

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:30PM
BRATTLEBORO AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
MINUTES**

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

Staff present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Finance Director John O'Connor, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Assistant Fire Chief Peter Lynch, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Recreation & Parks Director Carol Lolatte, Library Director Jerry Carbone, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson. See the attendance sheet for other staff members present.

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

Others present: See the attendance sheet for names of people who signed in. Also present were BCTV staff and volunteers and other people who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair Gartenstein called the meeting to order at 6:30pm in the multi-purpose room at the Brattleboro Area Middle School. He confirmed that the meeting was officially warned.

FY15 BUDGET

Gartenstein provided an overview of how the FY15 budget had been determined, the process by which it was presented to Representative Town Meeting, the petitions for a referendum, and the defeat of the budget by the voters-at-large at a Special Town Meeting on April 17. All of the Board members discussed their opinions about the proposed budget and possible cuts necessary to develop a revised budget. Many members of the public and Town staff spoke of their concerns and voiced their opinions about the budget and proposed cuts to Town personnel, departments, programs, and services. After nearly three hours of discussion and public comment, the Board agreed to add the matter to the agenda on next regular Selectboard meeting on May 6 for further discussion and possible decisions.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

APPROVE WARNING – *Special Representative Town Meeting.* Gartenstein said that the Board was asked to approve a warning for a Special Representative Town Meeting to vote on the FY15 budget. He proposed that the meeting be scheduled on June 2, 2014, and he read the proposed Warning. There was some discussion whether to add the 1% local option sales tax ("sales tax") to the Warning. Schoales offered to make a motion to add it to the Warning, but other Board members were not in favor of it and Schoales withdrew the offer. DeGray spoke in favor of adding the sales tax to the June 2 Warning.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO ADOPT THE WARNING AS PRESENTED FOR A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING ON JUNE 2, 2014 WITH THE TWO ARTICLES AS PRESENTED, (1) THE BUDGET ARTICLE AND (2) TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Moreland thanked Jan Anderson, Annette Cappy, Ingrid Chrisco, BCTV staff, and Tim Johnson for their efforts in scheduling this meeting in a short amount of time. John Wilmerding encouraged residents to volunteer to serve on the Finance Committee and offered additional budget suggestions.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY DAVID SCHOALES AT 9:34PM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

David Schoales, Clerk