

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019  
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30PM  
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 (for executive session), Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Dan Tyler, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

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

Others present: Judy Zemel, Patsy Cushing, Marlene Everingham, Nick Nickerson, Elizabeth Howes, Rikki Risatti, Emilie Kornheiser, Donald Saaf, Derrik Jordan, David Levenbach, Michael Bosworth, Franz Reichsman, ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Christine Bricault, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair Starr called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS, LABOR RELATIONS AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES, PENDING OR PROBABLE CIVIL LITIGATION OR A PROSECUTION TO WHICH THE PUBLIC BODY IS OR MAY BE A PARTY, 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, ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER, AND TOWN 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 September 17, 2019 meeting. There was no discussion.

**MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

***CHAIR'S REMARKS***

None.

***MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

Town Manager Elwell announced that the fall leaf pick-up dates had not yet been determined and that he expected to have the dates by the next meeting. He also announced that the Human Services Review Committee was accepting applications for FY21 funding, that the applications were posted on the Town's website, and that the deadline to submit application packets was December 4 at 12:00noon. He noted that an informational session was scheduled on October 15 at 5:00pm at the Municipal Center.

***SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS***

McLoughlin invited the public to attend the many activities at Gallery Walk on Friday evening. She also noted that the Planning Department was working on a new Downtown Plan and that several events were scheduled on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Wednesday (October 9) for the public to participate in the making of the new Plan.

Quipp noted that a survey was available online at PlaceSense.com/Brattleboro for the public to submit their suggestions on the new Downtown Plan about which McLoughlin just spoke. He also wished the Jewish community a happy new year as Rosh Hashanah was taking place, and he spoke of a recent celebration at Pliny Park that took place last Saturday.

Schoales added that a benefit auction by In-Sight Photography would take place during Gallery Walk on Friday, and he invited the public to their studio to participate in the auction. He noted that the Diversity Workforce Development Committee of the Community Equity Collaborative met recently and that a relationship had been developed with Franklin Pierce University to bring students to Brattleboro to explore career opportunities.

Wessel noted that the Traffic Safety Committee met last Thursday where a spirited large community conversation took place about several issues. He invited the public to attend future meetings that take place on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00am in the Selectboard Meeting Room.

### ***PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***

None.

### ***WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS***

#### **MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO CONVENE AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Authorize Purchase of Replacement Generator – Department of Public Works. Public Works Director Steve Barrett and Highway/Utilities Superintendent Dan Tyler were present. Barrett said that the Board was asked to approve the purchase of a Generac generator in the amount of \$19,365 to replace the inoperable generator at the Public Works facility, as set forth in the memos dated September 11 and September 25, 2019, from Highway/Utilities Superintendent Dan Tyler. Tyler said that at the last meeting, the Board requested additional information on alternative powered generators, such as battery backup and propane. Tyler said that either battery or propane fueled generators were much more expensive, would not meet the requirements in an extended emergency, and required additional infrastructure to be installed, as detailed in his September 25 memo. He also noted that the proposed diesel generator emitted less CO2 per million BTUs than that of a propane generator. He said that Town staff continued to recommend the purchase of the Generac generator. There was some discussion by the Board.

#### **MOTION BY DANIEL QUIPP TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$19,365 TO PURCHASE A GENERAC GENERATOR FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

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

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

Update Regarding “Work Today” Program – Emilie Kornheiser of Youth Services. Emilie Kornheiser, provided a brief history of the development of the “Work Today” Program, which was formulated to provide employment services for members of the community who may be in transition in their lives and not able to access steady employment. She said that a search for a Program Coordinator had taken place, but the position had not yet been filled. She said that she received many requests by potential workers for work, and noted that partnerships were formed with other agencies in the community that would provide services for the workers, such as transportation and lunches. She said that regrettably the program was not ready to be launched at this time, and with the approaching of winter weather the start of the program would be delayed until spring. She thanked the Town for its financial support of the program and for developing a list of temporary jobs for the workers. There was much discussion by the Board.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Authorize Purchase of Replacement Elevator Cab at the Transportation Center. Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland said that the Board was asked to approve the purchase of a replacement elevator cab (and associated fixtures and controls) in the amount of \$52,500 from Bay State Elevator. He spoke about the failed condition of the elevator cab, including significant rust damage to the inside and outside of the cab and vandalism to the telephone within the elevator. He said that replacement of the cab was part of the FY20 budget for the Parking Fund, as set forth in his memo dated September 25, 2019. Nick Nickerson suggested adding cameras to the elevator. There were many questions and much discussion by the Board.

**MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$52,500 FROM THE PARKING FUND TO PURCHASE A BAY STATE ELEVATOR CAB (AND ASSOCIATED FIXTURES AND CONTROLS) FOR THE BRATTLEBORO TRANSPORTATION CENTER. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Municipal Broadband – Research Results + Consideration of Potential Future Actions. Assistant Town Manager Moreland said that a prior Board had directed staff to research possible options for a municipal broadband project. He spoke at length about the level of broadband service that was currently available in town, FCC standards for broadband, and the results of his research about municipal broadband projects in other communities, all as set forth in his memo dated September 23, 2019. Several members in the audience – Franz Reichsman, Patsy Cushing, Emilie Kornheiser, Rikki Risatti, Derrik Jordan, Donald Saaf, and Michael Bosworth - provided their comments and opinions. There was substantial discussion and debate by the Board. The Board generally agreed to add this matter to the next agenda and for staff to provide a range of options on possible next steps for the Board to consider.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Announce Committee Vacancies. Starr announced current vacancies on various Town boards and committees as set forth in the Board's back-up materials.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY ELIZABETH McLOUGHLIN TO ADJOURN AT 8:32PM. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

---

Elizabeth McLoughlin, Clerk