

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:15PM
MINUTES**

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

Staff present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Library Director Jerry Carbone, Town Assessor Russell Rice, Town Clerk Annette Cappy, Finance Director John O'Connor, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Assistant Fire Chief Peter Lynch, Police Captain Mark Carignan, Planning Director Rod Francis, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: Tim Johnson representing WTSA and Chris Mays representing the Brattleboro Reformer.

Others present: James Banslaben, Dora Bouboulis, Louise Zak, Sharon Couturier, Franz Reichsman, Judy Davidson, Jerry Goldberg, Dick DeGray, Pam Becker, Robert Stack, Jane Southworth, ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Elizabeth Bjerke, BCTV staff and volunteers, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair Gartenstein called the meeting to order at 5:30pm in the Selectboard meeting room in the Municipal Center. He confirmed that the meeting was officially warned.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING OR PROBABLE CIVIL LITIGATION TO WHICH THE PUBLIC BODY IS OR MAY BE A PARTY AND CONTRACTS, BASED ON A FINDING THAT PREMATURE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD CLEARLY PLACE THE SELECTBOARD, OTHER PEOPLE AND ENTITIES INVOLVED, AND THE TOWN AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. THE TOWN MANAGER AND ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Gartenstein reconvened the meeting at 6:15pm.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Gartenstein noted that the southbound lanes on Interstate-91 were closed today and the northbound lanes would be closed tomorrow for road maintenance. He said there were significant traffic back-ups in Town today due to the closure and expected more tomorrow. He asked that drivers exercise caution and patience during the closures.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Town Manager Elwell noted that VTrans recently conducted audits on several of its grants managed by the Town and, except for one required reimbursement, the Town received a clear report from VTrans. Elwell thanked Grants Manager Kim Ellison and others in the Finance Department for their work.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Schoales said that the Windham Solid Waste Management District was working on its budget and would have a revised report soon.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sharon Couturier asked when results from the traffic study on Main Street would be available. She noted that a cable on one of the devices seemed to have been broken during the study. Elwell said that the results would be provided to the Selectboard at a meeting in January.

Louise Zak asked for an update on the Green Street retaining wall project. Elwell said that bids were being reviewed and the matter would be on the December 15 agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police-Fire Facilities Project – Discussion. Gartenstein said that three special informational meetings had been held to present the public with alternatives for repairs and upgrades to the Fire and Police stations. The Board members discussed their observations about the information sessions and opinions on how to move forward with the project, including whether to add the matter to a ballot in order to obtain the voters' opinions prior to Representative Town Meeting. Dora Bouboulis, Judy Davidson, and Dick DeGray provided their comments and opinions. The Board agreed to add specific items about the project to each of the upcoming Selectboard meetings in order to determine a process for proceeding with consideration and action on the project. Gartenstein encouraged the public to attend the meetings to express their views.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Solid Waste Matters - Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) Annual Budget. Elwell said that he and Moreland recently met with the WSWMD Finance Committee and that committee was discussing the possible creation of a fee-for-services revenue model. He said that the WSWMD would hold a public hearing, followed by a Finance Committee meeting, and a Board meeting on December 10. He suggested that the Selectboard defer decisions about the WSWMD's budget and contract with Triple T Trucking until the Board's December 15 meeting in order to give WSWMD time to hold its discussions. Dora Bouboulis and Jane Southworth provided their comments and opinions. The Board agreed to defer action on this matter until its meeting on December 15.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

NEW BUSINESS

Disposition of Emergency Preparedness Sirens Owned by Entergy Vermont Yankee. Elwell said that the Board is asked to review a letter from Entergy Vermont Yankee (VY) with options regarding the disposition of six emergency preparedness sirens owned and operated by VY. He said that with the decommissioning of VY and the multiple other tools and communication devices available to stream warnings and alert citizens of a possible emergency, the staff recommends option #2 to allow VY to remove the sirens at no cost to the Town. Judy Davidson and Dora Bouboulis spoke in favor of keeping the sirens operational until the time that the spent fuel was removed from the pool. Fire Chief Bucossi spoke about the mass alert system now in effect and of the minimal safety risks at this point in the decommissioning of the plant. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN TO AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ENTERGY VERMONT YANKEE THAT SELECTS OPTION #2, AS FOLLOWS: "ENVY WILL DISABLE AND REMOVE ALL SIRENS IDENTIFIED ABOVE FROM SERVICE WITHIN 60 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE PDEP BECOMES EFFECTIVE AND WILL COMPLETE THIS WORK AT NO COST TO THE TOWN." MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

FY17 Budget Proposal – Presentations from Departments

- (i) *Library*
- (ii) *Assessor's Office*
- (iii) *Town Clerk*
- (iv) *Finance Department*
- (v) *Fire Department*
- (vi) *Planning Services*

Library Director Jerry Carbone, Town Assessor Russell Rice, Town Clerk Annette Cappy, Finance Director John O'Connor, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Assistant Fire Chief Peter Lynch, and Planning Director Rod Francis provided departmental overviews and briefly discussed each department's proposed budgets. Louise Zak asked about tax comparisons between other Towns of similar size in Vermont and in other states. The Board asked questions about certain line items and had some discussion about the proposed budgets.

Gartenstein said that the Board would meet one more time with individual department heads and then hold discussions about the FY17 budget and related issues. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY DONNA MACOMBER TO ADJOURN AT 8:50PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

David Schoales, Clerk