

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday May 14, 2018

Selectboard members present: Chair Peter Coffey, Vice-Chair Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan, Michelle Perlee, and Ted Lylis.

Also present: Lance Alburgh, Ian Albinson, Bruce Beeken, Deb Bouvier, Mark Bouvier, Board Clerk Tasha Bouvier, Michael Bromley, Linda Brown, Steve Brown, Sally Burrell, Gail Butz, Richard Butz, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Jono Chapin, Peggy Chatelain, Carol Dash, Bunny Daubner, Naomi Drummond, Lynn Dike, Lloyd Dike, Carol Eldridge, Chauncy Eldridge, Kevin Hanson, Patty Heather-Lea, Melissa Hernandez, Patricia Hunt, Peg Kamens, Shawn Kimball (NEATv), Rebecca Kodis, Ken Johnson, Gisele LaFleche, Lance Laliberte, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, Kevin LaRose, Ron LaRose, Christine Lathrop, Allison Lea, Janet Leed-Ball, Stan Livingston, Amos Martin, Malissa Marshall, Amos Martin, Charles B. Masters, Todd Masters, Tyler Masters, Eva Mastalos, Jim Mendell, Russell Mendell, A Metcalf, Tom Murray (Vermont Gas), Lieutenant Bruce Nason, Amy Nelson, Peter Papadopoulos, Jim Quaglino, Christopher Ross (*Addison Independent*), Bill Sayre, George Smith, Tim Vachereau (Manager of Construction at VGS), Lauren Waite, Tom Wallace, Harland Wendel, Margaret Wendel, Wendy Wilson.

I. Call to Order. Chair Peter Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm upstairs at Holley Hall.

1. Review agenda for addition, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. § 312(d)(3)(A). The Board is moving the order of Regular Business item #1 and #2. Item #1 will now be the topic: Continued discussion of draft License Agreement with Vermont Gas. Item #2 will now be the topic: Continued consideration of conducting a citizen survey regarding customer interest in Vermont Gas.

II. Public Forum.

1. None.

III. Scheduled Appointments.

1. 7:00 p.m. - Naomi Drummond: painting of fog lines on South Street. Naomi said her concern is the lines need to be repainted especially on the bridge. She feels the fog lines being redone will help with vehicles staying within their lines. Valerie consulted with the Public Works Department and they have never done any fog lines in town and this must have been done by the State as part of the South Street bridge project. If the state was to do the fog lines now, there would be a cost to the town. Joel Bouvier moved to have Valerie work with the Public Works Department and to see if they can repaint the fog lines with the existing machine. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted.

IV. Regular Business.

1. Continued consideration of draft License Agreement with Vermont Gas. Ted Lylis moved to have the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol to pledge to sign the license agreement with Vermont Gas as soon as the few remaining issues with the license agreement are resolved with the satisfaction of both parties. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted, with Michelle Perlee voting no.

Bruce Beeken asked a question if the “clerk of the works” position would this open the town to a liability if something happened to the system to the town person’s property or person. He noted the Public Safety Board is reviewing certain installations for non-compliance of specs that relate to safety issues and burying the lines at a certain depth.

Ian Albinson had the license agreement and asked if they have the scope of work and could it be shared with the public. Peter Coffey said it was reviewed by the town engineer. Tom Murray from Vermont Gas said it is attached to the agreement in the form of a map.

Jono Chapin asked why the survey was moved from item 1 to item 2. Peter Coffey stated there is no need to discuss a survey if the memorandum is signed. Jono wondered what the rush is.

Mark Bouvier voiced his support for Vermont Gas. He has a problem with people that do not want the natural gas and penalizing people that do want it. You have a choice to hook up or not. Comcast has a line in front of his house, but he has a choice to hook up or not.

Todd Masters said he wants the option of having natural gas.

George Smith said he is for natural gas.

Amy Nelson stated she cares deeply for this community and believes the Selectboard is a representative of this community and this community needs more information. That is why it is a good idea to have the survey.

Melissa Hernandez stated a Comcast line hasn’t ever exploded. It is not a cleaner option, but it is a cleaner burning.

Stan Livingston asked how much would the survey slow this down. He wants to see this go as fast as possible.

Lynn Dike is for natural gas to come to Bristol. She stated if we get rid of all the fossil fuels then some people can’t afford to heat their homes. The Selectboard does care.

Gary Smith asked if the “Clerk of the Works” would be doing inspections. There is a state mandated inspection in Monkton and he is concerned who would be doing the inspections besides Vermont Gas. He also feels like there is a misunderstanding and is asking for a survey so we have knowledge of how the population feels about the gas line. He is not in favor of the gas line.

Ken Johnson said he would like to have the opportunity someday to hook up to natural gas at his business.

Janet Leed-Ball treasurers the trees. She would like to see on what side of the street the lines would go on. She added that people are calling it natural gas when it should be called fracked gas.

Kevin Hanson supports the gas line. He feels there is urgency and as a potential customer would like to hook up as soon as possible.

Kevin LaRose is looking forward to hooking up to natural gas. He wants to save money by hooking up.

Chuck Masters said he works with Vermont Gas on a regular basis and the “Clerk of the Works” knows what they are doing and there are safety checks at every point in the system.

Carol Dash said people say this will be cheaper for them however have people looked at the overall cost to the environment, etc.

Amos Martin supports the natural gas.

Eva Mastalos said the natural gas sounds better than oil and propane and hopefully someday we will be off fossil fuel.

Lloyd Dike likes the opportunity to hook up to the natural gas.

Bruce Beeken respects someone’s interest to hook up to natural gas and those that are opposed to natural gas. He feels the Selectboard needs to have facts and percentage of people that will hook up, etc. He thinks the Selectboard should not act on their personal opinions and should collect facts and understand what the community as a whole feels about it and then make a decision.

Lance Alburgh supports the natural gas.

Linda Brown said back in the fall she and Valerie talked about how to get more input from people. She heard months ago that this is a done deal. She doesn’t understand the threat of getting more information and this is very discouraging.

Selectboard members clarified that next steps include clarifying questions regarding the Clerk of the Works, liability and indemnity provisions, and assurances that the Town will not be financially liable for any of Vermont Gas’ activities.

2. Continued consideration of conducting a citizen survey regarding customer interest in Vermont Gas. Michelle Perlee moved to move forward with the citizen survey. Peeker Heffernan seconded. Joel Bouvier would like to have a question added: “Are you opposed to your neighbor hooking up to Vermont Gas?” He would like to see how the community feels if their neighbor hooked up with Vermont Gas. Following discussion, there was agreement the question would not be included.

There was discussion about how a survey would be distributed to ensure confidentiality while ensuring one person is not submitting the survey multiple times. There was also discussion about whether to proceed with the survey since the Selectboard already voted to accept the License Agreement. Peter Coffey read out the six questions. A number of people spoke in favor of and against the distribution of a survey and questioned the logistics of distribution, compilation, analysis, expense to the taxpayers, and whether the proposed questions will provide

useful information. The Selectboard clarified that the survey is intended to be distributed town-wide. Valerie suggested adding an option of “undecided” for questions #3 and #4 if the survey moves forward. The motion passed, with Michelle Perlee and Peter Coffey voting no.

The Selectboard suggested Wendy Wilson and Ian Albinson work with Valerie on the questions and methods of distribution. Joel said he would like to see the Energy Committee to review the questions as well. Wendy said any input would be welcomed about distribution and suggested a goal of getting as many responses as there were voters at the last election. Joel suggested including the survey in the September tax bill, though it would not reach renters.

3. Leave of absence request: Kris Perlee June 1 to July 1, 2018. Michelle Perlee moved to approve Kris Perlee request for a leave of absence. Ted Lylis seconded. The motion failed 0-4 with Michelle Perlee abstaining.

4. Consider renewal of the Line of Credit with People’s United Bank for the West Street project. The principal is \$800,000 for one year line of credit. Michelle Perlee moved to sign the Line of Credit. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted. Joel Bouvier asked how much is being held from Munson. Valerie said it is about \$14,000. The sidewalk work will resume by the end of the week. Munson is paying for the additional engineering for GME beyond the base contract. Joel Bouvier said the dips in the road are not OK. Valerie said she brought that up to them today and will be addressed as warranty work. The total that has been held thus far is \$43,498.

5. Consider authorization of a principle-only payment on the South Street Bridge of \$15,669.41, to be rolled into a loan in August 2018. Town Treasurer sent information to the Selectboard on this. Another \$16,000 is set aside for this fiscal year. She recommends putting some toward the interest after July 1. Michelle moved to give Town Treasurer authority to make a payment for principle of \$15,669.41. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

6. Approval of meeting minutes of April 2, April 16, and April 30, 2018. Michelle Perlee moved to approve April 2, 2018. Ted Lylis seconded, so voted. The April 16 and April 30 minutes are not ready for approval.

7. Authorize accounts payable warrant and any liquor licenses. Accounts Payable Warrant is \$64,216.99. There are two special events permits both for Pocock Rocks. Michelle Perlee moved to approve Rock Halyard Brewing Company, LLC and Stonecutter Spirits. Serving is 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ted Lylis seconded. So voted.

8. Selectboard Concerns. Ted Lylis asked about the trash can on the park. Valerie Capels reported that Sharon reached out to R&L Rubbish about whether moving the trash can from the Library to the park would be a problem and has not yet heard back. Ted asked about the Human-Powered Parade. He noted they painted bicycle markings on the streets and wondered if was that part of the approval. She was told to use nontoxic paint. Ted said the trees by Cubbers need to be trimmed. Valerie said Scenic Valley Landscaping intends to start working on the crabapple trees this Wednesday.

Joel Bouvier asked about the picnic tables. Valerie said they have been installed and she spoke with Kevin LaRose about anchoring them. If the Scout troop is not interested in being involved

in anchoring them, the soonest the Public Works Department can do it would be Friday, May 18, 2018. Joel raised the issue of the hydrants being replaced. There used to be a plan and budget to replace one or two a year. The one on Elm Street, by Howden Hall, and the one by Paige & Campbell are old and all need to be replaced before 2020. The one that is leaking should either be fixed or shut off and bagged. Peeker Heffernan said he thought the one on Elm Street could wait because it is only a 4-inch main. There was discussion about replacing them with used steamers. Valerie was asked to have VTUMS address the leaking hydrant. The water department budget was reviewed regarding hydrant and touchpad replacements. Joel would like to see a report from the Treasurer about whether water usage was improved after the new touchpads were installed. The annual water district meeting will be June 11, 2018. On a different matter, Joel said he wanted to be sure the cross culvert from the Catholic Church to the Merchants Bank is on the list to be replaced before the Village is paved in 2020. Joel also said Val called him and said the Christmas tree is getting some brown trimmings. Joel called the place the Town purchased it from and they will replace it if need be, but more than likely it needs to be trimmed.

Ian Albinson asked about the crosswalk by the creemee stand. Valerie said it will be stenciled on Wednesday.

9. Town Administrator's report. Valerie Capels reported that the reappraisal schedule and the grand list should be set by Wednesday and then mailed in a week. Grievances should be finished by end of June.

Eric started ditching on Monkton Road and started stenciling crosswalks. Since we are approaching end of year and vacation time and the Selectboard will be approached about extending vacation time.

Valerie said there is a grant that was already awarded and Bruce is asking to increase the amount. No matching funds will be required. Bruce said would like to request more money if the Selectboard will approve it. There is a consensus to approve this.

Valerie reported that the Town received an updated energy plan chapter from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

She reported that the fountain will be worked on this week with weather cooperating.

Peter Coffey noted that we need to get sidewalk bids out. He and Valerie walked Maple Street and Mountain Street last week.

V. Other Business.

1. Correspondence, reports, correspondence received.

Valerie Capels noted that the Treasurer's budget status report through April was included in their packet. She drew attention to Ron LaRose's e-mail requesting use of the Town Green for a Memorial Day Celebration. There was agreement that if it meets the criteria it needs to go through the process. Joel Bouvier said we need to get better about letting people know about the ordinance with the park. Valerie said someone that is running for a state officer in November

they want to set up on the park and if this is allowed. Discussion about whether political/campaign events are allowed in the park was tabled.

VI. Executive Session.

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 a particular personnel-related matter per 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3). Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted. The Selectboard met in executive session from 9:10pm to 9:55pm. Upon returning to open session, the following actions were taken:

Michelle Perlee moved to accept Eric Cota's recommendation regarding promoting Cale Pelland to Assistant Foreman and compensation as discussed. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

Michelle Perlee moved to approve pay increase for the Bristol Police Department personnel as proposed. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

VII. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tasha Bouvier	reviewed by	Valerie Capels
Board Clerk		Town Administrator