

Approved Minutes
Town of Brookline Selectboard
Wednesday February 6th, 2019, 6:30 PM

Present:

Selectboard: Dot Maggio, David Jones, Gwen Tanza, Chris Webb, Bruce Mello

Members of the Public: Ken McFadden, Leanne Jillson, Suzy Coutermarsh, Justine Steele, Tom Kavet, Daniel Dobson, Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, Videographer), Peter Barus (Recorder)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Review changes to the agenda if any

Scheduled members of the public

Tom Kavet Planning Commissioner introducing Daniel Dobson

Mr. Kavet introduced Mr. Dobson as a new neighbor, a consultant by profession.

Openings were discussed on the Planning Commission, Selectboard, BMH board, etc.

Mr. Dobson discussed his long-standing connections to Vermont, explaining that this will be his permanent home. He noted that he had read the Town Plan with particular interest.

The Selectboard will add Mr. Dobson's name to the appointments list for the Reorganization meeting, and welcomed him to the community.

B. Suzy Coutermarsh – owner of Suzy's Little Peanuts Daycare Centers

Ms. Coutermarsh was introduced, and discussed her qualifications as Master Teacher and her ownership of two Daycare Centers, and recent hiring of four new staff members. It was noted that she had helped with SLDC's national accreditation. She introduced Ms. Steele as her Business Manager.

The chair provided a signed letter and noted that a Letter of Commitment is on file; and noted changes to the building lease, to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Mello expressed support and discussed his work in upgrading and maintaining the building. Mr. Webb thanked Ms. Coutermarsh for stepping up; Mr. Jones expressed appreciation for her willingness to take on the project; Ms. Tanza expressed agreement.

Ms. Maggio discussed the lease, inherited from WCSU with some modifications; and verified Ms. Coutermarsh's address in Springfield.

Alecia O'Donnell – Brookline School Director re: Update on Educational Matters

Ms. O'Donnell was reported ill and was not present. Ms. Maggio noted that public meetings must be Warned with an agenda, and that a community meeting could be held at NewBrook, as the Town Office has limited capacity.

Ms. Jillson explained that the budget is now one combined budget covering PreK-12, that there will be an informational meeting March 26th, and March 27th is the date of the vote; that the original budget has been reduced somewhat; that it still includes a provision for free meals for all students. She discussed the CLA, just released (see correspondence).

Ms. Maggio noted that Brookline is on a waiting list for reassessment, probably two years' duration.

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Ms. Jillson discussed budget items and the spending threshold penalty; Mr. McFadden explained that Pre-K & Elementary, and the upper grades, are broken out separately in this combined budget, but it has not been updated to reflect the moving of grade 6 to L&G.

Mr. McFadden was introduced as NewBrook Board Chair and Newfane Representative on the WRMUED board.

There was discussion of per-pupil cost increase, attributed to a Special Education increase; there was discussion of unfunded mandates, deferred building and heating system repairs at L&G.

There was discussion of electing board representatives to the Brookline school board, which exists until July 1, 2019, noting that there will be a continuing need for signatures on residual paperwork.

Mr. Webb noted that the Warning had not mentioned elections, and only one member's term continues beyond Town Meeting Day. There was discussion. Mr. Webb thanked Ms. Jillson and Mr. McFadden for their service on that body.

Mr. Webb raised questions he had heard discussed in the community: whether the sixth grade was moved to improve numbers at L&G; whether the merger saved money; and whether a budget vote had been used as a political tactic. These questions were not confirmed.

Mr. McFadden explained certain issues, and noted the recent public acknowledgement of the NewBrook School Board by NewBrook students. There was discussion of notable achievements of NewBrook Elementary School.

Mr. Tanza discussed the Solar Array project and the possible transfer of the income from the project (\$26,000.00 per year) to the new district, leaving Brookline and Newfane to receive a much smaller percentage of that income. Mr. McFadden noted that no money had been spent on the Solar project, and discussed other cost reduction projects.

Ms. Maggio thanked Mr. McFadden and offered support if a meeting was needed before the WRMUED Informational Meeting March 26th.

The value and ownership of the land under the solar array was discussed.

Unscheduled members of the public

Approve minutes from January 16, 2019 meeting

Ms. Maggio moved to approve the minutes from January 16th, 2019 as corrected. Second by Mr. Jones. **All in Favor.**

A. Sub-Lease (March 1 to June 30 2018) – Review/Discuss/Approve Updates with new tenant information

B. Three year lease (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022) – Review/Discuss/Approve Updates with new tenant information.

C. 40 month lease (March 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022) – Review/Discuss/Approve

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New Business ** The Selectboard may recess into an executive session if requested, while discussing the lease contract of 624 Grassy Brook Road.

Ms. Maggio moved to enter executive session at 7:09 PM to discuss a lease matter without objection. The Selectboard entered Executive Session at 7:09 PM and returned at 7:19 PM.

Action Taken: four months were added to the lease and other modifications were made: the Selectboard will have it proof-read, signed and sent by certified mail, which will take up to two weeks. If there are questions, Ms. Coutermarsh may attend the regular meeting on February 20th. Ms. Maggio agreed to email the completed document, and send the hard copy by certified mail.

Town Meeting – Update

Ms. Maggio congratulated Mr. Webb and Mr. Jones for their work on the Town Report book. Mr. Webb suggested that in future, responsibility for the work could be more more specifically assigned, possibly to the Auditors. There was discussion. It was noted that it must be completed in time to be proof-read and printed before the Warning is posted.

Ordinance Relating to the Protection of Roads and Road Right-of-Way as it pertains to Logging – Discussion/Review/Update

Mr. Webb discussed a logging and right-of-way ordinance based on one from Cabot, and asked for comment; Ms. Maggio cited item 3, the \$500.00 fee (from a 1980's permit); and noted that \$2,500.00 had been collected for another project, and that up to \$5,000.00 could be charged for multiple year projects; she suggested that work might be necessary, such as the installation of culverts, to protect the roads. After discussion there was consensus on an annual permit fee of \$2,500.00.

Ms. Maggio cited a penalty per violation of \$500.00 noting that this seemed adequate, and discussed driveway cut permits, referring to a permit from Norwich. Mr. Tanza will review that permit language with Mr. Bills.

There was consensus that the title should be “Road Protection and Right-of-Way Ordinance”.

Mr. Webb will make the changes to wording and amounts for a vote next meeting.

Dog Ordinance – Discussion/Review/Update

Mr. Webb discussed the proposed Dog Ordinance, derived from VLCT language; he provided annotated copies of the existing ordinance for review. The Selectboard reviewed and discussed the text in detail and recommended certain changes.

Mr. Webb will make the recommended changes and compose the necessary announcement for a vote next meeting.

The Selectboard thanked Mr. Webb for his work.

Job Description – Daycare building – Discussion/Review/Update

Ms. Maggio had emailed copies, with the addition of two items concerning responsibility; Mr. Mello explained the plan for a checklist for filter replacement and other regular tasks, and a book in the Town Offices listing all systems, with a log of required maintenance work.

There was discussion of certification for water testing (no one certified at present).

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Mr. Mello noted that all of the work is nearly up to date; he will ask that \$4,000.00 from the maintenance fund be allocated for work on the windows; and discussed a final repair to plumbing that he had planned with Mr. Bovat and Mr. Bills.

Old Business

Town Clerk Report – Guy Tanza

Dumpsters have slowed to six days between haulings; he had communicated with the owner of the wheeled excavator, and it may be brought to the Town Meeting for public view.

Highways & Roads

Mr. Tanza noted one complaint about ice on Grassy Brook Road; a second load of salt was delivered, there are adequate supplies; he cautioned that mud season is coming.

Road commissioner Update – Guy Tanza

Road maintenance has been slow under the prevailing weather conditions.

Highway Mileage Report – Review and Sign

Ms. Maggio provided the Mileage Report for three Selectboard members to sign, which was done.

Illegal 30 MPH signage on Hill Road

Mr. Tanza cited statute requiring that signs be posted at every intersection where the speed limit changes, and noted that the signs in question are illegal and cannot be allowed; that the legally required signs are already in place.

Communications

Email

Phone call and email – Dog complaint from Sandy Sherman

Ms. Maggio and Mr. Mello had examined the location and found the enclosure and facilities adequate and humane, all dogs licensed; the complaint had never been filed in writing as required.

Phone call – Dog complaint from Matt Prue

Ms. Maggio noted that there had been a complaint of dog-on-dog attack, and noted that letters had been provided to the parties. Mr. Mello noted that Mr. Prue had been advised that the Selectboard had done what was possible, and to seek legal advice if he wishes to pursue the matter further.

Regular Mail

- Vt Dept of Env Conservation re compliance with Municipal Roads Grant Permit, fee statement: \$900.00
- Project Feed donation re: acknowledgement
- Vt Dept of Taxes re: notice CLA is at 100.33
- Vt Dept of Taxes re: appeal of 2018 Equalization Study
- Brattleboro Development Corp. (flyer)
- VLCT (flyer)
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont re: solicitation

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Pay Orders

Payroll

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Payroll Warrant # 2019-29 in the amount of \$1,705.41. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Payroll Warrant # 2019-31 in the amount of \$1,457.97. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Accounts payable

Ms. Maggio moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2019-30 in the amount of \$15,553.68. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

Set Agenda for the next meeting February 20, 2019

- A. Road Protection & Right-of-Way Ordinance – Vote to adopt
- B. Dog Ordinance – Vote to adopt
- C. Daycare Update
- D. Mr. Webb asked for a minute at the end of the meeting.
- E. Invite Dave Parker
- F. New ordinances

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved to Adjourn. **All in Favor.**

The meeting Adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, recorder February 7th, 2019