Selectboard members present: Kate O’Connor, Brandie Starr, Tim Wessel, David Schoales, and Shanta Lee Gander.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, Town Assessor Jenepher Burnell, 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: Imani Namutebi, ASL interpreter Elizabeth Fox, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

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

MOTION BY KATE O’CONNOR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING OR PROBABLE CIVIL LITIGATION OR PROSECUTION TO WHICH THE PUBLIC BODY IS OR MAY BE A PARTY, 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, TOWN ATTORNEY, AND TOWN ASSESSOR WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 4-0 (STARR WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE).

Chair O’Connor reconvened the meeting at 6:18pm.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION BY SHANTA LEE GANDER TO APPROVE THE REVISED MINUTES FROM JUNE 5, 2018 AND JUNE 19, 2018. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

CHAIR’S REMARKS
Chair O’Connor reminded the public that the Fourth of July Parade would take place tomorrow starting at 10:00am from the High School, through Main Street, and ending at the Brattleboro Common. She said that fireworks would take place at 9:30pm, and that the afternoon was filled with family activities at Living Memorial Park. She also reminded people to bring water and sunscreen because of the hot weather.

MANAGER’S COMMENTS
None.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
Gander asked that the meetings of the Compassion Committee be added to the Town calendar. She said that she would provide information about upcoming meetings.

Wessel spoke about the tour that he and Dave Schoales took of the new solar facility at Windham Solid Waste Management District which was now on-line. He also said that they toured the compost facility at the District. Schoales complimented Wessel on the visual images that he produced of the site which, he said, could be found on Facebook, and possibly in future print in The Commons and Brattleboro Reformer. He noted that the solar facility was on-line and that the Town would be getting electricity from it soon.
Starr informed the public about a community outreach project where the Brattleboro Police Department, seeing the effects that the opiate crisis had on the community, was partnering with organizations, such as HCRS, Turning Point, Groundworks, Habit OPCO, State’s Attorney’s Office, Brattleboro Retreat, and Brattleboro Union High School, to form Project C.A.R.E. (Community Approach to Recovery and Engagement). She said that the Project would include safe opportunities for people to surrender drugs or paraphernalia at certain times at the police station, have representatives from agencies to assist with getting into programs, and set them up with recovery coaches. She said that the Project included holistic, collaborative and fore-thinking actions. She announced that a community cookout was scheduled on Friday, July 13 from 11am to 1pm, at the Preston Lot on Flat Street and she invited the public and anyone interested in getting more information and in speaking with individuals from various organizations to attend. She said the Project was one of many initiatives taking place to address the opioid crisis, homelessness, and other signs of the times. She thanked Police Chief Fitzgerald and Officer Petlock for their ongoing involvement in this matter. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Set FY19 Property Tax Rates – Elwell spoke about the calculations in setting the FY19 property tax rates. He first apologized for an error on the first set of information released in the morning, and then noted that the corrected information was currently posted on the Town’s website. He then spoke about the component pieces included in setting the tax rates, as set forth in his memorandum dated July 3, 2018 (2:50pm). He said that the first page of the calculations related to the amount of funds to be raised and the resulting tax rates. He said that second page contained a summary of the details with various districts and the impact on taxpayers. He noted that the municipal tax rate would increase 5.5 cents over last year’s tax rate, which included the Board’s recommendation of a 3.6 cent increase and Representative Town Meeting’s additional funding for the Skatepark and purchase of a second sidewalk plow. O’Connor noted that tax bills included a combination of the municipal taxes and State’s taxes. There were some questions and discussion by the Board.

**MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL TAX RATE OF $1.2762 PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS, AN ADDITIONAL $0.1281 PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AN ADDITIONAL $6.8785 PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR THE TRI-PARK SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND TO RATIFY THE STATE MANDATED EDUCATION RATES AT $1.5825 PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES AND $1.5144 PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY SHANTA LEE GANDER TO ADJOURN AT 6:35PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Tim Wessel, Clerk