

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018  
SPECIAL MEETING – 6:15PM  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER  
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: Kate O'Connor, Brandie, Starr, and Tim Wessel.

Staff Present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Finance Director John O'Connor, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Town Clerk Hilary Francis, Library Director Starr LaTronica, Recreation & Parks Director Carol Lolatte, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: BCTV staff and volunteers.

Others present: Samantha Duda, Franz Reichsman, and ASL interpreters Janet Dickinson and Christine Bricault.

Chair O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

***PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***

Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald reminded the public that the days were getting shorter and he asked drivers to be very vigilant during the increased amount of darkness. He also suggested that pedestrians and bike riders wear bright and visible clothing in order to be seen.

Tim Wessel noted that the State had repaired and repainted the line striping at the Exit 3 roundabout. He also noted that the new configuration was helpful in guiding drivers on how to safely use the roundabout.

***NEW BUSINESS***

FY20 Proposed Budget –

- (i) Police Department*
- (ii) Fire Department*
- (iii) Revenues*

Town Manager Elwell invited the public to follow the budget documents and discussions by reviewing the proposed budget that had been posted on the homepage of the Town's website.

(i) Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald provided a general overview of the Police Department's FY20 proposed budget (page 13 under "Operating Budget" in the budget notebooks). He then discussed certain line items that had significant increases or decreases as compared to the current year's budget. Franz Reichsman, from the Finance Committee, and Board members asked several questions.

(ii) Fire Chief Mike Bucossi provided an overview of the structure of the department, including staff and equipment. He then discussed the Fire Department's FY20 proposed budget (page 12 under "Operating Budget" in the budget notebooks). He discussed certain line items that had significant increases or decreases as compared to the current year's budget. Franz Reichsman, from the Finance Committee, and Board members asked several questions.

(iii) Town Manager Elwell discussed some highlights of the revenue portion of the FY20 proposed budget (page 1 under "Operating Budget" in the budget notebooks). He spoke about significant changes as compared to the current year's budget. He said that each of the Department Heads with revenues in their budgets were present to answer any questions pertaining to their budget. Wessel asked Town Clerk Hilary Francis about the cost of liquor licenses. There was some discussion about other line items.

Board member Wessel spoke about his desire to explore the possibility of implementing a 1% local option sales tax for the upcoming year. He noted that the optional 1% rooms and meals tax was implemented

about eight years ago and it provided significant revenue while not appearing to negatively impact the success of the local restaurants and rooms. He suggested that the Board consider proposing the optional sales tax during this year's budget discussions. Starr stated that she was in support of implementing the local option sales tax. There was some discussion by Board members and it was agreed to add a general discussion about whether to consider the local option sales tax to the next agenda, when the full Board was present, and to add a detailed discussion to the November 27 agenda so as to provide Board members with an opportunity to submit questions and suggestions and give staff time to prepare a full report.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY BRANDIE STARR TO ADJOURN AT 7:25PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

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Tim Wessel, Clerk