Huizenga moved to authorize Therese Kirby to cut a check to the Bristol Recreation Department for \$100 for the Breakfast with Santa cash box. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. Peeker Heffernan moved to authorize Therese Kirby to cut a check to BC/BS for the January premium of \$8,639.97. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. The Selectboard signed an accounts payable warrant of \$50,221.26.
9. Sharon Compagna moved to accept the minutes of November 21, 2011 as corrected. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. Therese Kirby reminded the Selectboard the tax sale is tomorrow morning at 9 am. Two properties went up for tax sale. She noted the National Bank of Middlebury will pay for the taxes of one and she had a bidder for the second.
10. Selectboard Roundtable: Carol Wells reminded people of this Friday's annual chocolate walk at the Main Street businesses. Joel Bouvier reminded Bill Bryant the Selectboard had agreed to provide the Recreation Club with two loads of gravel. Bill Bryant will speak with Road Foreman Peter Bouvier and Joel Bouvier will speak with Joe Devall regarding this issue. Joel also spoke with Joe Bobee of CVPS regarding streetlights that are currently out of order. Joe said if the police mark the poles with yellow caution tape and call CVPS with their locations, they will replace the bulbs.
11. Town Administrator's Report: Bill Bryant updated the Selectboard on several issues including: the Prince Lane Project, Memorial Park, Old High School Alley water line repair,

Attorney Kevin Brennan is reviewing the easements for the water line in the alley by the Old High School, Bristol Works submitted its ACT 250 application and it is available for public viewing.

12. Sharon Compagna moved to go into executive session to discuss three personnel issues, two real estate negotiations and three legal issues involving the Town where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:10 pm to 10:50 pm. Following the return to the open meeting, the Selectboard released the following statement: "Bristol Selectboard members have reviewed the DVD of the November meeting of the Planning Commission. The Selectboard regrets the controversy that has arisen due to the denial of an opportunity to air a public comment at that meeting. The Selectboard does not believe that the ruling of the acting chairman violated the letter of the open meeting law. However, the Selectboard believes that in the spirit of that law it is better to allow more, rather than less, public participation in our public meetings. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all town boards and commissions to welcome input from our citizens." The meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Therese Kirby
Clerk