

DRAFT - Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 6:30 PM

**Present**

Selectboard- David Jones (Chair), Gwen Tanza, Joseph Dutton, Shelby Brimmer, Bruce Mello  
Town - Guy Tanza (Town Clerk & Videographer), Mark Bills Road Supervisor  
Recorder- Dot Maggio  
Members of the Public - Chris Fogerty, Keith Kopeloff, Lee Ann Jillisen

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

**2. Review changes to agenda if any**

Reorder agenda so that 6A - Merrill Drive Situation and 7B - SLP Window Bids to be moved up earlier in the agenda.

Move road equipment purchase article up to before the Town Meeting Warning.

Old Business - add Town Health Officer discussion

Bruce Mello asked the board to limit discussions for item 6A to no more than 15 minutes.

**3. Scheduled members of the public**

Lee Ann Jillisen from Merrill Drive

**4. Unscheduled members of the public**

Chris Fogerty and Keith Kopeloff for APEX re: SLP window bid

**5. Approve minutes**

Minutes from the December 18, 2019 selectboard meeting were reviewed. Corrections were made.

David Jones moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2019 as amended.

Second by Bruce Mello. All in Favor

**6. New Business**

A. David Jones discussed the email that was sent to the selectboard regarding the concerns of Lee Ann Jillisen and the occupant of the neighboring property on Merrill Drive. Mrs. Jillisen described how Francis Cobb was coming onto her property and porch to charge his cell phone. Mr. Cobb is staying in an old blue bus without power or running water. His truck is being repaired so he has no way to charge his phone, but the Jillisen family would prefer that he not come onto their property as they are concerned about the status of his mental health.

On Monday January 6th, the family spoke with the Vermont State Police which suggested that the man be allowed to charge his phone. Lee Ann is looking to get some help for Mr. Cobb. A discussion ensued. Mr. Dutton brought up squatter rights which complicates the issue. Even if Francis Cobb doesn't have permission to be where he is, he has been there

long enough that the land owner would have to start an eviction process. The property in question is in probate. It is the estate of Ken Merrill who is the step father of Francis Cobb. Douglas Cobb, Francis's brother from Chester, is on record as the contact person and tax payer for the lot.

The town health officer was asked to follow up to see what could be done.

## **7. Old Business**

### **B. Discuss/Vote on SLP window bid**

Bruce Mello gave an overview of the project. He stated that there is \$7400.00 in rent surplus at this time and if the Capital Improvement money was added to this, there would be \$11,700.00 available to invest into the building. Mr. Jones does not see that the money in the Capital Improvement Fund is dedicated to the maintenance of the school building. Mr. Mello read the minutes from the town meeting when the Capital Improvement Fund was approved in 2019. Mr. Jones noted that buildings with revenue don't need the CIF money, but rather a building such as the Town Hall which does not have any extra funding might need it.

A discussion ensued about a) cost of replacing the windows, b) age of the wooden windows, c) r factor of the double pane Anderson windows, d) the need to paint the building in the future and its costs e) how long would the replacement windows last f) the three bids g) the value for modern windows going forward h) how new windows would increase the heating efficiency and make the building more attractive for future rentals. I) how long would the repair and repainting last J) window strength

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Mello what his opinion was. Bruce said that the windows were structurally in good shape and didn't need to be replaced. Mr. Jones is concerned about other needs down the road and the costs. Joseph Dutton suggested replacing just 5 windows one year and do the other windows another year. APEX contractors agreed that they would split the bid in half and would do 5 windows.

Following more discussion, Ms. Brimmer suggested labeling the vote. Guy Tanza said that the town is responsible to maintain all of the buildings and since there is going to be a surplus expected, it could be asked at the town meeting to apply the money to do some of the work that has to be done.

Bruce Mello made a motion to accept the bid for \$5500.00 to repair the windows from Norm Holden. Second by David Jones. Discussion followed. Mr. Dutton felt that the repair would be doing the town a disservice. Energy conservation should be considered moving into the future. Ms. Brimmer does not see \$10,000.00 and does not think the town can afford the replacements.

A vote was called and David Jones, Gwen Tanza and Bruce Mellow voted in favor of hiring Norm Holden to repair and paint the windows in the school building. Joseph Dutton and Shelby Brimmer voted against the motion. The motion passed to repair the windows using the lowest bid.

### **A. Road Equipment purchase article**

Joseph Dutton reported that there was not a full meeting on Monday Jan 6th. Only Doug Wellman came. Archie Clarke and Mark Bills did not show up. A discussion ensued about the three bids for machines that were under consideration. Unfortunately, two of the three bidders were about to be sold. The JCB was the best machine when compared to any of the competitors, but it is too expensive at approximately \$150,000.00. The machine offered by ABEL was the most reasonable and a good deal for the price. David Jones thanked the advisory committee as they did their due diligence. The results of the committee findings could be discussed at town meeting under New Business. There will be no article for town meeting at this time for the purchasing of any road equipment.

## **6 New Business**

### **B. Town Meeting Warning**

Articles 1 through 6 are the same as they always are

Articles 7 - Reviewed and discussed General Fund, Highway Fund, and General Fund surplus and taxes to be raised.

2019 General Fund has a non audited surplus expected in the amount of \$23,484.00 The warning has the surplus applied to the taxes to be raised.

There was a discussion about warning the surplus as a separate article. Each board member gave their opinion. After the discussion, it was agreed upon to keep Article 7 with the surplus from 2019 being used to reduce the amount of taxes to be raised.

Article 8 was accepted

Article 9 Appropriations at \$5906.00 was accepted

Article 10 and Article 11 for New Appropriations was accepted

Article 12 was accepted

Article 13 on recycling costs was discussed as it is \$4,000.00 more this year. It was accepted

Article 14 was discussed and accepted since there is no school meeting this year at town meeting

Article 15 was accepted

Mr. Jones asked if there were any other suggested changes. Hearing none he made a motion to approve the 2020 Warning. Seconded by Bruce Mello. All were in favor.

### **6C. Road Commissioner**

Mr. Sam Bourne and Mr. Tom Staats would both be invited to the next selectboard meeting to see if there is an interest in being Co-Road Commissioners for Brookline. Gwen Tanza will check with VLCT to see what

they have to say about doing co-commissioners. There was a discussion about the responsibilities the two will share. Mark Bills - road supervisor was consulted about the possibility of having two commissioners. He felt it could work.

#### 6D - Town Health Officer

David Jones said that he has the Town Health Officer Certificate as the current chair of the selectboard. Dot Maggio is willing to work with David. Shelly Brimmer has read the manual but would like to review the actual statues associated with the role. She was concerned about the time investment and broadness of the responsibilities.

### **8. Summary/Update/ Reports**

Guy Tanza, town clerk, reported that March 3, 2020 is the presidential primary. He will need help with the ballot counting. March 14 will be the rabies clinic at the NewBrook Fire Department from 10 AM to 1 PM. March 25 there will be an australian ballot for the MUDD for the school district. Gwen Tanza is working through book 22 in the vault which is time consuming. Guy mentioned wanting to set up the closet in the conference room as a computer desk for title searches in the future.

### **9 Highways & Roads**

Mark Bills reported that he and Archie Clarke worked on filling potholes with crushed stone recently. Additional road salt was ordered. This will be the third load of salt this winter. There is a request from Green Mountain Power Company to install more power line poles on Putney Mountain road up past Johnny Swings home. Mark felt that the pole placement is well off the highway area and gave them the go ahead to do work which may involve cutting down some trees.

Mark made a call and reserved the over the rail mower for the first week of July (July 6 to July 10). The cost for the rental will be \$3300.00 for the week with unlimited hours of use. He asked the rental company to let him know if any equipment comes up for sale.

### **10 Communications**

#### A. Email

Peter Meyer asked for permission to work on cleaning up the ball field across from his house. David Jones will respond to Peter to thank him for his offer to clean up the ball field. There was a brief discussion about the knotweed growing on the field's edge. This is not part of the clean up.

Johnny Swing communicated with David Jones about drivers trying to come to Brookline from Putney during the winter. A snow plow could push snow to form a barrier at the top to prevent people from coming over the mountain.

Dan Dobson from the planning commission sent a document regarding upcoming Marijuana legislation. It will be discussed at the next board meeting

**B. Regular Mail**

VTRANS - Certificate for Highway Mileage

Will need to be signed and returned in February

Town Health Officer Certificate was mailed to David Jones

Vermont Department of Health training dates

Vermont Department of Taxes - Brookline has a CLA change greater than 5%.

The CLA went from 100.003 to 105.3 which lowers the educational tax rate for the town.

Campaign gift request from the American Red Cross

Senior Solutions Newsletter

**11 Pay Orders**

A. Accounts Payable #2020-27 dated January 8, 2020 in the amount of \$15845.43

David Jones motioned to accept the accounts payable warrant.

Seconded by Shelby Brimmer. All were in favor

B. Payroll warrant # 2020-28 dated January 8 2020 in the amount of \$1086.46

David Jones motioned to accept the payroll warrant.

Seconded by Bruce Mello. All were in favor

**12. Set agenda for the next meeting - Wednesday January22, 2020**

Road Commissioner

Revisit and vote on the building commissioner description

SLP Daycare building update

Windham Regional Commission broadband meeting at Newbrook on Jan. 26th

Marijuana legislation discussion

Update on town report

Discussion on how to market the new town meeting time. Strategies are needed to get more people to attend the evening meeting. This can also wait until the Feb 5 meeting.

**13. Adjournment**

David Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Bruce Mellow seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM

Submitted by: Dot Maggio