

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:15PM
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: David Gartenstein, Kate O'Connor, David Schoales, and John Allen.

Staff present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Finance Director John O'Connor, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: Howard Weiss-Tisman representing the Brattleboro Reformer and Tim Johnson representing WTSA.

Others present: Dale Joy, Francine Vallario, Peter Gaskill, Moss Kahler, Jane Southworth, Dora Bouboulis, Bob Spencer, Steve Lisauskas, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair David Gartenstein called the meeting to order at 5:15pm in the Selectboard meeting room. He confirmed that the meeting was properly warned. He noted that Schoales had a scheduling conflict and would need to leave at 6:30pm. The Board agreed to hear the first agenda item, but may interrupt the discussion in order to address the second agenda item before Schoales left. The Board agreed to proceed in that manner.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gartenstein congratulated Town Manager Elwell whose daughter, Charlotte Elwell, performed at Carnegie Hall on Saturday night with the St. Olaf Choir.

MEET WITH PAY-AS-YOU-THROW ADVISORY COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP

- (1) Variable Rate Pricing - Discussion
- (2) Parallel Recycling – Discussion
- (3) Implementation Costs – Discussion
- (4) Authorize Program Implementation/Public Education Contract – Action Requested

Gartenstein said that members from the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Advisory Committee/Working Group were present to update the Board on its work toward implementing a PAYT solid waste removal system in accordance with new laws. He asked the committee for a broad presentation for informational purposes for the Board and members of the public. Elwell said the committee met several times in the past months and would provide recommendations to implement an effective PAYT system in accordance with the State law and with participation of citizens. Assistant Town Manager Moreland reviewed the many materials provided to the Board. He spoke in detail about the requirements of Act 148, Vermont's new recycling law that would become effective July 1, 2015, requiring mandatory recycling along with the parallel collection of recyclables, yard debris and other food scraps at facilities such as transfer stations or Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD). He spoke about the committee's suggestions and recommendations that were outlined in his memo that was provided to the Board. He discussed the committee's recommendation to sell two sizes of color-coded bags (15 gallon and 32 gallon) with drawstring enclosures and the benefits of bags over other proxies such as stickers or bands. He said the committee recommended selling the large bags for \$3 and the small bags for \$2, which was anticipated to cover the cost of the program. He said the committee also recommended the optional sale of individual bags at the Treasurer's office and at Recreation & Parks office for financially challenged citizens who may not be able to afford purchasing bags in quantities. He noted that Finance Director John O'Connor suggested establishing a separate solid waste fund and discussed the reasons for it. He also spoke about anticipated transitional challenges.

Moreland said that the Town issued a RFP for trash bags in 2014. He spoke briefly about the RFP, bids that were received, and differences in the bids, including various optional services. John O'Connor discussed the four bids received and said that Waste Zero was the lowest bidder for the bags and distribution services, which included accounting procedures for inventory and funds. Moreland spoke

about the many facets of ongoing distribution of the bags, inventory controls, accounting requirements, customer service involvement, and public education. He said that the committee unanimously recommended working with Waste Zero and discussed the committee's recommendation to adopt Option B (Retail Inventory, Distribution and Invoicing Services) as set forth in the materials provided by Waste Zero. He said the committee also discussed Option C (Services in Support of the initial PAYT Rollout) but concluded that public education and program education could be better handled locally by Moss Kahler. Moreland discussed the advantages of having a local source for program implementation, public education, and enforcement support. He said that a contract proposal from Kahler was included in the Board's materials, which included a retroactive provision from January 1. Moreland then spoke about the changes that would become necessary to Chapter 7 of the Town's Code of Ordinances in order to address PAYT, the changing recycling environment, and composting options. He said that proposed ordinance changes were also provided to the Board in its packets. Bob Spencer, member of the PAYT Committee and WSWMD, discussed another regulatory piece that was required by the State to enforce variable rate pricing by the hauling industry. He said that WSWMD was in the process of revising its ordinances for haulers and the changes were consistent with the Town's proposed ordinances. Jane Southworth, member of the PAYT committee, discussed the make-up of the committee and members' long-time involvement in solid waste disposal efforts. Kahler discussed anticipated roll-out education and enforcement efforts. He spoke of many meetings he had with various entities, including landlords, neighborhood associations, condominium associations, and multiple housing units about specific and unique concerns in transitioning to PAYT, and his availability and suitability for continued employment with the Town to get the new program in operation.

Steve Lisauskas, Vice President of Waste Zero, spoke of the history and credentials of Waste Zero, the nation's largest PAYT provider. He spoke in detail about the company's manufacturing, inventory, distribution, and accounting services, its retail store distribution program, and the corporate and social missions of the company. He provided the Board with copies of educational materials offered by his company.

There was some discussion by the Board about enforcement. Gartenstein suspended the discussion about PAYT in order to discuss the next agenda item before Schoales had to leave.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS ON THE MARCH 3 BALLOT

- (1) Identification of Selectboard Position
- (2) Public Education Effort to Explain Selectboard Position

Gartenstein asked the Board to discuss the Fact Sheet that he prepared about the proposed Charter amendments and how it could be distributed to the voters. There was some discussion by the Board about the Fact Sheet and methods of distribution. Jane Southworth suggested utilizing community forums and volunteers for distribution. Dora Bouboulis spoke of her concerns about how the Fact Sheet was written and suggested removing opinions, adverbs and adjectives. The Board generally approved the Fact Sheet and agreed to make it available through the press and to conduct interviews with radio stations or other media outlets. It agreed to add the matter to the February 17 agenda to further discuss additional distribution methods.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Schoales left the meeting for another engagement and the remainder of the Board members resumed discussion about the Pay-As-You-Throw program.

PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (*continuation*) - Steve Lisauskas spoke about past experiences regarding enforcement and discount-priced bags. He stressed that success of the new system required a solid plan and good communication. There was substantial discussion by the Board, Moss Kahler, Dale Joy, Dora Bouboulis, Francine Vallario, and Jane Southworth. There was also discussion about the education and outreach proposals by Waste Zero and Moss Kahler. The Board agreed to add the matter to the February 17 agenda for further discussion and action on the eight recommendations made by the committee.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

SCHEDULE INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING – Monday, March 16, Doors open at 6:00pm, Caucuses 6:30pm, Meeting 7:00pm, at Academy School. Gartenstein said that the Board was asked to schedule the Informational Town Meeting. There was no discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO SCHEDULE THE INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, WITH DOORS TO OPEN AT 6:00PM, CAUCUSES AT 6:30PM, AND THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO BEGIN AT 7:00PM AT THE ACADEMY SCHOOL. MOTION CARRIED 3-0 (SCHOALES WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE).

There was no further business.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN AT 8:55PM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 3-0 (SCHOALES WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE).

David Schoales, Clerk