

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:39PM
REGULAR MEETING – 6:15PM
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: Brandie Starr, Tim Wessel, Elizabeth McLoughlin, David Schoales, and Daniel Quipp.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, Planning Director Sue Fillion, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Library Director Starr LaTronica, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Police Captain Mark Carignan, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

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

Others present: Mary H. White, Nick Nickerson, Grace Freeman, James Branigan, David Levenbach, Franz Reichsman, ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Karen Todd, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair Starr called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS, LABOR RELATION AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES, AND THE NEGOTIATION OR SECURING OF REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OR LEASE OPTIONS, 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, ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER, AND THE TOWN'S ATTORNEY WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Chair Starr reconvened the meeting at 6:20pm.

APPROVE MINUTES

Starr asked the Board to approve the minutes from the May 21 meeting. There was no discussion.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 21 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Starr suggested that any ideas and funding requests for the FY21 budget be submitted to the Board by the end of August since the Board would focus on budget discussions during the fall.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Town Manager Elwell responded to an inquiry made at a previous Selectboard meeting about the destination of trash and recyclable materials. He said that trash was distributed to three different regional landfill operations. He said that recyclables varied product-by-product due to the volatile markets and he confirmed that the materials were recycled at various operations and did not go into the landfill. He said that, according to Casella Waste Management, cardboard was distributed to operations that made new cardboard boxes, mixed papers were sent to a domestic operation that made pulp and shipped the product overseas, newsprint was shipped domestically and overseas depending on the current newsprint market, plastic jugs and bottles were shipped domestically and made into a variety of new plastic products, water bottles were shipped domestically and made into new water bottles, fleece, and carpets, tin was shipped domestically to make new tin cans and metal products, aluminum (100% recyclable) was re-used as cans (with Anheuser-Busch being the largest consumer), tubs and lids (in the 3-7 recycle

range) were typically recycled into paint cans, and glass remained a problematic commodity at this time due to market changes.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Schoales spoke about the merger of Town School Districts (Brattleboro, Guilford, Dummerston and Putney). He said that public informational meetings about the combined \$50 million budget were scheduled on Tuesday, June 11, at 7:00pm at the Dummerston School and on the following Tuesday at 6:30pm at the Windham Regional Career Center. He said that the combined budget would be voted upon on June 25 at 7:00pm in the BUHS gym.

Wessel announced that he recently attended the “World of Opiates” meeting co-sponsored by Brattleboro Memorial Hospital (BMH) and the Brattleboro Fire Department and included other agencies and State officials. He cited some statistics that were presented, including Windham County had 7% of the State’s population and 19% of the State’s overdose fatalities, and that 8,000 Vermont residents were in recovery which was 1.6% of the total population. He spoke about efforts focused on the “supply-side” of the problem (such as law enforcement activities), as well as “demand-side” (such as prevention and treatment assistance). He noted that many people and agencies were working on the problem, and he suggested that programs be more fully funded and that interested people focus on help in positive ways rather than focusing on negative effects. He also invited the public to attend a public forum at Central Fire Station on June 20 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm to be co-hosted by the Brattleboro Fire Department and BMH with panelists from BMH, Project CARE, Turning Point, Ground Works, Brattleboro Retreat, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nick Nickerson suggested that drugs be legalized and taxed so as to regulate them which would make them safer. He said that the money could be used for rehabilitation and general education for adults and individual training for skills.

WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO CONVENE AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

FY20 Utility Fund Budget – Continued Review and Possible Approval. Elwell said that the Board reviewed the proposed budget at its meeting on May 21, and he summarized the overall budget and the previous discussion. He noted that the Board had previously agreed not to raise the water and sewer rates this year. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO APPROVE THE FY20 UTILITY FUND BUDGET, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO ADJOURN AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY20 Parking Fund Budget – Continued Review and Possible Approval. Elwell said that the Board reviewed the proposed budget at its meeting on May 21 and he summarized the overall budget. He noted that this fund was an Enterprise Fund and contained a balance to maintain the operations. Assistant Town Manager Moreland spoke to a line item containing funds for signage at the Brattleboro Transportation Center. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE FY20 PARKING FUND BUDGET, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Annual Goal Setting for 2019-2020 – Continued Discussion and Possible Approval. Elwell said that the Board reviewed and discussed possible goals at the last two meetings and changes were requested to be added to the list. Elwell reviewed the goals that were added after those discussions. McLoughlin mentioned that she had previously requested that the Project CARE brochure be mailed to Brattleboro residents, with a letter from Police Chief Fitzgerald. Quipp provided suggested language to add to his requested goals. Police Chief Fitzgerald noted that all donations for Project Care were received by the Turning Point. He said that members from Turning Point had asked to be added to a Selectboard agenda in August to discuss their work and the recovery process. There was much discussion by each Board member about several of the proposed goals. After the discussion, Elwell summarized the two changes suggested at this meeting to be made to the category of “Opioids Crisis” as follows:

“1. Continue to support inter-agency efforts in the opiate crisis through active collaboration, raising awareness of unmet needs, and communicating effective strategies,” and

“2. Consider additional Town funding for Project CARE and other opioid related initiatives with Groundworks, and Turning Point, and the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.”

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE THE SELECTBOARD GOALS FOR 2019-2020, AS MODIFIED WITH THE MODIFICATIONS TO TEXT REGARDING THE SECTION THAT SPEAKS TO OPIATES AS STATED BY TOWN MANAGER ELWELL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SPEND AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000 TO MAIL TO ALL ADDRESSES IN TOWN THE PROJECT CARE BROCHURE ACCOMPANIED BY A COVER LETTER BY CHIEF FITZGERALD. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Parade Permit – By the People: Brattleboro Goes Fourth. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a parade permit for the annual “By the People: Brattleboro Goes Fourth” parade to be held on July 4, 2019, in the same manner as it has been held in prior years. McLoughlin thanked Kevin O’Connor and the O’Connor family for their continued organization and support of this event. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE A PARADE PERMIT FOR THE “BY THE PEOPLE: BRATTLEBORO GOES FOURTH” PARADE ON JULY 4, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Annual Dog Warrant. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve the annual dog warrant to enforce the requirement that all dogs in the Town of Brattleboro be vaccinated and licensed. He said that the required statutory language in the warrant included a reference to humane destruction of animals that had not been licensed by their owners; however, the Town had never exercised that authority and had no intention of exercising that authority. Chief Fitzgerald explained that dog owners on the list had been issued two notices by the Town Clerk and the Animal Control Officer would follow-up with a phone call and personal visit. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL DOG WARRANT, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Award Contract for Downtown Design Plan. Planning Director Sue Fillion said that the Board was asked to authorize Town Manager Elwell to enter into a contract in the amount of \$40,100 with PlaceSense of Windsor, Vermont, for preparation of a Downtown Design Plan. She discussed some suggestions in the

proposal to improve the downtown area. She said that about half of the proposed contract would be paid by a Municipal Planning Grant from the State of Vermont with remaining funds to be paid from the Planning Department's approved FY20 budget and various fundraising efforts. Franz Reichsman inquired about plans for the Whetstone Path. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DANIEL QUIPP TO AUTHORIZE TOWN MANAGER PETER ELWELL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,100 WITH PLACESENSE OF WINDSOR, VERMONT, FOR PREPARATION OF A DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 98 – July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the union that represented administrative employees in most Town departments. He summarized some changes in the agreement. He said that two of the four unions had approved the contracts (Local 98 and Firefighters) and those agreements were included in the Board's notebooks. He said that the other two unions were in current negotiations. Franz Reichsman asked whether this process was the best process and whether there were alternative processes. He also suggested that in the future the draft contracts be made public for a longer period of time for the public to view prior to being voted on by the Board. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO APPROVE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 98, FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2019, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Collective Bargaining Agreement with Brattleboro Professional Firefighters Association July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the union that represented the Town's firefighters, a copy of which was included in the Board's notebooks. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRATTLEBORO PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2019, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Pay Increase for Non-Union Employees – Effective July 1, 2019. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a 2% pay increase for all non-union (management, confidential, and part-time) employees for FY20. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO APPROVE A 2% PAY INCREASE FOR ALL NON-UNION EMPLOYEES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Town Committees and Boards – Appointments. Elwell said that the Board was asked to appoint members to various Town committees and boards for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

DAVE SCHOALES NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

ADA Advisory Committee

(for a term expiring 6/21) - Julie Tamler

(for terms expiring 6/20) - Carmen "Nina" Willson, Mary McLoughlin, and Gary Stroud

Cemetery Committee - Brian Bannon

Citizen Police Communications Committee - Gary Stroud

Development Review Board - Nora Dissinger and Michael Averill

Fence Viewer - Tim Kipp

Honor Roll - Sherwood Lake, Sr., and E. David Wright

Recreation & Parks Board - Bethany Ranquist

Rescue, Inc., Trustee - Debra Miller Chapman

Senior Solutions - Pam Sweeney

Traffic Safety Committee

Citizen Representative - Louise Zak

School Representative - Alice Charkes

Tree Advisory Committee - Tim Kipp

Weigher of Coal - David Levenbach

MOTION BY DANIEL QUIPP TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO ADJOURN AT 8:06PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Elizabeth McLoughlin, Clerk