

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:15PM
HELD REMOTELY VIA GoToMeeting
MINUTES**

NOTE: Per the “Stay Home – Stay Safe” order issued by Governor Scott on March 13, 2020, this meeting was held remotely with no physical location using GoToMeeting.

Selectboard members in attendance: Tim Wessel, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Ian Goodnow, Brandie Starr, and Daniel Quipp.

Staff participating: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Others participating: ASL interpreter Elizabeth Fox and BCTV staff and volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 / Coronavirus

- (i) *Update*
- (ii) *Potential Actions, as needed*

Town Manager Elwell spoke about the changes in Town operations since the Declarations of Emergency had been issued by the Federal and State governments on March 13 in response to the Coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that Town’s facilities were closed to the public after those orders were issued. He said that Vermont Governor Scott had since issued a “Stay Home – Stay Safe” order to become effective March 24, and he subsequently issued an amendment to the Open Meeting Law allowing essential meetings to meet remotely and avoid the need to congregate in large groups. He said that since the last “live” Selectboard meeting on March 17, the Town had implemented GoToMeeting software to allow the Selectboard to meet remotely. Elwell spoke at length about many adjustments that had been made to Town operations in order for staff to work at home remotely, including repurposing some staff, adding some staff to emergency on-call lists, and shift/assignments changes to allow employees that needed to be physically present (police, fire, public works, and water and sewer operations) to continue to work safely and still protect the public. He noted that emergency services would continue to be provided 24/7. He announced that green and open spaces in the various parks were still available for public use but the equipment was impossible to keep sanitized so should not be utilized. Elwell spoke about the creative energy invested by staff at the Library and Recreation & Parks Departments devising ways to continue to stay in service to the community and provide access to services and resources. He invited the public to use both websites and stay in touch with staff. He reminded the public of the requirement to obtain burn permits when burning yard debris. Fire Chief Bucossi asked residents with small backyard fire pits to contact the Fire Department and let them know about the pits so that the department was aware of the burn if neighbors reported smoke. Elwell announced that the spring leaf pick-up dates were scheduled on Friday, April 17 and May 1. He said that the State denied the Town’s request to suspend the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash program, and he reminded business owners that the Board previously suspended payments on Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) loans during the pandemic. Public Works Director Steve Barrett confirmed that the street clean-up program would continue and winter debris would be removed from the streets.

Elwell announced that the public could participate in Selectboard meetings by clicking on any “Town Update” posted on the homepage of the Town’s website and then click on the “GoToMeeting” link. He said that the website contained daily updates about the pandemic and provided links to other resources, including the Vermont Department of Health, Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

Wessel noted that with the adoption of the COVID-19 procedures and the need to cancel Representative Town Meeting that the Board had not properly recognized former Selectboard member David Scholes for his service. He thanked Scholes for his seven years of service on the Board. Wessel welcomed new Selectboard member Ian Goodnow to his first regular Selectboard meeting.

Wessel opened the meeting to public participation. Olga Peters inquired about previously planned construction projects. Public Works Director responded that health and safety projects would be the main focus. Millicent Cooley inquired about plans to reschedule Representative Town Meeting. Elwell said that the matter would be discussed at the April 7 Selectboard meeting but RTM was not expected to be rescheduled to May 5 as previously discussed due to the anticipated extension of the Governor's Stay at Home order. Cooley added that she was working with BAMA (Brattleboro Area Mutual Aid) on lessening the "digital divide" in the community. Chris Grotke asked about known cases of COVID-19 in Brattleboro. Elwell suggested that he visit the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and/or Vermont Department of Health websites for that information.

There were several questions and some discussion by the Selectboard. No other potential actions were discussed.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY IAN GOODNOW TO ADJOURN AT 7:12PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Ian Goodnow, Clerk