

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2025

Present: Noah Bond, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Greg Manning, Mike Testut, Pierre Gervais, Michael Strait, Peg Muraca, Annie Budrewicz, Jamie Budrewicz, Matthew Wilson

Attending Virtually: Joel Cope, Ed Barber, Mercy Manning, "Erin," "HP," Bruce Webster

The chairperson, Jeanne Gervais, called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Pledge of Allegiance: All attendees stood for the Pledge.

Updates to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Town Manager's Report: Noah Bond discussed the proposed and revised contract with Green Lantern Solar. Heather McElroy noted that the Board must make a decision at this meeting given the deadline. (See below). Noah also discussed the NEK Broadband OLT equipment cabinet, which will be placed behind the fire station. Noah is waiting on the easement with NEK Broadband to proceed. Noah discussed the proposed MOU with Brighton Elementary School. Noah updated the Board on Memorial Park improvements; maintenance trimmed the holiday tree and lights were added. Additionally, Noah told the Board that the digital speed sign has been repaired and updated. It is now fully functional.

Heather McElroy made a motion to authorize Noah to sign the MOU (for reciprocal use of gym/multipurpose spaces) as written on behalf of the Board once agreed to by the school. Seconded by Pierre Gervais. All in favor; motion carried.

Status of Petition to Remove Zoning: A public hearing was held on Monday, November 18. Mike Strait will compile the notes for that meeting to be added to the report that the Planning Commission will approve and present to the Board. The Board must then hold another public hearing. Mike Strait noted that a significant concern about repealing zoning bylaws is that the Town would lose its designation as a "village center." This gives the Town priority when applying for federal and state grants; zoning is a requirement of this designation.

FEMA Obligated Funds DR4762 8: FEMA obligated funds for the December 2023 flooding amount to \$36,315.84. This helps cover administrative, labor, equipment, and other costs related to the disaster. Noah Bond said we should be receiving these funds within a month.

Authorization for Assistant Clerk/Treasurer to Sign Checks: Noah Bond asked the Board to authorize the assistant clerk/treasurer to sign checks. He noted that this would be a conflict when it comes to the audit as the assistant clerk/treasurer is married to a town employee who submits invoices. However, without this authorization, she cannot sign checks if the other clerk

office employees are unavailable. This can prevent the timely issue of paychecks to employees not on direct deposit, for example. Heather McElroy moved to authorize the assistant clerk/treasurer to sign checks in emergency situations with approval of the Select Board through Noah Bond. Seconded by Pierre Gervais. All in favor; motion carried.

Planning Commission Appointment: The term of Planning Commission member William Hawkins expired in September 2024. Mr. Hawkins wishes to continue serving. Heather McElroy moved to appoint William Hawkins to the Planning Commission for a four year term. Seconded by Mike Testut. All in favor; motion carried.

Direct Deposit Authorization for Brighton Recreation: Brighton Recreation organizes and hosts events, which include registration fees (i.e. the kids' fishing tournament, Pond-a-Thon). They had been using Red Podium, which charged 10% and a \$2.50 per-click fee. They requested permission to create a low-cost Square account to accept payments. Pierre Gervais moved to authorize Brighton Recreation to create a Square account to accept credit card payments online. Seconded by Greg Manning. All in favor; motion carried.

Green Lantern Solar Contract Authorization: Heather McElroy made a motion to authorize Noah Bond to sign the Green Lantern contract on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Pierre Gervais. All in favor; motion carried.

Board's Stance on North Country Hospitals - Signatures: Heather McElroy drafted a letter in support of North Country Hospital, citing the crucial need for comprehensive services close to Brighton. Pierre Gervais moved to authorize the Board to sign the letter. Seconded by Greg Manning. All in favor' motion carried.

November Performance Evaluation: Heather McElroy issued a performance evaluation document to other Board members. Each will complete the evaluation of Noah Bond and meet on December 10, 2024 at 4:30pm to discuss in executive session.

Pay Orders: The Board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the road department expense account and the general expense accounts.

Other Business: Heather McElroy discussed the issue of recycling center usage by those who do not live in or own property in Brighton. She says this represents a cost in terms of labor, hauling/transportation, etc. The Board is considering implementing a vehicle sticker system for access to recycling services and will work on sticker pricing and distribution, fees for visitors, signage at the recycling center, as well as communicating with residents/property owners to inform them about the system. They hope to implement this by January 2025. No action taken.

Jeanne Gervais discussed a petition that the Board received. The petition asks, under Article I, shall the voters rescind the "town manager form of government?" citing relevant Vermont statutes. Article II asks, shall the Select Board appoint a town administrator? After consultation with legal counsel, Article I has been found legal and has been accepted by the Select Board.

Article II has been found redundant as the Town already has a town administrator position, and the voters do not have the authority to direct the Board to appoint paid town administrators. It is not accepted. Mike Strait noted that this must be decided by floor vote as this is the method by which the town manager form of government was adopted.

Jeanne Gervais noted that, if rescinded, the Town must pay Noah Bond for 2.5 years salary (remainder of his contract), if he was not offered or did not accept town administrator position. Salary is \$86,320 at present, plus employee increase approved by the Board. Noah Bond must also be paid out for benefits and other forms of compensation per his contract. The Board requested a copy of Noah's contract.

Heather McElroy moved to add Article I of this petition to the Warning for the Annual Meeting (Town Meeting). Seconded by Pierre Gervais. All in favor; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Pierre Gervais moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Heather McElroy. All in favor; so carried.

Executive Session (Personnel): Heather McElroy moved to enter executive session, with the Select Board and Noah Bond present, to discuss labor relations/personnel. Seconded by Pierre Gervais. All in favor; motion carried.

Adjourn: X moved to adjourn at (TIME). Seconded by Y. All in favor; meeting adjourned.