

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday April 16, 2018

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Selectboard Members present: Vice-Chair Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee, and Ted Lylis. Also present was Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Filming for NeatTV Shawn Kimball, Lieutenant Bruce Nason, Jim Quaglino, Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Tom Wallace, Wendy Wilson, Carley Sherwin, Kaela Thurber, Molly Funk, Debbie Ramsdell, Bruce Brown, Bunny Daubner, Rebecca Kodis, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Bruce Beeken, Janet Leed-Ball, Tom Pollack, Bob Donnis, Christopher Ross (Addison Independent), Valerie Dearing, Bruce Accorito, Jill Kopel, Jim Mendell, Margaret Chatelain, K Andrew, Mary Simons, Patty Heather-Lea, Melissa Hernandez, Linda Brown, Patricia Hunt, Lauren Waite, Mr. Waite, Peg Kamens, Bruce Brown, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, Susan Hawkins, Carolyn Dash, John Ball, Jonathan “Jono” Chapin, Bruce Duncan, Patty Heather-Lea, and Winifield Kelley.

Executive Session:

1. At 6:30 p.m. Michelle Perlee moved to enter executive session finding that premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard or other parties at a substantial disadvantage regarding contract negotiations per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)(A) regarding union negotiations with New England Police Benevolent Police Association. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 7:12 p.m.
- Vice Chair Joel Bouvier called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.
 - Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. § 312(d)(3)(A). Under Regular business item #4 adding a firefighter who is resigning under 4b. Brian LaClair and Troy Paradee will not be here for the 7:00 p.m. schedule appointment, so this will be moved to a future meeting.

Public Forum:

1. Bruce Duncan asked about issues that are going on in town and when people are coming together and talking he thinks it's a good thing. He has heard a lot of people talk about the Vermont Gas in town and not that they were for or against it. He came to the meeting to speak with “the source” of the topic rather than hearing about it throughout the town. He supports dialogue in this community.

Scheduled Appointments:

1. 7:00 p.m. – Brian LaClair and Troy Paradee: Update on Teen Center and Bristol Recreation Club activities, including mural and skate park upgrades. This will be moved to a future meeting.

2. 7:20 p.m. - Pete Diminico - Conservation Commission Eagle Park post-flood platform repair proposal. There have been two flood situations in the past 6 months that has damaged the platform and ramp. He has a meeting with Doc Doctors tomorrow since they were the ones that built the platform originally. He is letting the Board know that the repairs might have to be sub contracted out and may have to use conservation funds to repair it, but Pete will contact the Selectboard once he has more information. He would also like to see someone else besides the Town of Bristol to look after it. Pete will be in contact with Ted Lylis and Peeker Heffernan in case they are able to go onsite to look at the repairs needed with Doc Doctors.

Regular Business:

1. Continued discussion of draft License Agreement with Vermont Gas. Valerie Capels stated she has gotten back from VGS the final agreement and letters from Energy Committee and Planning Commission. Ted Lylis moved to pledge to sign the License Memorandum of Agreement with VGS as soon as the few remaining issues with this license agreement are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Peeker Heffernan seconded. Ted Lylis read his statement aloud that he wrote out for the meeting. Michelle Perlee said she does have some questions for the town attorney, but he is on vacation right now. She has a concern about the "Clerk of the Works" person and the amount went from \$40 to \$25. Tom Pollack is concerned for the voters of Bristol and that we postpone the agreement and vote in November. Bruce Accorito said that members of Bristol went around and got 200 signatures and asked what is the Board afraid of. Janet Leed-Ball asked why the Board wouldn't let the voters vote even if it doesn't count. Bruce Beacon the question of who is for and against is not the question. The question is the people of Bristol that is able to connect to natural gas, would they sign up for it. Also if the demand is no longer there down the road what happens with the pipes? Michelle Perlee said that is in the agreement. Vermont Gas is required to remove them is that happens. Sally Burrell stated they collected 220 signatures plus 20 more signatures after the offices closed. The 240 signatures she and Rebecca Kodis collected didn't want natural gas. Bob Donnis said that the natural gas burns clean here in Vermont, but not at the burn tip. Melissa Hernandez said we should do what we can to help the environment. If every town in America said we don't want natural gas then we could stop natural gas. Melissa Hernandez asked a question to Michelle Perlee. Michelle Perlee has said the Board learned from the mistakes of other towns. Michelle Perlee said learned and benefit from what other towns have done. Michelle Perlee gave an example that there is going to be a clerk of the work that VGS will pay for. VGS will need to follow the law. Melissa said VGS is being sued by a number of entities. Wendy Wilson said the Energy Committee and Planning Commission should have been asked to give input. She said this is a big decision for the Town of Bristol and it shouldn't be just on the Selectboard. Ian Albinson asked about the letter that is sent on behalf of the Energy Committee. Joel Bouvier stated there was a request to the energy committee to see about a survey done from 2013. Ted Lylis said VGS coming to Bristol wasn't a secret and everybody kind of knew about it. Ted Lylis wondered why didn't the committees come to the Board and ask. Bruce Duncan said the ball was dropped then and if the information was needed then the Board should have asked. Peg Kamens is concerned of safety issues. She also said that there are other people that the Board speaks to outside of

this yet why not listen to the people in the room. Ian Albinson asked why the Energy Committee and Planning Commission Committee were not involved. Joel Bouvier said to some extent that the Planning Commission Committee was asked. Michelle Perlee asked about the Planning Commission Committee do they need to be involved to get a permit, etc. Katie Rycroft-Meyer said the Planning Commission puts a plan together and then approved by the Selectboard and the town. The Boards work together and feels they should be checking in with each other. Even if they did discuss it some members would need to recuse themselves. Chico Martin was at the chair of the Planning Commission, but it has never been brought to the current committee of the Planning Commission Committee. Ian Albinson asked is there any reason why that collaboration can't start today. Jono Chapin said the Public Utility Commission has announced in the last month that there will now be a full investigation into the 40 miles pipeline and VGS will submit to a safety inspection. Stated it would be wise to hold off on signing the agreement at least until the safety inspection and investigation has been done. Jono Chapin strongly urges to withdraw the motion and just wait to see how the investigation goes. Linda Brown said it's the same response from the Selectboard that people, that are here at the meeting that are against the gas line and then the people that the Board hears from that is in favor of the gas line then where are they. Why not let everyone speak. Michelle Perlee asked what is the cost to have the special meeting and vote. Valerie Capels said there would have to be a notice in the paper, then at the special meeting vote on the floor yes or no to have an Australian ballot. Molly Funk from Mt. Abraham Union High School and an Environmental Action Group at the school said that maybe to pause and spend a little money and take a little time to invest in their future. Joel Bouvier would like to first hear from the town attorney to see if they can hold off on signing the agreement since they already signed the letter of consent. Joel Bouvier said Vermont Public Service Board directed Addison County Regional Planning Commission to vet the natural gas instead of getting approval from all 17 towns. The agreements would need to be done for each town. Linda Brown said there was supposed to be an informational meeting in September of 2017 for the public. Michelle Perlee said the original plan was supposed to have a meeting, but it got pushed back to February for 2018. Linda Brown said the process wasn't respected. Ian Albinson read part of the letter that was sent from Bill Bryant, Town Administrator from 2012 on behalf of the Selectboard. Ian Albinson stated he looked in the meeting notes from December 2012 and only 8 times was Vermont Gas was brought up. Carolyn Dash Conservation Commission what the scope of work. The MOU is on the website however not the scope of work. Bruce Brown would the Selectboard push the pause button on this issue and seek more public comment. Peeker Heffernan said the board needs to speak with the town attorney. Lauren Waite doesn't understand why the Board wouldn't want to hit the pause button until the investigation is done. Michelle Perlee moved to table signing the agreement to May 14, 2018 meeting once the Board has spoken with the Town Attorney. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted. Jono Chapin commends Joel Bouvier for how he has conducted this forum and for the Board for taking on this big issue.

2. Review, consider updates to, and adoption of the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Needs to go to the Planning Commission by May 1. The Board went through and updated contacts for Recreation Department, Power Outages, Holley Hall,

etc. Michelle Perlee moved to accept the LEOP with the correction and the appendix cleaned up and Peter Coffey to sign it. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.

3. As Water Commission: consider review and approval of application for new water service connection on High Street from 48 Mountain Terrace (Tom and Claire Wallace). There are six currently off of that service connection now. Jill at VTums suggested that at some point have the pressure be gaged and see what kind of pressure it can provide for the six people connected. Ted Lylis moved to accept the application to the water line as long as Alan Huizenga from GME says the 2 inch line will be ok due to possible pressure issues. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted. The application fee is \$250 for connection. Joel Bouvier said if paving is dug up then that has to be replaced, etc. by the applicant.
4. Consider leave of absence request from Firefighter Chad Perlee. Peeker Heffernan moved to accept Chad Perlee leave of absence request from April 1, 2018 to October 1, 2018. Ted Lylis second, so voted. Michelle Perlee abstained from voting.
5. Firefighter resignation. Peeker Heffernan accepted Stephen Devino resignation. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted.
6. Approval of Peoples United Bank line of credit renewal for Holley Hall improvements. Peeker Heffernan moved to approval Peoples United Bank line of credit renewal for Holley Hall improvements. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted. The balance is currently \$30,000. Next year it will be a balance of \$20,000. Joel Bouvier asked if we had a surplus then could we pay the loan down more, but Peeker Heffernan said this would need to be approved by voters at Town Meeting anyways.
7. Approval of meeting minutes of March 27, March 28, April 2, and April 5, 2018. March 27, 2018 and April 2, 2018 meeting notes aren't ready. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve March 28, 2018 meeting notes and April 5, 2018 meeting notes with corrections. Michelle Perlee seconded, so voted.
8. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable is \$2,105,701.57. There are two special event permits. Michelle Perlee moved to approve Appalachian Gap for Pocock Rocks June 16, 2018 for 10 x 10 tent acting as a booth with a fenced in area. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted. They will have free sample and bottles will be sold. Peeker Heffernan moved to approve American Legion Post 19 outside consumption permit which is a 42 x 100 fenced in area. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted.
9. Selectboard Concerns. Michelle Perlee had a conversation with Gary Smith and has a vision and would like to see the sign when coming into Bristol say "Bristol Green Gateway to Green Mountain" and she suggested he be on the Energy Committee. Ted Lylis would like to see something different than the carpet that is used in the room. He then asked last year what date was the sidewalks swept. He was concerned because of

the ice and the town didn't put sand down since they were already swept. He said if we could wait to do them later next year. The Road Foreman, Peter Bouvier wanted them done sooner before he retired.

10. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels is working on a description for the Energy Committee and Tree Warden vacancies. The Board promoted within the Road Foreman, so they need to find a replacement for Eric's old position. Valerie is getting an RFP together to get mowing out to bid. Joel Bouvier suggested calling the company and seeing if they are holding the price and if they are then wait to October to put out to bid for 2019. If the price goes up then we will put it out to bid now. Valerie Capels is working on RFP for painting Howden Hall and Band Stand. Carriage doors don't meet the requirements for the FEMA money. Valerie asked about the broken headstones at the cemetery on Hardscrabble road. How do we go forward with this? Michelle Perlee suggested contacting Dave Livingston's at Livingston Farms and see what he suggests.

Other Business:

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

Adjourn:

1. Michelle Perlee moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.