

**BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016  
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30PM  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER  
MINUTES**

Selectboard members present: David Gartenstein, Kate O'Connor, Dave Schoales, and Richard DeGray.

Staff present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, and Executive Secretary Jan Anderson.

Media present: Staff and volunteers from BCTV.

Others present: Rich Holschuh, Monica MacNeille, Robyn Flatley, Avery Schwenk, Deb Whitkus, Franz Reichsman, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Chair Gartenstein called the meeting to order at 5:30pm in the Selectboard meeting room in the Municipal Center. He confirmed that the meeting was officially warned.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Gartenstein extended a happy holiday wish to everyone and their families.

**MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

None.

**SELECTBOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rich Holschuh announced that he obtained the adequate number of signatures on a petition to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, as the Selectboard had suggested. He said that he would turn the petition into the Town Clerk's office for verification. He spoke in support of the Indigenous People and about the significance in changing the name of the holiday.

Robyn Flatley spoke in support of Indigenous People, immigrants, and the public movement in Standing Rock, North Dakota.

Monica MacNeille spoke in support of Rich Holschuh's initiative to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

FY18 Budget

- (i) Police Department
- (ii) Fire Department

*Police Department* – Chief Fitzgerald provided the Board with an overview of the Police Department's operating and capital budgets. He discussed highlights within the department's budget and changes over the FY17 budget, including updated and technologically advanced equipment and costs attributable to moving the department into the new building. Rich Holschuh commended the Police Department's efforts on community policing. The Board asked questions about several line items and had some discussion about the proposed budget.

*Fire Department* – Fire Chief Bucossi provided the Board with an overview of the Fire Department’s budget. He discussed highlights within the department’s budget and some of the changes over the FY17 budget. Elwell spoke about the fire pumper that was recently taken out of service due to the deteriorated condition of the vehicle and the need to replace it. He also spoke in strong support for the proposal to purchase a combined pumper/rescue vehicle as was presented to the Board at the last meeting. He also provided some financial options in connection with the purchase of the combined vehicle. Chief Bucossi confirmed the need to replace the pumper, clarified the difference between “rescue” and “emergency” vehicles, and spoke about the advantages of having the combination vehicle. Franz Reichsman, member of the Finance Committee, spoke of his concerns about the rising interest rates. Deb Whitkus suggested not delaying the purchase of the pumper/rescue vehicle because emergency needs increase during the winter months. There was discussion by the Board about the proposed budget, the combined vehicle, and possible financial alternatives to purchase it.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY DAVE SCHOALES TO ADJOURN AT 6:48PM. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

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David Schoales, Clerk