

## Select Board Meeting Minutes August 7, 2024

Present: Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Mike Testut, Pierre Gervais, Greg Manning, Noah Bond, Kathy Nelson, Louis Quigley, Ellen Sheltra, James Ozone, Beverly Pepin, Gwyn Worthington, Stephan Allison, Martha Staskus, Geoff Martin, and Teresa DeBonville.

Attending Virtually: Bruce Webster, Mike Strait, Mercy Manning.

Chairperson, Jeanne Gervais called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Updates to the agenda: Skid Steer reimbursement for Andy Martin, Allow extra vacation time for an employee, paid time off for the road crew.

Public comment: Kathy Nelson was present to petition the addition of an Australian Ballot to abolish zoning and all aspects related to zoning. The board will investigate this more, and then set a date to hold this election. At this time, no exact date has been determined as to when this ballot item will be put forth to the voters.

Louis Quigley was present to ask the town if they would reimburse him for work done to his driveway during the last flood. Mr. Quigley's request is because the drain by his property has not been cleaned out for quite some time, and Mr. Quigley believes this is why his driveway washed out. The board has asked Mr. Quigley to get the bill from the contractor who replaced his driveway to the town, and our town manager will contact the road crew to ask them to fix the road as soon as possible. Mr. Quigley asked if it was possible if they could make the road passable by Friday.

Gwyn Worthington presented the board with a quote from an arborist for replacing her hedges/trees which were damaged by brush hogging that was done by the town. Gwyn also asked if the town could pick up the debris and help put her rock wall in place. Noah informed Ms. Worthington that he would speak with the road crew about cleaning up the debris and ask if they would assist in putting her rock wall back in place. Noah also informed Ms. Worthington that it may be a little while before the crew could get to this, as the repairs to the roads take precedence.

Norwich Solar: Martha Staskus and Geoff Martin were present to give the select board information on a potential project on Basil Hill Road and responded to several questions brought forth by the board. Ms. Staskus stated that this was an informational session only and will be contacting the Planning Commission to attend a meeting with them to discuss this further. No decisions were made on this subject.

Vermont Electric Coop. Meeting: Mike Strait and Noah Bond will be meeting with Vermont Electric Coop in the next week to discuss pursuing the downtown revitalization project.

H2O Innovations Contract: Noah gave the board a copy of the contract with H2O Innovations to review. After reviewing the contract, a motion was made by Greg Manning to allow Noah Bond to sign the contract on behalf of The Town of Brighton. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Pay Orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the road expense account, and the general expense account.

Town Manager's report: Noah reported to the board projects employees have been working on, and those which they will continue to work on. (Document attached)

Other business: Beverly Pepin was present to discuss a matter with the board about payment for a band that played in the park. The board told Beverly that this was a Brighton Community Forum issue, and to discuss this with the forum.

The board discussed the budget report, and Greg Manning asked to set a definitive date to have the full draft of the 2025 budget presented to the board. The board decided to have October 2, 2024, as that date.

Mike Testut asked Noah if he would kindly work on getting the comp time down to 80 hours for each employee.

Updates: Andy Martin asked the board if he could get reimbursed \$350.00 for the rental of a skid steer that was rented to perform work that he needed to do for his business but got called into work on his paid time off, so he wasn't able to use this due to the flooding event. A motion was made by Greg Manning to reimburse Andy Martin for the \$350.00. Heather McElroy seconded the motion. The board opposed this motion.

Decision to increase vacation time for Lisa Moore due to the flooding: Noah Bond asked the board if he could increase paid time off for Lisa Moore to cover time off needed for clean-up, as she lost her house in the flooding. Heather McElroy asked if maybe some of the employees that had comp time or vacation time would maybe donate that time to cover the time off needed so that Lisa did not have to use her vacation time. The board suggested Lisa using 1 weeks' vacation time, 1 week's sick leave, to cover the hours missed. Instead of using Lisa's vacation time, and sick leave time, some employees donated some unused vacation time to help Lisa out.

Noah asked the board if he could give the road crew 4 consecutive days off with pay to rest from the hours work so that they could rest after last week's storm. After discussion, a motion was made by Heather McElroy to approve giving the road crew a Monday off with

pay, so that they have a 4-day weekend to rest and spend time with their families. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Approve the minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the July 17, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to approve the minutes as printed. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

At 8:25 PM, A motion was made by Heather McElroy to adjourn the regularly scheduled select board meeting and to go into executive session with the members of the board, and Noah Bond to discuss contract negotiations. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

The board exited executive session at 9:07 PM. Heather made a motion to adopt the pre-negotiation terms from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which Pierre seconded.

Meeting adjourned.