

Selectboard Meeting

October 27, 2014

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Joel Bouvier, Sharon Compagna, John "Peeker" Heffernan and Michelle Perlee. Also present was Town Administrator Therese Kirby, Town Clerk Jen Myers, filmed by Mary Arbuckle with NEAT TV, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, State Representative Mike Fisher, State Representative Dave Sharpe, Eric Forand, Jim Quaglino, Wendy Carter, Rob Carter, Sandy Comly, Father Yvon, Reverend Bill Elwell, Reverend Barb James and Gary James.

1. At 7:00 pm Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order.
2. Reverend Bill Elwell and Rob Carter joined the Board to discuss a live nativity scene on the park. Therese Kirby discussed the process the application went through to get to this point. Reverend Elwell spoke about the other events that currently occur on the park that could be considered religious. He also mentioned the application to use the park doesn't outline whether the proposed use of the park is determined by the Selectboard or the Recreation Department making it very subjective. Therese discussed this exemplifies the potential need for a policy or ordinance. Sharon Compagna moved to allow a live nativity on the green on December 20, 2014 from 4-6 pm. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted. The Board thanked Bill for his time and his offer of assistance with crafting a future policy.
3. Sharon Compagna moved to adopt the Bristol Fire Department's Policy Manual and October 1, 2014 bylaws. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.
4. Michelle Perlee moved to approve the driveway access permit for Gary & Mary Adams-Smith on River Road. Sharon Compagna seconded. All were opposed, permit was denied due to the deed referencing the driveway access to the property is through Hilltop View.

The Board discussed an access permit submitted by Kevin Irish on Notch Road. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the driveway access permit at 269 Notch Road with stipulations added by Road Foreman Peter Bouvier. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.

5. The Board discussed the Resolution for Sustainable Education Funding Reform in Vermont. Sharon Compagna said this might be something the Town wants to consider signing. State Representative Mike Fisher said this is to raise education tax money other than via property taxes. State Representative Dave Sharpe understands the concern and effort, but feels the goal is problematic. He explained the history of the education tax rate. Peter Ryan said the issue is the cost of the education. Therese Kirby also reminded the public there is still local control, they could vote down a school budget to force the School Board to re-evaluate the numbers. The Board discussed the concerns of property taxes. Dave Sharpe discussed the pressures tax payers are under in making decisions to vote for or against budgets and bonds. The Board did not sign the resolution.
6. The Board discussed the updated response to Notice of Alleged Violation for the Landfill. Therese Kirby explained LE Environmental recalculated the closure costs from \$1.4 million to \$1.5 million. Merle Knight met with Casella Waste in regards to bringing their trash to Bristol. They are concerned about dumping in an unlined landfill. Therese Kirby explained bonding to close the Landfill at the end of the Town's certification would make the closure cost a finite number. If the Town waits to close the Landfill, the closure cost will continue to increase. Therese discussed this with State Representatives Dave Sharpe and Mike Fisher who said Shaftsbury received \$350,000 from the State to close their Landfill. The Board discussed the financial piece of closing the Landfill versus keeping it open. Joel Bouvier discussed increasing the bag price, cutting costs, and also putting a penny more on the tax rate to be designated specifically for this. Therese said a penny on the tax rate would only raise around \$28,000, which still will not be enough to raise the amount needed to contribute to the closure fund. Peter Ryan reminded the Board the \$1.5 million is going to continue to increase. The Board discussed different closure dates. Michelle Perlee suggested telling the Agency of Natural Resources they will close December 31, 2016 if the State will allow the use of alternative material to cover the Landfill and will provide money from the Governor's budget. Therese explained what will be included in the response letter to the Agency of Natural Resources. Brett LaRose said as long as the community has notice of change and some alternatives it will be easier for the Town to adjust. If they choose to close in 2016, this would give them plenty of time to come up with a plan. The Board discussed taking the leaves to compost them before they close. The Board agreed to not accept leaves and brush as it would require

extra man power to make sure that they were just receiving leaves. Therese will write a letter to the Governor on behalf of the Board requesting financial assistance with the closure.

7. The Board discussed the final lease agreement between the Town and Recreation Club for the Hub. Sharon Compagna moved to accept the final lease agreement between the Town and Recreation club for the Hub. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.

8. Fire Chief Brett LaRose explained the invoice and the use of the Capital Equipment purchases. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the use of \$2,250 of Fire Department Capital Equipment funds for radio headsets, wireless base stations and installation. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.

9. Sharon Compagna moved to approve minutes from October 13, 2014. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.

10. The Selectboard approved the accounts payable warrant of \$118,166.28. Therese Kirby asked the Board to approve the payment of an invoice from Wright and Morrissey. Michelle Perlee moved to allow the Treasurer to cut a check to Wright and Morrissey in the amount of \$47,228.89. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.

11. Jen Myers reminded everyone about the General Election on November 4, 2014. Polls will be open from 9am until 7pm. She also reminded everyone taxes are due November 5, 2014 and postmarks are not accepted.

12. Selectboard Roundtable: Peeker Heffernan discussed his concern with the Fire Station. The floor has risen four inches and he is concerned about the structure of the building. He would like a structural engineer to look at the building, which would not only address the situation but also the current state the station is in. Fire Chief Brett LaRose said the mini pumper is currently stored in that building which weighs 18,000 pounds. He has already removed the other apparatus that was in there, due to the issue with the floor. Therese Kirby is going to look at the floor with Second Assistant Chief Kevin LaRose and Chuck Richardson from White Dog Construction. Therese will call three engineers and ask them to give us a quote. Peeker mentioned the 116 South Bridge is open. Sharon Compagna asked if the storm drain on Mountain Street had been taken care of. Therese said no, but she will talk with the Road Foreman Peter Bouvier. Michelle Perlee asked about the trees being cut on Meehan Road. Therese said Peter Bouvier has been in contact with Job Corps and they have had some equipment troubles, but it will get done before winter. Michelle asked how long the road will be closed for the Veteran's Day Parade. Therese said from about 11 am until 1 pm. Michelle discussed getting iPads as a Board. Therese would like to create a technology fund. The Board discussed doing this in the future. Michelle asked about the alley way update. Therese said after discussion with Kevin Brennan the price of survey was a little more expensive than we hoped, but we could decrease the cost by doing the research internally and submitting that information to the surveyors. The survey will analyze the recordings and locate the placement of the alley. The Board agreed they would like the issue clarified. Joel asked about the status of the Capital Building fund balance. Therese said she looked recently and there is about \$75,000. Joel asked about the status of the water line repair due to damage by A. Johnson. Therese said she spoke with Josh Masterson, they are going to fix it and bill A. Johnson. Joel asked about the status of the playground and reminded everyone about the Veteran's Day Parade. Therese said the Playground would be complete this week. The parade has 500-600 Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts coming to the event. Joel asked if the Board is selling the third police cruiser. The Board agreed they were.

12. Town Administrator's Report: Therese said the monthly department head meeting is this Wednesday and the discussion will be emergency planning. Masterson's has been awarded the contract for the water line replacement for \$42,030. They know they have been awarded the contract and plan on starting right away. A citizen asked about Vermont Gas and some of the Streets being owned by the Town. Peeker Heffernan said most all deeds reference to the center of the road. Therese said the Town is an interested party, but has never authorized them to do anything. The Board discussed Vermont Gas coming to Bristol. Therese said the intersection project was awarded to Don Weston who plans to start March 21st or April 1st. Sycamore Park will be closed for 2-3 weeks as they begin to tear down the old bridge and re-create the entrance. Therese talked to Adam Lougee at Addison County Regional Planning and there is a \$10,000 transportation planning study request to reduce the speed limit for the Town. The Board authorized Therese to apply for the study. Therese discussed the beautification project on the park. The Board will be short on money so they could wait to try to get money from the Downtown,

or they could take the money out of the Capital Building fund. The Board discussed the park beautification grant and agreed to put the project out to bid and pay up to \$4,000 more out of the Capital Building Fund to complete the project. Therese asked about changing the meeting time from 7pm to 6pm as they had done in the past. Beginning November 10, 2014 the Board will begin meeting at 6pm.

Sharon Compagna moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Myers
Town Clerk