

Brighton Selectboard Minutes

December 16, 2015

Present: Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux, Doug Niles, James Cross, Ed Barber from The Newport Daily Express, David Yasharian, Ray Fontaine, Jeff Noyes, Walt Driscoll, Bill Hawkins, Mark Castonguay, Joel Cope and Teresa Potwin.

Chairperson, Melinda Gervais-Lamoureux called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

The agenda was updated to include discussion of sidewalk plans from six years ago.

Dave Yasharian came to ask the board to be able to use the gym for a birthday party for his two sons and for a friend of his sons, who all have birthdays close together. He also wants to have a rented “bouncy house” in the gym. The board has not ever had a request to use the gym for a birthday party, or for a birthday party with a bouncy house, so some questions arose about liability.

Joel told the board he had talked to the bouncy house owner, who said he had insurance, and could provide the town with a certificate of insurance, naming the town as additionally insured. The board also asked Mr. Yasharian to look into a rider from his home insurance policy to see if that would cover the town’s general exposure separate from the bouncy house. Joel explained the TULIP insurance available for situations like this, and estimated the cost at \$77.

The board also asked Joel to look into waiver forms the town can have parents sign in the event insurance is not obtainable. Mr. Yasharian said that parents of all kids will be there and there will be at least one adult to every two children. The date is January 3 or the following weekend from around noon to four. He will confirm the date with Bill Hawkins, who schedules gym use.

The minutes of December 2 were approved.

It was noted that the green light installed in the monument park on behalf of veterans has met with general approval.

Buildings and maintenance: The ads placed in the three local papers for office space in the town hall did not elicit any responses. The board decided to wait until the first of the year and advertise rentals, using all three local papers, and the Green Mountain Trading Post.

Planning grant: The town has received the Municipal Planning Grant for \$13,707 that was applied for in September, to hire Black River Design to look into use of the third floor, an elevator to access each floor, and moving the stage to the other end of the town hall. If the town accepts the grant, there will a match of \$1,902 required. Joel suggested that the work being asked of the architect might be amended slightly from that proposed in the grant application, and wanted the board’s approval for those changes before the grant agreement was signed.

The board met with Walt Driscoll of the Volunteer Fire Department about their budget needs for 2016. The fire department roster now stands at 22 firemen total, but only a small few of those are actually available daytime, which is a problem the fire department has been working on. Walt displayed a nice brochure the department is using for promotion. Doug Niles asked about specific equipment needs, to which Walt replied that the department could use extra pagers at \$400 each, and that they need to upgrade safety packs. Walt also said that they sometime will need to replace a fire truck and maybe a reserve fund should be started. The board agreed to put \$10,000 in the budget for a fire truck reserve fund.

Roads: The board approved applying for a USDA grant for a one-ton truck for the road department, and a new cruiser for the police department.

E911 coordinator: The current E911 coordinator, Jenn Hanlon, has resigned. Joel handed out copies of the job duties for the town and the E911 coordinator. It was agreed that the board would like Jenn to reconsider and agreed to offer her twice her current \$500/year stipend. Meanwhile, a notice of vacancy will be prepared for posting.

Appoint zoning administrator: The planning commission has nominated Joel Cope to the position of Zoning Administrator. The Selectboard approved the appointment of Joel to the position.

Appoint Planning Commissioner: The board appointed Ted Grout to the Planning Commission.

Library budget: Librarian John Zuppa came to the meeting to tell the board they could level fund his budget.

Gym use policy: The board agreed that they need to develop a gym use policy. Jeff will provide a copy of Canaan's policy. Joel will get policies from other places.

The board signed overweight truck permits for All Metals Recycling.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.