Selectboard members present: Kate O’Connor, Brandie Starr, Tim Wessel, John Allen, and David Schoales.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Town Attorney Robert Fisher, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah Tyler, Library Director Starr LaTronica, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

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

Others present: Peter Nickerson, Jane Clarke, Melissa Lemnah, Andrea Papanak, Dale Joy, Michael Bosworth, RoseAnn Grimes, Tad Montgomery, Phoebe Gooding, ASL interpreters Elizabeth Fox and Kristal Heir, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair O’Connor called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. She confirmed that the meeting was officially 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, WHERE THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT PREMATURE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD CLEARLY PLACE THE SELECTBOARD AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE. THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 11, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

Chair O’Connor acknowledged the pedestrian fatality in West Brattleboro last week. She noted it was a difficult time for the families of the victim and driver. She said there was no easy solution but called attention to an editorial written by The Reformer a week ago where the article suggested that drivers and pedestrians all slow down and that the community look out for one another. Allen noted that another community implemented a campaign where pedestrians wave to drivers when crossing the street in order to make eye contact and be sure that they were seen.

MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Town Manager Elwell asked the public to exercise patience and cooperation during a very busy construction season. He said several projects were in process in order to maintain Town infrastructure and the work may be disruptive at times but would be overall beneficial. He also announced that Town offices and the Library would be closed during lunch time on Friday, August 4, for the annual Town employees picnic.
SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
Allen spoke briefly about the substantial amount of road construction in the area of Bonnyvale Road and Greenleaf Street.

Schoales noted that the Selectboard would continue to discuss panhandling, the ban on plastic bags, and diversifying the workforce. He invited the public to attend upcoming meetings and participate in those discussions.

Starr announced that August was World Breast Feeding Month and August 1 through 8 was Breast Feeding Awareness Week. She asked the public to engage in normalizing women’s activities who were breast feeding or pumping as a part of life. She suggested that workplaces and other areas provide safe, clean, comfortable spaces for women to engage in breast feeding activities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Dale Joy apologized for her past behavior over the last few months and for making anyone feel uncomfortable. She acknowledged that the Selectboard members were working hard. She then announced that she had started a local tenants’ association who would be hearing and addressing complaints.

Peter Nickerson said he continued to look for plastic bags that may be loose and could blow into the river. He said he recently found one rolling away from the river and he grabbed the bag and threw it away.

LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS
MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO CONVENE AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

First Class Liquor License – World Learning, Inc., d/b/a School for International Training. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a first class liquor license for World Learning, Inc., d/b/a School for International Training, located at 1 Kipling Road. He said that the school would be taking over the food service and alcohol operations as of August 13, 2017, and would no longer utilize a contractual service organization. Melissa Lemnah, Director of Events and Food Service at World Learning, confirmed that she and other employees would participate in alcohol training offered by the Department of Liquor Control and she spoke about the changes in the catering and food service programs on campus. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO APPROVE A FIRST CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE FOR WORLD LEARNING, INC., D/B/A SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, LOCATED AT 1 KIPLING ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

First Class Liquor License – Papanap, Inc., d/b/a Brattleboro Bowl. Elwell said that the Board was asked to approve a first class liquor license for Papanap, Inc., d/b/a Brattleboro Bowl, located at 865 Putney Road. He said that the business was being sold and the new owners planned to continue to operate the business in a manner similar to how it was operated in the past. Andrea Papanak, one of the new owners, spoke about the business and her plans to improve and expand it. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO APPROVE A FIRST CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE FOR PAPANAP, INC., D/B/A BRATTLEBORO BOWL, LOCATED AT 865 PUTNEY ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO ADJOURN AS LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police-Fire Facilities Project – Update. Town Manager Elwell provided an update on the progress of construction at the Police Station and Central Fire Station. He said that construction on the Police Station was nearly complete and the department would soon begin to gradually move into the new space. He said that construction on Central Fire Station was continuing and there was still substantial construction taking place. He also spoke about the anticipated reconfiguration of parking spaces on Elliot Street to allow for the change in the activity on the street from the fire apparatus. He spoke briefly about expenses that he had approved administratively and the overall financial report on the project, as set forth in his memo dated July 28, 2017. There was some discussion by the Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Sweeper Bids - Department of Public Works, Highway Department. Highway/Utilities Superintendent Tyler said that the Board was asked to award the bid for a Johnson Street Sweeper to Delurey Sales & Service of North Hoosick, New York, in the amount of $259,385. She spoke about the deteriorating condition of the existing street sweeper and the bid process. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO AWARD THE BID FOR A JOHNSON STREET SWEEPER TO DELUREY SALES & SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $259,385. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Dump Truck Bids - Department of Public Works. Highway/Utilities Superintendent Tyler said that the Board was asked to award the bid for a Dodge Ram 5500 Truck to Goss Dodge Chrysler of Burlington, Vermont, in the amount of $115,425. Michael Bosworth, from the Energy Committee, suggested that electric commercial vehicles would be available in the not-to-distance future. Dale Joy inquired about the yardage on the truck. There was some discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO AWARD THE BID FOR A DODGE RAM 5500 TRUCK TO GOSS DODGE CHRYSLER IN THE AMOUNT OF $115,425. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Gibson Aiken Center Window Replacement Bids, Recreation & Parks Department. Elwell said that the Board was asked to award the bid for Phase 3 of the Gibson Aiken Center Window Replacement Project to Vermont Vinyl of Brattleboro, Vermont, in the amount of $25,520. He said that three bids were received and Vermont Vinyl submitted the lowest bid, which was under the budgeted amount. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO AWARD THE BID FOR PHASE 3 OF THE GIBSON AIKEN CENTER WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO VERMONT VINYL IN THE AMOUNT OF $25,520. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Accept and Appropriate Annual Grant for the Brattleboro Community Justice Center. Elwell said that the Board was asked to accept and appropriate the Justice Center Grant Amendment in the amount of $150,000 from the Vermont Department of Corrections for the Brattleboro Community Justice Center (BCJC), as set forth in the memorandum dated July 12, 2017, from Grants Manager Kim Ellison. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE THE JUSTICE CENTER GRANT AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $150,000 FROM THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
Ratify Town Manager’s Approval of a Grant Application for the Fire Department. Elwell said that the Board was asked to ratify the Town Manager’s approval for the Fire Department’s application for a Special Operations Water Safety Capabilities Enhancement Grant in the amount of $3,213.53 from the Vermont Homeland Security Unit to replace aging water rescue equipment, as set forth in the memoranda dated July 14, 2017, from Grants Manager Kim Ellison and Fire Chief Mike Bucossi. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

**MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO RATIFY THE TOWN MANAGER’S APPROVAL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT’S APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL OPERATIONS WATER SAFETY CAPABILITIES ENHANCEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,213.53 FROM THE VERMONT HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT. MOTION CARRIED 4-0 (SCHOALES WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE).**

Energy Committee – Preliminary Discussion

(i) **Climate Accord Resolution**
(ii) **Downtown Brattleboro Building Energy Program**

Members from the Town’s Energy Committee – Michael Bosworth (Chair), Tad Montgomery, and RoseAnn Grimes, along with Phoebe Gooding (Energy Coordinator) – were present to discuss two proposals that would be presented to the Board for action at the September 5 meeting. Gooding said that the first proposal would be for Brattleboro to sign onto a Climate Accord Resolution, and she read a statement from Energy Committee with its reaction to the President’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Chair O’Connor requested that copies of any documents to be considered by the Board be given to Town Manager’s Office by August 30.

Bosworth said that the second proposal, Downtown Brattleboro Building Energy Program, was an initiative to encourage and support businesses, residents, and organizations in Brattleboro to entertain comprehensive energy audits, implement energy conservation measures, and install renewable energy systems. He said that that several organizations had been contacted in order to partner in the project and that potential funding for the project would have to be pursued and established. He said that the Town and other organizations would be asked to progress toward energy and climate goals set by the State for a long-term comprehensive energy plan. Montgomery spoke at length about the project and goals toward energy conservation, as well as the reduction of greenhouse gases. He said that the Town would be asked to sign onto an equivalent of the Paris Climate Accord and he anticipated that the State would be requesting Towns to comply in energy conservation and reduction measures. There was substantial discussion by the Board, including overlaps with the work of Efficiency Vermont, requests for funding, and management and structure of the project. Dale Joy inquired about the program availability to private businesses in public buildings. Montgomery and Bosworth said a more concrete proposal would be presented to the Board at its September 5 meeting.

Schoales also clarified that a statement that he forwarded to the Board at a previous meeting was a request to better communicate to the public the results or discussions about many projects and decisions that the Board makes on a variety of subjects. There was further discussion about improving the Town’s website.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Possible Cancellation of the August 15 Selectboard Meeting. O’Connor asked the Board to consider canceling the regular August 15 meeting since the agenda consisted primarily of updates and reports from various organizations. There was some discussion by the Board. The Board generally agreed in
conversation to cancel the August 15 meeting with the understanding that, if an action was required before September 5, a special meeting could be called.

**NO MOTION WAS OFFERED.**

**Committee Appointments.** O’Connor said that the Board was asked to appoint one member to the BASIC Committee (Brattleboro Area Skatepark Is Coming) and one alternate to the Development Review Board.

**JOHN ALLEN NOMINATED MATTHEW RINK TO THE BASIC COMMITTEE. NOMINATION CARRIED 5-0.**

**BRANDIE STARR NOMINATED DAVID WHITTLE AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM. NOMINATION CARRIED 5-0.**

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY TIM WESSEL TO ADJOURN AT 8:00PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

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Tim Wessel, Clerk