

Bristol Selectboard Meeting

August 13, 2012

Selectboard Attendance: Chairman John “Peeker” Heffernan, Joel Bouvier, Carol Wells, Alan Huizenga and Sharon Compagna. Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Town Clerk Therese Kirby. Filmed for NEAT TV by Sean Kimball. Also attended by: Brett LaRose, Jim Quaglino, George Smith, Reg Dearborn, Kristen Underwood and Steve Libby.

1. At 7:00 pm Peeker Heffernan called the meeting to order. First Assistant Chief Brett LaRose was here regarding a Homeland Security grant for communications equipment. The Bristol Fire Department (BFD) is applying for a mobile repeater and 26 headsets for their fire trucks worth approximately \$30,000. If awarded, the grant will cover \$29,122 of the cost. The mobile repeater will be installed on a fire truck, for times the BFD cannot communicate with Shelburne Dispatch via the repeater at the Comcast tower, due to a dead zone. The headsets will allow firefighters to hear all of the communications over the sound of the pump and other equipment and still be mobile. The Towns share will be \$1,185 out of the Fire Department Capital Fund to cover labor and travel for the vendors to install the equipment. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the grant application to Vermont Homeland Security for the purchase of the mobile repeater and 26 headsets for \$29,122 with a match out of the Fire Department Capital Fund for \$1,185. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

2. George Smith and Reg Dearborn were here representing the Howden Hall Committee regarding the phasing of planned improvements for Howden Hall. The Selectboard hired Ed Hanson as project manager, at a previous meeting, to help plan and implement the improvements to Howden Hall. Bill Bryant stated some of the repairs to Howden Hall are: the 5” thick concrete floor needs to be torn out, the plumbing and electrical updated and the stone foundation will be insulated with spray foam. Reg believes the septic system was replaced in 1962 or 1963 and will need to be located to allow access for concrete removal.

The other issue is making the basement handicap accessible via a lift. Neither Bill Bryant, Ed Hanson nor the Howden Hall Committee believes the bathroom can be made handicap accessible or the lift installed, with the money currently available. The plan is to remove the full kitchen and install a small kitchenette. Ed will be submitting a bid for basement wall and ceiling demolition, which Bill will bring to a future Selectboard meeting. Alan Huizenga and Peeker Heffernan would like a radon removal pipe and fan to be installed since the foundation will be dug up and replaced. The Selectboard thanked Reg and George for their time.

3. Two Buds Souperlative, LLP did not attend their previously scheduled meeting tonight per their agreement with the Selectboard, hence their permission to be at Bartlett’s Falls has been revoked.

4. Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy and Kristen Underwood were here regarding a river corridor conservation project for the New Haven River. Alan and Todd Saunders would like to work with them to find a solution to stabilize the river bend

on Bristol Flats, as this is a very volatile part of the river. They have agreed to sell four plots to the Vermont River Conservancy who in turn would turn the property over to the Town of Bristol, while retaining the conservation easements. By doing this, it opens up funding to help stabilize the erosion on the river bend. Steve explained they are a land trust based in Montpelier who focuses a lot of time on river corridor easements and they will be the agent to help this real estate transaction take place. The land will be purchased via two funding sources, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the Ecological Restoration Grant Program funded by the State of Vermont. The Town of Bristol will also pay a portion of the closing costs and survey. The Town will own the property and the Vermont River Conservancy and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will hold the easements. The contingencies on the sale are the Saunders get to keep the right to farm Lot A, the property would remain open for recreation and the river bend and erosion control plan would be implemented. There is an August 24, 2012 deadline to submit the plan to the Saunders. There will be costs to plant trees as a buffer to help stabilize the bend so Kristen completed an application to the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program on behalf of the Town, to cover the plants, the planting, the construction oversight costs and paperwork. This would help pay Kristen's business, South Mountain Surveying to continue the oversight and planning work. The 38.6 acres of land is currently enrolled in the current use program, the Selectboard has limited the Town's participation to \$6,500 from the Conservation Reserve Fund and the purchase price is based on current real estate values. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the application to the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program for \$11,400 to cover the costs previously outlined by Kristen Underwood. Carol Wells seconded. So voted. The Saunders would like to have an agreement with the Town to allow them to continue to hay Lot A. The time frame for that agreement would be for the lifetime of Alan and or Todd and would be nontransferable to other parties, they would need to work in accordance with acceptable agricultural practices and they must maintain a 50' buffer. Vermont River Conservancy will monitor this agreement. Alan wanted to know how the public access easement will work in relation to farming as the two do not always go hand in hand. Steve Libby said at this point he is not sure how the Vermont Housing and Conservation will want to handle this. There was a small (6 to 8 cars) parking space allowed for in the purchase and sales agreement. Discussion of whether only haying will be allowed on the land. Steve thinks it makes sense to stay just in hay to assist with stabilizing the land. Bill Bryant would like the parking specified and perhaps a 5' access delineated for people to get to the river so they are not walking all over the Saunders hay. The Selectboard asked Bill Bryant to confer with Attorney Kevin Brennan regarding drafting the agreement between the Town and the Saunders. The Selectboard thanked Kristen and Steve for their time.

5. Carol Wells moved to approve the 10/19/2011 Emergency Hazard Mitigation Plan. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted.

6. Alan Huizenga moved to approve the purchase order of \$17,000 for McCullough Crushing. Peeker stated they crush two years of gravel at one time. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

7. The Selectboard approved an accounts payable warrant of \$71,008.01.
8. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the minutes of July 30, 2012 as printed. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted
9. Therese Kirby reminded registered voters of the Primary Election Day on Tuesday, August 28, 2012. The polls will be open from 9 am to 7pm and absentee ballots are available.
10. Selectboard Roundtable: Carol Wells said in light of the drug situation in Bristol she would like to support Police Chief Kevin Gibbs' idea of increasing the Town patrol from 10 hours a week and have that handled by part timer officers, so the full time officers have more time to focus on the drug issue. She would like to discuss this idea in two weeks when the Chief is scheduled to be at that meeting. Bill Bryant said there may be some wiggle room in Kevin's health insurance line item to supplement part time salaries, but that depends on a couple of pending personnel matters. Bill Bryant stated on Kevin's behalf the drug busts lately have happened with cooperation between agencies. Peeker Heffernan felt it was too bad the television interviewer focused only on the budget cut backs and not the drug busts. Joel Bouvier wanted to know where the Town stands on replacing the water line on High Street. He also spoke with the Road Foreman in Hinesburg and he encouraged Bristol to pass a work zone ordinance. Joel would like the base radio the Police have returned to the fire department. With the grant money available, he would like the Bristol Police Department to write a grant and get their own. Peeker said he spoke with Kevin, who said he would have Randy look into finding funding for it. Alan Huizenga said the street lights were in need of some electrical repair. Discussion of the paving work on Liberty Street. Peeker Heffernan offered the Selectboard's deepest sympathies to the Stetson family for the loss of Marilyn.
11. Town Administrator's Report: Bill updated the Selectboard on the final Hurricane Irene numbers. The Town received \$153,000 from FEMA and \$13,250 from Pacif. The Town paid for highway staff labor out of the general fund budget, so when we were reimbursed for wages and equipment depreciation, that money was deposited into the Capital Funds for each department. At budget time "on-call pay" for officers on duty for more than four hours was discussed and budgeted for, but a policy was never developed. Chief Kevin Gibbs will be coming to the Selectboard with a proposed policy for that at a future meeting. An anonymous tip was given regarding drugs being sold out of a car parked on the Town Green. The car was not located that night, but pulled over the next day and drugs were found. A no-trespass order will be issued to those individuals preventing them from being on the Town Green. Bill said there is a pending deed and maintenance agreement between the State and the Town for the end of Carlstrom Road near the stoplight bridge. The State of Vermont hired an engineer to design the new traffic light and crosswalks for the Main Street intersection, so those plans will be coming to the Selectboard for their review in the near future. Bill received a thank you letter for Sergeant Randy Crowe and Officer Josh Otey for assisting with a fundraiser for Special

Olympics at Maplefields. He also received another letter thanking Chief Gibbs and Officer Otey for assisting a stranded motorist by changing a tire.

12. Alan Huizenga moved to go into executive session regarding one legal matter involving the Town where premature general public knowledge of the subject matter would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 8:45 pm to 9:05 pm. No motions were made.

Respectfully Submitted,
Therese Kirby