

SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2025

Present: Heather McElroy, Mike Testut, and Bill Hawkins.

Attending Virtually: Jeanne Gervais, and Sarah Buxton, Town Attorney.

Select Board Chairperson Appointment: Jeanne Gervais motions to appoint Heather McElroy as select board chairperson. Mike Testut motions to appoint Bill Hawkins as select board chairperson. Bill Hawkins motions to amend the motion to appoint Heather McElroy as select board chairperson for the month of April. Mike Testut seconds the amended motion, all in favor, so carried.

Heather McElroy calls the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Mike Testut motions to enter into executive session in order to receive confidential attorney-client privileged information, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 of the Vermont Statutes finding that premature public knowledge would substantially disadvantage the town. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

The board exited Executive session at 5:47 PM, no action was taken.

Executive session adjourned at 5:47 PM.

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2025

Present: Heather McElroy, Bill Hawkins, Mike Testut, Jamie Budrewicz, Doug Brent, Jim Webb, Ray Fontaine, Mike Strait, and Teresa DeBonville.

Attending Virtually: Jeanne Gervais, Joel Cope, Bruce Webster, Jennifer Rodseth, John Krumenaker, and Ed Barber.

Heather McElroy called the meeting to order at 5:54 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Updates to the Agenda: Brighton Trails request, Library Trustee, CUD OLT Cabinet Location.

Public comment: Jamie Budrewicz asked the status of filling the vacancy on the select board. Heather informed Jamie that the position had been advertised, and that three people had stated their interest in the position. The board would like to speak with the three interested parties to see why they are interested in becoming a select board member.

Road Department Update: Tucker Crowe started on Monday, and the other new employee will start on April 14, 2025. No other updates at this time.

Brighton recreation shed placement: Heather McElroy, on behalf of the recreation department discussed with the board the placement of a slightly larger shed to store balls and equipment in for use in the park. The potential placement will be near the basketball court, so that there will be access to it easily. A motion was made by Bill Hawkins to allow the Recreation Department to place a storage shed near the basketball court in the park for the summer equipment program. Mike Testut seconds the motion, Heather McElroy abstained from the vote, all other members were in favor of the motion.

Ballfield Discussion: Mike Strait gave the board information on trees that could be planted along the property line in the ballfield. This would be a cheaper option than building a fence. Until the trees are tall enough to block the balls from going onto the property, any claim would be brought to the insurance company. The trees would take 3 to 4 years to be tall enough to stop the balls from crossing over onto the property. The board will review the information, and discuss this more at a future meeting.

Waste Water Treatment Project Update: Mike Strait updated the board on the project. We received a good bid, and the project will start at the end of April. The expected completion date will be May of 2026. Mike informed the board that the total cost of the project will be \$7,809,566.00. The town has received grants/subsidies totaling: \$4,951,347.00, and the

remaining will be a loan for \$2,833,493.00 along with other town contributions of \$24,726.00.

Reservoir Grant Update: Mike Strait signed the grant agreement in the amount of \$190,000.00 for the reservoir project. This should cover the total cost of the project, the only thing that the town may have is a small match, and we have a reservoir reserve account that could be used.

FEMA Grant Update: We received \$25,939.89 in FEMA Grant funds for the December 2023 flooding.

MERP Grant: Mike put in a request with historic preservation because some of the work will need to be done to the outside of the building at the town hall and the railroad depot, and we need approval from historic preservation before we can proceed. The railroad depot boiler is the priority in this project.

MPG Grant Update: Joel informed the board that the Municipal Planning Grant was submitted on Monday, March 31, 2025. This grant will give us funds of up to \$20,000.00 to hire a consultant from NVDA to work on the town plan.

EV Charging Station: Mike Strait gave the board information on the placement of the EV Charging Station. The proposed spot that Norwich EV is asking for is not feasible to use.

Town Manager Search: The board discussed how and what they wanted the advertisement for the position. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

Overweight Permits: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to allow Heather McElroy to sign the overweight permits. Mike Testut seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.

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

Library Trustee: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to appoint Ashley Jacobs to the vacancy as library trustee per the recommendation of the library board. Bill Hawkins seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Brighton Trails Day: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve use of the town park pavilion and the Bluff Mountain Community Trail by the NEK Section of the Green Mountain Club so that they may host Brighton Trails Day on June 21, 2025. Bill Hawkins seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

CUD OLT Cabinet Location Lease: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to authorize the select board chair to sign the NEKCV Broadband OLT Cabinet Location Lease. Mike Testut seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Approve minutes of previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2025, meeting. Mike Testut made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Bill Hawkins seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: The board will hold a special meeting on Friday, April 4, 2025, at 5:30 PM tentatively to appoint the 5th member to the board. At this time the board asked the three interested parties to state a little bit about why they are interested in the position.

Mike Testut motions that the board enter into executive session, with members of the board only to discuss potential interim town manager staffing under provision of Title 1, Section 313 of the Vermont Statutes finding that premature public knowledge would substantially disadvantage the town. Bill Hawkins seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

The board exited the executive session at 8:17 PM, no decision was made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.