

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30PM
REGULAR MEETING – 6:15PM
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: Kate O'Connor, Tim Wessel, and Shanta Lee Gander.

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

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

Others present: Jedediah Popp, Ivan Hennessey, Gershom Moore, Daniel Quipp, Cassandra Halloway, MacLean Gander, Rikki Risatti, Franz Reichsman, Chad Simmons, Ella Thorne-Thomsen, Samantha Duda, Libby Howe, ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Elizabeth Fox, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. She confirmed that it was properly warned.

MOTION BY KATE O'CONNOR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR RELATIONS AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES, THE NEGOTIATING OR SECURING OF REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OR LEASE OPTIONS, AND THE APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT OR EVALUATION OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE, WHERE THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT PREMATURE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD CLEARLY PLACE THE SELECTBOARD OR PEOPLE INVOLVED AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. THE TOWN MANAGER AND ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Chair O'Connor reconvened the meeting at 6:15pm.

APPROVE MINUTES

O'Connor asked the Board to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2019 meeting. There was no discussion.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair O'Connor thanked the many volunteers that made the Harris Hill Ski Jump last weekend a successful event. She said that thousands of people attended and restaurants were busy all weekend. She also reminded voters that early voting had begun and ballots were available at the Town Clerk's office. She said that elections would take place on March 5 at the American Legion on Linden Street and the polls would be open from 7:00am through 7:00pm.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

None.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wessel announced that last week he and Town Manager Peter Elwell visited with the Vermont Senate to discuss the Vermont League of Cities and Town's (VLCT) initiative to start a pilot program regarding limited self-governance with certain cities and towns in Vermont. He said it was a positive meeting with senators on the Senate Government Operations Committee and that Elwell was returning to Montpelier tomorrow to testify before the committee. He also noted that the Winter Carnival was taking place this week. He said that he and his family attended the Sugar on Snow and pancake breakfast over the weekend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS

MOTION BY SHANTA LEE GANDER TO CONVENE AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks – Cassandra Holloway, Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition. Cassandra Holloway, Director of the Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition (BAPC), provided her semi-annual report regarding alcohol and tobacco compliance checks performed during 2018. She said that BAPC was an agency that addressed substance abuse in Brattleboro and surrounding towns. She then spoke about the Brattleboro Responsive Retailing Program offered by BAPC to businesses that sell alcohol and about upcoming Department of Liquor Control (DLC) training programs sponsored by BAPC. She also offered to speak with interested Board members about the increased vaping issue and the possibility of commercializing marijuana sales. Rikki Risatti provided comments and opinions on those matters and suggested decriminalization. Franz Reichsman spoke about some dangers of vaping and thanked BAPC for their efforts to publicly discuss the matter. Gershom Moore provided his opinion about vaping and e-cigarettes. There was some discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Liquor License, Outside Consumption Permits, and Entertainment Licenses– Annual Renewals. Elwell said that the Board was asked to provide conditional approval of most applications for renewal of liquor licenses, outside consumption permits, and entertainment licenses for 2019. He said that staff recommended renewing the liquor licenses for all of the establishments on the list, with the exception of McNeill’s Brewery who was cited for safety violations. He noted that Brattleboro Country Club was cited for selling alcohol to a minor in June and Ramuntos Pizza was cited for an education violation in March. He also removed Coopers Coop from the renewal list because that establishment was a new business that had not yet applied for its first license. O’Connor noted that in past years, establishments that had received violations were invited to come before the Selectboard to discuss the violation and corrective measures that had been taken since the citation. There was some discussion by the Board. Wessel suggested that Ramuntos’ violation was of a “paperwork” nature and that they not be required to come back to the Board.

MOTION BY SHANTA LEE GANDER TO APPROVE ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2019, EXCEPT FOR MCNEILL’S BREWERY, COOPERS COOP, AND THE COUNTRY CLUB, ALL OF WHICH WILL BE COMING BACK (WHOSE APPLICATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SELECTBOARD SEPARATELY AT A LATER DATE), SUBJECT TO (1) EACH APPLICANT’S SUBMITTAL TO THE TOWN CLERK OF ALL THE REQUIRED PAPERWORK, AND (2) THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE STATE’S DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO ADJOURN AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Statewide Opioid Planning Grant –Cassandra Holloway + Chad Simmons, Windham County Consortium on Substance Use. O’Connor said that Cassandra Holloway, from Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition, had asked Chad Simmons, Project Coordinator of Windham County Consortium on Substance Use (COSU), to discuss a grant that had been received from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Rural Communities Opioid Response Program to support the work of a broad coalition of public and private organizations. Simmons spoke of his personal experiences around the impact on the community of opioid use and addiction. He said that COSU was a coalition formed to address prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery for opioid addiction. He said that the process would take several months and the goal was to improve the opioid treatment process and learn how to better serve people impacted by opioid addiction. He introduced Ella Thorne-Thomsen (from Turning Point of Windham County and member of COSU) and Jedediah Popp (caseworker at HCRS and member of

COSU), who both shared their experiences during their recovery process. Simmons invited members of the community to contact him in order for COSU to collect data and stories. Rikki Risatti, Franz Reichsman, and Daniel Quipp provided their comments and opinions. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Financial Report – Monthly Report, January. Finance Director John O'Connor presented and discussed the monthly financial report for January. Rikki Risatti, candidate for District 2 Representative and write-in candidate for the Selectboard, suggested fixing the restrooms at the Transportation Center. There was some discussion by the Board about the financial report.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Ordinance Amendment – First Reading, Chapter 7 (Ordinance Regulating Solid Waste), Section 2 (Regulating Single-Use Plastic Bags), Article IV (Exemptions to General Prohibition). O'Connor said that the Board was asked to hold a first reading on an amendment to the single use plastic bag ban that would allow the use of plastic bags to protect artwork and art supplies that merchants sell to customers. She read the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances. Rikki Risatti suggested expanding the ordinance to include wrapping of food items and for the promotion of biodegradable plastics. Ivan Hennessey inquired about the status of Zephyr Design's use of plastic bags. Daniel Quipp asked for more information from Zephyr's about the plastic bags used. Franz Reichsman, candidate for the Selectboard, spoke about improving the recycling program. There was some discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Review Status of 2018 Selectboard Goals – Elwell reviewed some of the highlights in the progress made in the Selectboard's May 15, 2018 goals. Gander offered to send dates that the Compassion Committee met and suggested they be included in the report. There was a brief discussion.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY SHANTA LEE GANDER TO ADJOURN AT 7:40PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Tim Wessel, Clerk