

BRISTOL SELECT BOARD

Minutes

July 19, 2021

Present: Select Board members: Don Milbrand, Les Dion, Anita Avery, and Town Administrator-Nik Coates

Absent: Shaun Lagueux, J.P Morrison.

Others Present: Members of the Economic Development Committee, Melissa Levy, Highway Superintendent Mark Bucklin, Finance Director Bob Blanchette, Assistant Media Manager Cade Overton, and Mr. and Mrs. Thistle.

Chair Milbrand opened the public meeting at 5:00pm by having Ms. Avery lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work Session: The Select Board met with the Economic Development Committee and Melissa Levy to discuss goals and priorities. Ms. Levy will be sending the Board and Committee the notes from the session that the EDC will then begin to work on.

Nonpublic Session: Ms. Dion made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 6:10pm per NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (c) and (l), seconded by Ms Avery. Roll call vote: Dion – aye; Avery aye; Milbrand – aye. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Ms. Dion made a motion to come out into nonpublic session at 7:15pm Roll call vote: Dion – aye; Avery aye; Milbrand – aye. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Public Session: Following a brief recess, Mr. Milbrand opened the public session at 7:21pm.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Dion made a motion to accept the minutes of July 1, 2021, as written, seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 3-0-0, motion passed.

Consent Agenda and Manifests: Ms. Dion made a motion to approve the consent agenda dated July 19, 2021, to include the items named therein, motion seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 3-0-0, motion passed.

Robieson Road Paving Request: Mr. and Mrs. Thistle asked the Board if the portion of the road on Robieson Road where they just purchased a home could be paved by the Town. Mr. Bucklin explained the history of the Town taking over the road and he stated the Town has not taken over the portion of the road where the Thistle's live. He and Mr. Coates explained that the Selectmen or Town Meeting would first need to accept the road and then he can put it into his paving schedule for the next five year. The Board expressed a willingness to work with the Thistles to begin that process of road acceptance once everything was in order. Mr. Coates stated it probably wouldn't be until next year. The first thing is that there needs to be a survey completed.

Mid-Year Finance Check In: Mr. Blanchette reported that the revenues are ahead of schedule and the budget is underspent, so those are good things. Primex will also be offering a premium holiday for 2022 due to COVID. We are still waiting for ARPA funds to come in. We have \$3.5 million cash on hand which is also a good number. He will be reviewing the draft report from the auditor soon, but expects it to be

good since it was a smooth process this year. Tax collections are doing well and welfare requests are down. All thanked Mr. Blanchette and the Finance team for doing a great job.

Vote to Accepted Unanticipated Revenues: American Rescue Plan Funds – Mr. Coates explained what the ARPA funds could be used for and advised the Board wait a little while before committing the funds so that the rules could shake out more and he could solicit project ideas from the Departments. Ms. Dion made a motion to accept the unanticipated revenues from the American Rescue Plan, seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 3-0-0, motion passed.

Fireworks Debrief – The Board agreed the Fireworks went well this year. Ms. Dion said it was a tough time because off all of the rain so there were fewer shells, but it went well considering. It was well attended. Thankful for the church opening up their parking lot. There has been discussion about a laser show in the future, and the committee will look into that. Mr. Milbrand said he'd really like to see it grow into more of a festival in the future like it was in the past.

TTCC MOU Signature – Mr. Coates explained that the current MOU with the TTCC and Town has expired and that a new one needs to be signed. He provided a new one for the Board to review. It is basically for the management of Kelley Park, scheduling, maintenance, and such. No questions. Ms. Avery made a motion to sign the MOU with TTCC, seconded by Mr. Milbrand. No discussion. The Board voted 2-0-1, motion passed.

Town Crier and Website Guidelines – The Board thanked Mr. Overton for coming up with guidelines. They match the Social Media Policy. Mr. Milbrand asked him and Mr. Coates to keep working on them so more and come back to the Board. Articles should first be vetted through Committee chairs and then to Mr. Overton, then to Mr. Coates and the Board if necessary. The Crier and website should really be informative. There can be sections further down for more entertainment and other kinds of pieces. Mr. Coates said there will be an Economic Development site launched soon and there will be blog posts to highlight local businesses and other great things going on in the community.

Town Administrator's Report – Mr. Coates asked if the Board would like to approve a waiver request from one of the concert bands on some of the indemnification language. Ms. Dion made a motion to strike the language in the contractor's indemnification agreement with Freese Brothers Big Band that holds the contractor liable for anything that they may be indirectly liable for. Motion seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 3-0-0, motion passed.

Select Board Items: Ms. Dion reported that Dancing Under the Stars went well. There is a movie night tomorrow. National Night Out is in August.

Public Comments: Paul Bemis of the Economic Development Committee thanked the Board for the work at the work session with the EDC and he thought it was doable. The process is important. He will also be submitting articles to educate the public on the Energy Committee's work.

Ms. Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 3-0-0, in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas J. Coates (Nik)