Selectboard members present: Kate O’Connor, Brandie Starr, and John Allen.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Library Director Starr LaTronica, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

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

Others present: Josh Steele, Peter “Nick” Nickerson, Suzanne Wagner, Alex Beck, Sharon Couturier, Erin Weaver, Jullian Grohman, R.T. Brown, Leo Schiff, Jon King, Dick DeGray, Todd Murchison, Laura Sibilia, Kelly Juno, Pierre Landry, Adam Grinold, Jim Levinson, ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Karen Todd, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

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

The Board held interviews for the Planning Commission and Development Review Board. Josh Steele and Todd Murchison were present. Steele expressed his preference to be appointed to the Planning Commission and Murchison stated that he would be agreeable to appointment on the Development Review Board. O’Connor said that the Board would nominate and vote on candidates later in the meeting.

MOTION BY KATE O’CONNOR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS, ARBITRATION OR MEDIATION, THE NEGOTIATING OR SECURING OF REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OR LEASE OPTIONS, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE, 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 ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Chair O’Connor reconvened the meeting at 6:19pm.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

Chair O’Connor noted that two Board members were not present so any matter before the Board at this meeting would require affirmative votes from all three members in order to pass.

She announced that the Board agreed to adjust the agenda and move the following items under “New Business” to the next meeting when the full Board was present: Item B (“FY17 Year-End Financial Report”), Item C (“Recommendation for Interim Replacement of Ladder Truck”), and Item G (“Reschedule First November Selectboard Meeting”). She then spoke about attending the Library’s 50th birthday bash last week with a band and dancing on the main floor. She said that interested viewers could see the celebration on BCTV’s website.
SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
Starr spoke about her attendance last week at the 4th annual celebration of the Roots Social Justice Center, including a march through town. She said it was a well-attended and joyful event. She said that she also attended a forum about addiction, entitled “Why Don’t They Just Stop?” which was sponsored by Turning Point. She said it was a discussion about a very difficult topic and the forum was also well-attended. She also noted that she attended a meeting of the ad hoc citizens’ committee that had initiated the flyer about panhandling. She said that Social Worker Kristin Neuf was at the meeting and spoke openly and frankly about what she dealt with in her position. Starr said that meeting attendees left with a deeper understanding of the matter. She said that the citizens’ committee would meet next on October 25.

Allen mentioned the national sadness around the mass shooting in Las Vegas this past week. He said it was a sad point in history. He also noted that two wonderful members of the community - Stanley and Laura Lynde – were in a very serious motorcycle accident. He said that a Go-Fund-Me site had been established to assist them with medical expenses and he suggested that community members who wanted to help them visit the site.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
O’Connor announced that a career expo was scheduled to take place downtown in the near future and she introduced Leo Schiff to talk about the event. Leo Schiff, Regional Manager for Vocational Rehabilitation, and Suzie Wagner, Regional Manager for the local career resource center operated by the Vermont Department of Labor, were present and discussed the upcoming 5th annual Career Expo on Thursday, October 19, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the River Garden.

Dick DeGray spoke about Stanley and Laura Lynde, who were recently involved in a motorcycle accident and who touched many members of the community. He urged community members to visit the Go-Fund-Me site to help them with expenses. He then acknowledged that the Harmony Parking Lot had recently undergone substantial improvements by the Town, and he thanked Scot Borofsky for his work to refurbish the murals on the back wall of the parking lot. He asked members of the public to also thank Borofsky when they saw him.

Nick Nickerson said that he continued to search for single use plastic bags that were alleged to litter the town and he asked for spots where he might find the bags. Allen suggested that he visit Fairview Street and the Price Chopper area.

Pierre Landry appeared with a small box and said that it contained used syringes that he found near his business and said that he wanted to dispose of them properly. He said that he went to the Police Department, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and Rescue, Inc., and no one would accept the syringes. He presented Town Manager Elwell with the box. He said that with such an obvious drug problem in town, there should be a way for people to dispose of syringes responsibly. Elwell said that staff would find out how to properly dispose of them.

WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO CONVENE AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Welcome Center Pump Station -- Bid Award. Public Works Director Steve Barrett provided a brief history
about the pump station at the Welcome Center and noted the State’s interest in conveying the station to the Town after it had been upgraded. He said that five bids were received for the upgrade and he discussed the bids as set forth in his memo dated September 29, 2017. He recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Penta Corporation in the amount of $316,400. Dick DeGray inquired whether any of the bids were from a local company. An unidentified person inquired about the monetary range of the bids. There was a brief discussion by the Board.

**MOTION BY KATE O’CONNOR TO AWARD THE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF $316,400 TO PENTA CORPORATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WELCOME CENTER PUMP STATION PROJECT, SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE STATE OF VERMONT AND FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

**MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO ADJOURN AS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Police-Fire Facilities Project – Update.** Town Manager Elwell provided an update on the progress of construction at the Central Fire Station and on the progress of demolition at the old West Brattleboro Fire Station. He said that the Police Station was fully functional at the new location of 62 Black Mountain Road. He noted that the financial status of the project was unchanged since his memo dated September 14, 2017. There was a brief discussion.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**Panhandling – Informational Sign (from September 19 meeting).** O’Connor said that the Board was asked to consider the language of a sign addressing panhandling behavior and whether it would be acceptable to post on Town property. She said that the idea of the sign, and the first two drafts, were initiated by a citizens’ committee but they would need Town approval before posting it on Town property. She said that at the last meeting, staff was instructed to modify the sign from the prior iterations and present it to the Board for consideration. She read the language on the proposed sign. There was substantial discussion by Board members and members of the public – Jim Levinson, Kelly Juno, Dick DeGray, Erin Weaver, Nick Nickerson, Pierre Landry, Jon King, and Sharon Couturier – all of whom provided their comments, opinions and perspectives on the sign and about the complexity of the many possible underlying issues. DeGray suggested that the matter be tabled until the full Board was present.

**MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO TABLE THIS ISSUE [PANHANDLING SIGN] UNTIL THE FULL BOARD IS PRESENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Brattleboro Development Credit Corp. (BDCC) and SeVEDS – Update.** Representatives from Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) were present to provide the Board with an annual update. Adam Grinold, BDCC Executive Director, provided a general overview on BDCC programs, initiatives and projects. He noted that BDCC submitted its annual funding request to the Town Manager (also included in the Board’s back-up materials) but that conversation was intended to take place at a later time. Laura Sabilia, Director of Regional Economic Development Strategies and Programs, said that the primary function of SeVEDS (Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies), an overall strategic arm of BDCC, was the development of a CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Plan, a federally prescribed 5-year plan. She said that CEDS was completed in 2014 and received numerous awards. She said that the process to rewrite the 2019 CEDS was in process and would be a two county program. She said that information and data was being developed and presented to the local
municipalities. Alex Beck, Workforce and Education Program Manager, discussed how that program was working to ensure everyone that could work was working and had the skills and opportunities for the job market. He discussed programs, employer input, initiatives, job trends, and student involvement. R.T. Brown, Project Manager for Windham County Economic Development Program and Head of the Instig8 Program, discussed the economic development program that was created from the Vermont Yankee closure funds. He also discussed Instig8, a program provided to emerging firms that would align them with resources to promote new businesses and employers. Dick DeGray inquired about recruiting minorities for internships and into the workforce. Nick Nickerson inquired how people in programs and on welfare could “avoid financial cliffs.” There were several questions and much discussion between the Board and BDCC representatives.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**FY17 Year-End Financial Report – Final But Unaudited.** As agreed earlier, this matter was moved to the next agenda for presentation before the full Board.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**Recommendation for Interim Replacement of Ladder Truck – Fire Department.** As agreed earlier, this matter was moved to the next agenda for presentation before the full Board.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**Special Operations Grant from VT Homeland Security – Water Safety Capabilities Enhancement, Ratify Town Manager’s Approval to Accept and Appropriate.** Elwell said that he administratively approved to accept and appropriate a $3,133.53 Special Operations Grant from the Vermont Homeland Security Program in order to meet a program deadline. He said that the Board was asked to ratify his decision. There was no discussion by the Board.

**MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO RATIFY THE TOWN MANAGER’S DECISION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A $3,133.53 SPECIAL OPERATIONS GRANT FROM THE VERMONT HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

**Selectboard Goals – Quarterly Review.** Elwell presented and briefly discussed a quarterly status report on implementation of the Selectboard’s goals for 2017-2018. There was no discussion by the Board.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**Committee Appointments.** O’Connor said that the Board was asked to appoint members to various Town committees and boards.

**ADA COMMITTEE – JOHN ALLEN NOMINATED JOHN D. KOMAR. NOMINATION CARRIED 3-0.**

**ARTS COMMITTEE –** O’Connor noted that a second resignation had been recently received so there were two open seats on this committee. **STARR NOMINATED PHILLIP A.R. (BENINSON). O’CONNOR NOMINATED JOHN HALEY. NOMINATIONS CARRIED 3-0.**

**CITIZEN POLICE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – ALLEN NOMINATED ELISSA PINE. NOMINATION CARRIED 3-0.**
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD – [At interviews preceding the business meeting, Todd Murchison said that he would be agreeable to an appointment on the Development Review Board rather than the Planning Commission.] STARR NOMINATED TODD MURCHISON [TO THE DRB] FOR THE TERM ENDING 6/2020. NOMINATION CARRIED 3-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION – ALLEN NOMINATED JOSH STEELE. NOMINATION CARRIED 3-0.

SENIOR SOLUTIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL – STARR NOMINATED DON FREEMAN. NOMINATION CARRIED 3-0.

SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) – O’Connor noted that Brattleboro did not have a seat on the SEVCA Board but could inform SEVCA of an applicant’s interest. Elwell said that Don Freeman had submitted an application and staff would contact SEVCA about his interest.

Reschedule the First November Selectboard Meeting – As agreed earlier, this matter was moved to the next agenda for presentation before the full Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY JOHN ALLEN TO ADJOURN AT 8:20PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Tim Wessel, Clerk