

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015
REGULAR MEETING – 6:15PM
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: Kate O'Connor, John Allen, and Donna Macomber.

Staff present: Town Manager Peter B. Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Library Director Jerry Carbone, Town Assessor Russell Rice, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: Tim Johnson representing WTSA, Howard Weiss-Tisman representing the Brattleboro Reformer, and Olga Peters representing The Commons.

Others present: Kate Anderson, John Kohler, Sharon Couturier, Marilyn Aronoff, Louise Zak, Pam Becker, Adam Franklin-Lyons, Jane Southworth, James Banslaben, ASL Interpreters Elizabeth Bjerke and Janet Dickinson, BCTV staff and volunteers, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Acting Chair O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:15pm in the Selectboard meeting room in the Municipal Center. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION BY DONNA MACOMBER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2015 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Acting Chair O'Connor said that the downtown sidewalk project was underway and asked the public to continue to shop and dine in the downtown area during the construction.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

None.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS

MOTION BY DONNA O'CONNOR TO CONVENE AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Special Event Permits – Hermit Thrush Brewery, LLC, Brewery Pint Nights on August 7, August 21 and September 4. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve three special event permits for Hermit Thrush Brewery, LLC, for brewery pint nights on August 7, August 21, and September 4 to be held at the brewery located at 29 High Street. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO APPROVE THREE SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS FOR HERMIT THRUSH BREWERY, LLC, FOR BREWERY PINT NIGHTS ON AUGUST 7, AUGUST 21, AND SEPTEMBER 4 TO BE HELD AT THE BREWERY LOCATED AT 29 HIGH STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO ADJOURN AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town Grant – Review Screening Committee Recommendations and Determine Finalists. Elwell said that the committee met last week for almost 6 hours and reviewed 34 proposals. He noted that since the meeting, it was discovered that Deb Lazar

submitted two separate proposals by e-mail but there was confusion in the e-mail transmittals and only one proposal was provided to the committee for review. He said that the committee would meet again on August 6 to review the additional proposal which had been received prior to the deadline date. He suggested that the Board postpone its decision on the list of finalists until the August 11 special meeting in order to provide the committee with an opportunity to ratify or modify its list of recommendations. He provided the Board with a revised timeline for the project and suggested that the timeframe be adjusted to allow time for the committee to review the additional proposal and to provide the public with an opportunity to hear the final proposals in a public forum. He praised the committee for its work in an organized, constructive and collaborative manner, and he spoke in detail about the procedure used by the committee to determine the list of finalists. He said that once the Board approved the list of finalists, those artists would be asked to refine their proposals to include, among other things, detailed schedules and budgets, for final presentation to the Selection Committee. He said that the Board would need to appoint a Selection Committee to review the final proposals and provide its recommendation as to which project or projects would be selected for completion. He said that a press release would be released tomorrow inviting the public to apply for the Selection Committee. He also asked the Board for authority to make contact and communicate with non-local authorities who had experience and expertise in judging art projects and ask if they would consider an appointment to the Selection Committee. The Board authorized him to make such contacts. John Kohler inquired about the criteria used to determine the finalists. Kate Anderson spoke about the challenges with an art project of this type. There was much discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

NEW BUSINESS

Restore Library Hours – *Receive Funding from Endowment and Re-allocate Budgeted Funds.* Jerry Carbone, Library Director, and Pam Becker and Adam Franklin-Lyons, Trustees from the Brooks Memorial Library Board, were present to request that the Library's operating hours be restored on Thursday mornings (beginning September 17) and Saturday afternoons (beginning September 12) for the academic year. Carbone spoke about the Library's receipt of a generous bequest from the Estate of Ronald Reed. Becker said that restoring the hours was the top request on a recent public survey and the Trustees offered to utilize a portion of the bequest to fund the extended hours. Franklin-Lyons said that the Trustees offered to fund the additional cost of extended hours by expending \$16,000 from the Library's endowment for the purchase of books, and in return asked that the Town transfer \$16,000 from the Library's FY16 budget line item for books to the FY16 salaries line item. They said it was the Trustees' practice to use endowment funds only to support special programs and resources and not to pay staff salaries. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DONNA MACOMBER TO ACCEPT THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES' COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE \$16,000 WORTH OF BOOKS DURING FY16 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$16,000 FROM THE FY16 GENERAL FUND BUDGET LINE ITEM FOR BOOKS TO THE FY16 GENERAL FUND BUDGET LINE ITEM FOR SALARIES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Business Personal Property Fines – *Office of the Assessor.* Russell Rice, Town Assessor, provided the Selectboard with a list of businesses that had not filed Business Personal Property schedules as required. He asked the Board to authorize the Office of Assessment to issue a fine in the amount of \$100 for each business that had not filed the Business Personal Property schedule for 2015. Elwell read the list of businesses. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT TO ISSUE A FINE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100 FOR EACH BUSINESS THAT HAS NOT FILED THE BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY SCHEDULE FOR 2015. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Accept and Appropriate RERP 2016 Grant – *Vermont Department of Public Safety.* Elwell said that the Board was asked to accept and appropriate the RERP 2016 grant from the Vermont Department of Public Safety in the amount of \$32,000. He said that the grant would reimburse expenses related to activities with Vermont Yankee and the implementation of the Vermont Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP). He also said it would likely be the last year that the grant would be offered due to the closure of Vermont Yankee. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE THE RERP 2016 GRANT FROM THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,000. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO ADJOURN AT 7:10PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

David Schoales, Clerk