

**Draft Minutes**  
**Town of Brookline Selectboard**  
**Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:30 PM**

**Present:**

*Selectboard:* David Jones, Gwen Tanza, Chris Webb, Bruce Mello

*Members of the Public:* Martha Werman, Gary Lavorgna, Mark Bills, Guy Tanza (Videographer), Peter Barus (Recorder)

**Call the meeting to order**

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

**Review changes to agenda if any**

Mr. Jones noted that the road salt discussion had been completed earlier; the budget session for FY 2019-2020 was Tabled for the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The logging ordinance discussion was moved to the top of the Agenda.

**Scheduled members of the public**

Mr. Lavorgna, Ms. Werman

**Logging Ordinance – Cabot example**

Mr. Jones explained that an example ordinance (Cabot) had been put online for consideration, and asked for comment. Mr. Webb had not received feedback. Mr. Jones suggested that it be more specific, beyond bonding issues.

Ms. Werman, a new resident whose home is adjacent to a logging operation, described the operation and provided suggestions. She had been provided a name and number, and told the operation was winding down. She had consulted with the Sheriff, and got a call and a visit from DOT. Ms. Werman suggested:

- Identification marked on the trucks. She noted that one truck had no muffler and no markings, frequently seen in front of her home.
- A Zoning regulation, citing children at risk, the steep hill, and the noise early in the morning.

Mr. Tanza noted that the location is on Barkley Ward's property, and Sam Bourne is logging; that Ms. Werman had been to the office weeks previously and advised to call the police, and then to attend the present meeting; he confirmed the noise level.

Mr. Lavorgna discussed previous logging operations in other years that ran seven days a week and from very early to ten at night, for a period of years; and suggested that an ordinance should address this kind of situation.

Mr. Bills discussed other towns, for example Windham, that do not allow logging during certain hours and on weekends. He discussed issues that affect logging, such as seasonal changes in the firmness of the ground.

There was discussion; that the meaningful enforcement is under DOT; that required ID numbers may be obscured; that some trucks are modified to replace the muffler with a straight pipe, which is very loud going downhill; that some towns prohibit engine-braking; that sometimes this method is necessary for safety.

Mr. Jones invited further comment from Ms. Werner. She cited her discussions about the danger with the Sheriff.

Mr. Tanza explained the overweight permitting process, noting that many trucks do not apply for permits; there is no information about these vehicles in that case, making enforcement impossible.

Mr. Webb suggested consulting with VLCT; Mr. Tanza will inquire.

It was noted that logging is an agricultural activity.

**Unscheduled members of the public**

(None)

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**Approve Minutes**

**October 3, 2018 regular meeting**

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, as corrected. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

**October 4, 2018 emergency meeting**

Mr. Webb moved to approve the minutes for October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Second by Ms. Tanza. **With one abstention, the motion passed.**

**Summary / Update / Reports**

**Guy Tanza – Town Clerk Report**

Mr. Tanza discussed election season, absentee ballots (approximately 15), and the need for counters at 7:00 PM on Election Day. He requested commitments with sufficient advance notice to recruit others. Mr. Webb and Mr. Jones will serve. Mr. Tanza noted that members' spouses would also be sworn in if they would like to volunteer.

**Guy Tanza - Information from Secretary of State re: municipal voting age, Highways & Roads**

Mr. Tanza had provided a printout showing 51 Chartered Towns in Vermont; he noted that a town must have a charter to change the voting age, and must amend the Charter at the State level; that legal counsel would probably be required. He explained that under current law, anyone who will turn eighteen by Election Day is eligible to vote.

**Guy Tanza - Road Commissioner Report**

Box Culvert @ 505 GBR Project Result

Mr. Tanza had visited the site and interviewed the engineers; they had promised to complete the work in the Spring; they agreed with the concerns regarding Inner Fire access road.

Inner Fire Driveway Permit - Result of discussion with owners re: improving driveway access, resetting culvert position and modifications to road width.

Mr. Bills noted that Palmer Goodrich (contractor) and the property owner were present; that stakes had been placed marking the new location for the culvert; that there will be stone headers at the ends to protect the culvert and any fire equipment using the access road. Mr. Tanza observed that the property owners have been most cooperative.

Machine rental

Mr. Tanza reported that the wheeled excavator rental will come to \$634.00 when the needed work is completed; he asked the Selectboard to approve this amount and noted that the vendor is offering a reduced rate of \$126.96 per day. The Selectboard gave approval by unanimous consent.

Mr. Tanza will obtain buy-out information on this equipment; he has discussed this with WRC; Erica Roper and Chris Campanya discussed a possible grant for purchase.

Mr. Tanza reported that the box culvert is complete, the final paving will be done by Springfield Paving; he cited some other areas that need work, and will ask for an estimate for paving at the intersection of Grassy Brook and Hill Road.

Road Salt vendors - Discuss and award materials contract

Mr. Tanza noted that the salt delivery had been completed.

Crack Sealing - vendor availability and cost to do several locations

Mr. Tanza reported that the cost will be \$3,600.00 as before, and the vendor will perform the work needed, subject to weather conditions, into November.

Mr. Tanza will consult with Ms. Zwick and Mr. Bills about budget issues prior to the budget discussions.

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Mr. Lavorgna asked if he could pick up two or three loads of the fill from the box culvert project; Mr. Bills offered assistance with the transfer. The Selectboard approved the transfer, and declined Mr. Lavorgna's offer of consideration for this service, citing Mr. Lavorgna's long-standing service to the community. Mr. Bills noted that Palmer Goodrich had asked if he could load and haul away the remainder of the fill. The Selectboard approved.

There was discussion of crack sealing; Mr. Bills suggested having the vendor do one day's work. He noted that the material they used before had held up well under plowing. Mr. Jones suggested waiting until after budget discussions with Ms. Zwick, scheduled for Friday afternoon, before proceeding with the crack sealing project.

**Mark Bills - Road Supervisor**

Current projects and plans

*Mowing*

Mr. Bills had switched to the ditch bucket and did the stone lining, including some of the grant funds applied for, noting that the paper work won't be due until end of June, ahead of schedule.

*Culverts*

Mr. Bills had cleaned up run-outs at the top of Putney Mountain, made improvements and removed deadwood, maintained Bennett Road through the Swing's camp, noting that they pay for materials; made sure the water-bars were working properly after some traffic damage; cleaned five culverts there, both sides; did Merrill Drive, the bottom of Putney Mountain, around Hill Road; seeing that the erosion is worse on the hills, he started at Whitney Hill and Athens Road.

Mr. Bills observed that a lot was accomplished with the rented machine, that it fulfilled expectations, was money well spent, and a considerable savings over what it could have cost. He described the machine as tight and in good condition, noting that it arrives with 2,000 hours of running time on the engine; that the bucket has a smooth cutting edge and can be tilted to fit the terrain; that he had replaced a leaking hose, and after two weeks a pin fell out of the opposite side cylinder and a fitting had to be replaced; he observed that these are not unusual events for any such equipment; a very handy tool.

**Upcoming projects – schedule**

Mr. Tanza reminded the Selectboard that the approved minutes recording certain actions must go to WRC. He observed that the Town had spent \$97,000.00 on equipment rentals since 2013.

Mr. Bills discussed relative costs of owning a machine versus hiring out. There was discussion of the expected useful life of the equipment; he noted that the grader was acquired second-hand in 1988 and still works well.

**Old Business**

**Sunny Lane Daycare Update – repairs done and future repairs planned**

Mr. Mello reported that he had discussed expenses with Ms. Zwick last week, for changing the locks, the UV water system; various other bills. Mr. Tanza noted the current fund liability balance of \$780.00.

Mr. Mello explained the current status of the various projects; the UV system is properly installed; there will be bills due in January; there is still a slow drain issue in the toddler room; there was discussion of possible causes and remedies; it was recalled that a filter had been discussed with the previous plumber, that should be cleaned. Mr. Bills suggested that Mr. Noga might know where the filter is located. Mr. Jones will meet Mr. Mello at the site, Saturday, 9 AM.

Mr. Mello reported that water had been found in the cellar, from a leaking gasket; a repair is scheduled. Work is nearly complete on the South deck; the North deck is next. Door locks have been fixed.

There was discussion of unanticipated expenses.

The Selectboard thanked Mr. Mello.

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**New Business**

**Budget session for FY 2019-2020**

(tabled)

**Town Report Update**

Mr. Webb had sent notes to the various committees; the first summary reports do not involve numbers; he discussed the Treasurer, Listers, Cemetery Commission, Historical Committee, Planning And Meeting House Committees; there was discussion of due dates and deadlines. Mr. Webb noted the need for a new dedication.

**Communications**

**Email**

- Mary Major, WRC needs minutes with proposal acceptance (Project Manager question)

**Regular Mail**

Ms. Zwick noted a signed contract with A. S. Clark, no arbitration agreement signed; three members signed the document, and the contract with Steve Haskins (for next agenda, Round Schoolhouse beetle mitigation)

- Senior Solutions annual meeting invitation
- Brattleboro Dev Cred Corp (SVEDS) re annual meeting
- Grace Cottage (not appropriations, funding solicitation)
- Business Resource Services
- American Red Cross, donation acknowledgment
- Animal Safety and Protection brochures
- VLCT newsletter

**Pay Orders**

**Accounts Payable**

Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2019-16, dated 10/17/18, in the amount of \$15,476.86. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

**Payroll**

Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2019-14, dated 10/3/18, in the amount of \$5,229.81. Second by Mr. Webb. **All in Favor.**

**Set agenda for the next meeting - Wednesday Nov. 7, 2018**

- A. Budget Session
- Discussion for Highways and Roads
- Appropriation Requests
- Social Media Policy - discussion and vote
- Historic Round School House pest control
- Winterize Brookline Meeting House
- November 7th – invited guest Robert Spencer re: WSWMD

**Adjournment**

Mr. Webb moved to Adjourn, Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, recorder October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018*