

Attendance: Chairman John "Peeker" Heffernan, Alan Huizenga, Sharon Compagna, Carol Wells and Joel Bouvier. Town Administrator Bill Bryant and Town Clerk Therese Kirby. Filmed for NEAT TV by Joanna Etko and reported for the Addison Independent by Xian Chiang-Waren. Also attended by: Bob Stetson, Jim Quaglino, Bob Donnis, Martha Halnon, Jill Mackler, Peg Martin, Annie Rossier, Michael Fernandez, Nancy Marnellos, Dave Sharpe, Matt Sharpe, Brendan Gallivan, John Pandiani, Brett LaRose, David Folino, Sue Folino, Randy Crowe and Josh Otey.

1. At 7:00 pm, Peeker Heffernan called the Selectboard meeting to order. He then opened the public hearing for the proposed application to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) in support of an Addison County Dental Center (ACDC). Peg Martin was here representing ACDC. She explained the dental center was originally slated for Middlebury, but they were unable to find a dentist, now ACDC is moving to Bristol Works in Bristol and is looking for the Selectboard to sign a resolution tonight supporting the application to VCDP and saying Bristol agrees to be the intermediary. The application is for \$300,000 to be used only for equipment. ACDC would eventually become part of the Five Town Health Alliance, allowing them to become a federal funded health center. Bill Bryant pointed out the VCDP may require the Town to use some of our Revolving Loan Fund money as matching funds, a grant or a loan, but as of this point they are undecided. Representative Dave Sharpe spoke with VCDP and has been assured that even if the Selectboard signs the resolution tonight, they could still stop the process if the amount VCDP wants contributed by the Revolving Loan Fund is more than the Selectboard is willing to give. Dave also understands the growth of the Revolving Loan Fund is due to good stewardship by the Committee and the Selectboard and knows it may be a hot button issue to be forced to give money to the project. Dave also said he would monitor the situation. Bob Stetson supports the dental clinic but thought they were considering the old Bristol Internal Medicine office. Peg said they were, but the State criteria for the sewage capacity made the location impossible. Alan Huizenga said he believes the requirements are 250 gallons per chair plus 15 gallons per employee. Carol Wells wanted to know when they anticipated opening and Peg said October or November 2013. They will start with one dentist and several hygienists. At 7:26 Peeker closed the public hearing. Carol Wells moved to approve the resolution for the Addison County Dental Center's application to the Vermont Community Development Program for \$300,000 for dental equipment. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

2. Bob Donnis, Brendan Gallivan and Matt Sharpe were here representing the Energy Committee to discuss the PACE home energy loan program with the Selectboard. They would like the Selectboard to put an article on the Town Meeting warning allowing residents to vote on whether or not they want a PACE program in Bristol. PACE loans are designed to fund

renewable energy projects or energy efficient upgrades to homes. In order for Bristol residents to qualify for these loans, they must first vote to create a PACE district. When people take out a loan, it becomes an assessment on their property, so if they default, the loan must be sent to the delinquent tax collector for collection. Brendan Gallivan explained that the Town of Bristol can sign an agreement with Efficiency Vermont, who will invoice people for their loan payment and collect the monthly payments. Bob Donnis explained the loans will be made by banks who will vet the applicants and there are specific guidelines in place regarding debt to income ratio so not everyone will qualify. Efficiency Vermont will also be the one to go over the project and establish the project meets the PACE loan requirements with regard to qualified energy contractors, rebate programs and the payback time on the project. Peeker Heffernan wanted to know if Efficiency Vermont takes into consideration the life of the product. He wants to be sure they are not giving 20 year loans on a furnace that will last for 15. Matt Sharpe said Efficiency Vermont does take that into consideration and loans are not given for terms that are more than the efficiency. There are two loan loss reserves funds and one is funded by the borrower and one by the State of Vermont. Borrowers contribute funds to one fund each time they borrow money and the State funded the other to cover any defaults. When the home is sold the PACE loan can be paid off or transferred to the home buyer if they are agreeable. Carol Wells wanted to know if it was possible to default on a PACE loan but pay their taxes. Bob Donnis said yes. Joel Bouvier wanted to know what the interest rate on PACE loans will be. Matt Sharpe said the banks have not set it yet. Matt went on to say if people can afford it, they can use a home equity loan and it would be more cost effective for them to do so. Bill Bryant noted there would be some impact on taxpayers, but these impacts would be minimal and consist of staff and Selectboard time spent implementing the program and writing a management agreement with Efficiency Vermont on the front-end and collection of delinquent accounts through the tax sale procedure on the back-end. He recommended that if the program is adopted, the Selectboard should work out an agreement with the Collector of Delinquent Taxes for an hourly rate basis to compensate time spent on PACE collections as this is above and beyond her duties for tax collections. Carol Wells moved to approve preparation of an article regarding creating a PACE district in Bristol to be included on the Town Meeting Warning. Alan Huizenga seconded. So voted.

The Energy Committee also discussed changing streetlights to LED bulbs with a possible savings of \$7,000 a year for the Town in rental tariffs to the Town. Efficiency Vermont would pay Green Mountain Power (GMP) a depreciation fee on the metal halide fixtures that were installed three or four years ago in an amount of about \$13,000. The Town would have no costs for the conversion. The Town pays for 139 streetlights currently. There was discussion about the equivalency of the LED and metal halide lights in terms of quality and brightness. There was discussion about the Committee's review of this matter and their emphasis on making changes that will enhance and not lessen safety and be minimally noticeable to the public. Alan

Huizenga wanted Bill Bryant to look at the map of streetlight locations to assure the Town is not paying for lighting on private property. Bill suggested Green Mountain Power should install a few LED bulbs to begin with so the Selectboard could see if they liked the intensity of the lights. Carol Wells encouraged residents to call the Town Office with the pole number of any streetlight that is not working. The Town office staff will then call GMP and have them fix the light, as the Town pays a fee each month whether or not the light is working. Joel Bouvier moved to approve the change from metal halides to LED lights. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

3. Jim Quaglino and Sergeant Randy Crowe were here on behalf of the Police Advisory Committee to present their results of the November 6, 2012 survey regarding future consideration of a town-wide police district. Chief Kevin Gibbs and Bill Bryant will work on proposed budget for a town-wide police department over the next few months. It would show people the tax implications of having a town-wide police department and see if people are still interested once there are real numbers attached to the idea. Bill feels these numbers could be presented to Bristol residents over the next year or two. After looking over the survey results, Alan commented on how well the Bristol Police Department does their job as the survey results show that people who called the police were satisfied. Randy does not want to diminish the work the Vermont State Police does as they cover 21 towns. The Selectboard thanked Randy and Jim for their time.

4. Assistant Fire Chief Brett LaRose was here regarding a \$3,588 grant he would like to submit to Homeland Security for portable radios, that requires no matching funds. Brett said the purpose of the grant is to put portable radios in the hands of daytime fire fighters who are around and available during the day. These radios would allow fire fighters to communicate with the dispatch center and each other to create a plan for what equipment they may need. Carol Wells moved to approve the grant application for \$3,588 to Vermont Homeland Security for portable radios. Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted.

5. Dave and Sue Folino came to public forum and wanted to speak to the Selectboard regarding a zoning permit that was issued to them via a flawed process. He gave a bit of the history of the permit to the Selectboard. Bill Bryant said the permit was issued in error and the Board of Adjustment over turned the application on appeal by a neighbor. The permit was based on a hard to understand section of the zoning regulations that was interpreted incorrectly. Dave said they did not post their zoning permit poster correctly and their neighbor appealed their application. The Board of Adjustment told them they needed to tear down their addition and they are currently appealing that decision. They are willing to accept their part in not posting the sign correctly, but feel the Town should bear some culpability. Alan Huizenga said he deals with Town zoning for a living and sometimes people get steered in the wrong direction and hopefully someone else catches it. Carol Wells asked the Folino's to submit in

writing a list of ideas they have to make the process better. The Selectboard thanked the Folino's for their time.

6. Discussion of unemployment insurance from VLCT Unemployment Trust. Bill Bryant explained the Town has self insured for years and over the last three years, we have paid out approximately \$16,600 in claims. VLCT gave us a quote for \$5,919 per year. Alan Huizenga said he is not in favor of purchasing unemployment insurance. Peeker Heffernan agreed especially since they have outsourced an entire department. The remainder of the Selectboard agreed.

7. Randy Crowe was here regarding a \$6,000 equipment grant he would like to submit to the Governor's Highway Safety Equipment Grant Program for Click it or Ticket and DUI campaigns. By participating in these campaigns, Bristol Police Department (BPD) earns money towards equipment. BPD would participate in these programs as part of their regular shifts and no overtime patrols would be made. The officer reports the number of hours and contact they made and that is how they get credit for equipment. Carol Wells wanted to know if he has specific equipment he would like. Randy said not at this time, however he has received permission to use the money to repair equipment they already earned; for example one of the speed carts. Joel Bouvier moved to approve the grant application to Governor's Highway Safety for a \$6,000 equipment grant. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

8. The Selectboard approved the accounts payable warrant for \$1,793,665.29.

9. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2012 as printed. Carol Wells seconded. So voted.

10. Therese Kirby informed the Selectboard that Sullivan and Powers were at the office November 12 through the 15 working on the fiscal year 2011-2012 audit.

11. Selectboard Roundtable: Carol Wells said this Saturday, November 24, 2012 is Small Business Saturday so she encouraged everyone to come to Bristol to shop and enjoy the Christmas decorations. She said the flower baskets were filled with decorations and put back up today. Sharon Compagna thanked the volunteers who cleaned up the Peace Garden before winter. Peeker Heffernan said he was contacted by Jim Lockridge inviting the Selectboard to hold a meeting at the HUB. Joel Bouvier would like to see the Selectboard hold meetings at the HUB, Fire Department and Town Garage once a year. Bill will speak with Jim Lockridge about scheduling an evening to be there.

12. Town Administrator's Report: Bill Bryant thanked Peter Ryan and Therese Kirby for their assistance gathering information regarding the Revolving Loan Fund for the Vermont Community Development application. He also said the Road Crew fixed the storm water drain behind Anne Wallace's house on the class 4 section of Spring Street that was leaking and they

plan to replace the line in the spring. The Conservation Commission will be coming to a future Selectboard meeting to discuss the gravel pits behind Mt. Abe.

13. Sharon Compagna moved to go into executive session to discuss 2 personnel matters involving the appointment, employment or evaluation of public officers or employees and 2 legal/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 9:35 pm until 11:50 pm with Therese Kirby joining them for a short time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Therese Kirby
Clerk