

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:15PM
MINUTES**

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

Staff present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, Finance Director John O'Connor, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: Chris Mays representing the Brattleboro Reformer and staff and volunteers from BCTV.

Others present: Franz Reichsman.

Gartenstein called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. He confirmed that the meeting had been officially warned.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS, PROBABLE LITIGATION, AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES, WHERE THE SELECTBOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT GENERAL PREMATURE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD CLEARLY PLACE THE TOWN, SELECTBOARD, AND PEOPLE INVOLVED AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gartenstein announced that Ms. Hasbani's 3rd grade class at Academy School was involved in an investigative project to review the services in West Brattleboro and determine whether they met the needs of the people. He said that the students wrote letters about their concerns and suggestions, and that he recently met with the class to discuss the project. He said that the students were engaging and actively participated in the project. He said their concerns included such matters as sidewalks and safety concerns with traffic being so close to the road, and they had suggestions for additional types of businesses. He thanked the students and Ms. Hasbani for their interest in Town government.

WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO CONVENE AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

FY17 Utility Fund Budget – Town Manager Elwell provided an overview of the proposed FY17 Utility Fund Budget. Public Works Director Barrett spoke in detail about the proposed utilities operating budget and capital plan. There was considerable discussion by the Board about the proposed budgets. DeGray suggested that the Board consider freezing rates for the two highest years of debt service and revisit the payment schedule in the water and sewer ordinance in order to provide relief for the ratepayers. After many questions and much discussion, the Board agreed to add the matter to the May 17 agenda for further public discussion and approval by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO ADJOURN AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

FY17 Parking Fund Budget – Elwell reviewed the revenue and expenditures contained in the proposed FY17 Parking Fund Budget. There was considerable discussion by the Board. Franz Reichsman inquired about the ownership of the Transportation Center. DeGray inquired about the transfer of funds

to the general fund and requested an itemization of the payment. He also inquired about possible funding for perpetual care plans for the mural and artwork on the retaining wall on the west side of Harmony parking lot. Members of the Board suggested that the Arts Committee and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance be consulted about freshening the mural on the wall and a perpetual care plan. Gartenstein inquired about the \$75,000 line item for paving in the Harmony parking lot. It was discussed that the Board consider authorizing funds for ongoing repairs and upgrades to the Transportation Center. The Board agreed to add the matter to the May 17 agenda for further discussion and asked Administration to provide additional information.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

FY17 Solid Waste Budget – Elwell provided an overview of the proposed Solid Waste Budget. There was some discussion by the Board. The Board agreed to add the matter to the May 17 agenda for further discussion and approval.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Gartenstein announced that the Board would re-enter into executive session and that no further business would be conducted after the session.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN AT 8:21PM TO RE-ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS, WHERE THE SELECTBOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT PREMATURE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD CLEARLY PLACE THE MUNICIPALITY, SELECTBOARD, AND PEOPLE INVOLVED A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. THE TOWN MANAGER WAS INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Gartenstein re-convened the public meeting at 8:45pm. There was no further business.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN AT 8:45PM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

David Schoales, Clerk