

## **Minutes**

### **Bristol Select Board**

**February 16, 2017**

**Present:** Select Board members: Shawn Lagueux, JP Morrison, Rick Alpers, Les Dion, and Town Administrator Nik Coates.

**Absent:** Paul Manganiello

**Others Present:** Water/Sewer superintendent Jeff Chartier and members of the public.

**Minutes:** Mr. Alpers made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2, 2017 as written, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

**Consent Agenda:** Mr. Alpers made a motion to approve the consent agenda dated February 16, 2017, to include the items named therein, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

#### **Public Hearings:**

The Public Hearing for Article #2 was called open. Jeff Chartier gave an overview of the dewatering equipment that will be replaced if the article is approved. Mr. Lagueux commented that this will be paid as part of the enterprise fund and there is no taxation hit on this article. Mr. Coates commented that the first payment is scheduled for 2018 but this can be amended at Town meeting. Mr. Chartier commented that this will be paid through a 10 year loan. John Sellers asked about a warranty. Mr. Chartier replied it has a good warranty and the parts are good for 10,000 hours of operation. Betsy Schneider commented that she thinks it is a good idea for people to vote for this. Mr. Lagueux closed the public hearing on Article #2.

The Public Hearing for Article #3 was called open. This Article is for \$765,000 for Water/Sewer and roadway improvements on Central Street. Mr. Coates commented that this will be a bond or a loan with the first payment in 2018. John Sellers asked if the Select Board is recommending this Article. Mr. Lagueux replied that the Select Board unanimously recommended this. Margaret Hoyle asked if the work is done by town employees are going out to bid. Mr. Lagueux replied that the work went out to bid. Mr. Sellers asked how many additional parking spaces will there be from the project. Mr. Coates replied that it will depend upon the final design but there will be between 5-11 spaces. Mr. Morrison commented that this project will be a lot less intrusive than the downtown project. Betsy Schneider commented that the town should see if they get the grant for the pathway first and then put the projects together. Mr. Alpers replied that the town should hear about the pathway grant by Town Meeting. John Sellers commented that the Budget Committee didn't recommend this Article as there is more life in the pipes and it is not an emergency. The pipes are estimated at another 10-20 more years. Betsy Schneider asked about paving on Central Street. Mr. Lagueux replied that if the project doesn't go

through Central Street will be on a schedule to be paved. Mr. Lagueux closed the Public Hearing on Article #3.

The Public Hearing for Article #5 was called open. Janet Cote commented that she signed the petition as people can't attend Town Meeting due to schedules but they can make it to the polls easier or vote by absentee ballot with SB2. Barbara Greenwood commented that she is opposed to this and would like to keep Town Meeting. A member of the public commented that SB2 gives more people a voice and that not enough people are coming out for Town Meeting. Rosemary D'Arcy commented that she did some research on SB2 and over time there is not a lot of increased participation once the deliberative session is done. Ms. D'Arcy commented that the warrant articles would have to be written much better as there would not be answers to questions on voting day. Betsy Schneider commented that if all the warrant articles are on the ballot all voters would get a chance to vote on it and that SB2 is not etched in stone and can be rescinded. Ms. Dion commented that she is passionate about Town Meeting and that you hear the debate and that can often change votes based on the discussion at Town Meeting. Ms. Dion commented that there is apathy with the number of people voting and the town needs to get more people to vote. John Sellers commented that the town voted on SB2 years ago and it only lost by 13-14 votes. Mr. Sellers commented that he likes it as absentee ballots give people a chance to vote and the very long Town Meetings turn people off. Wayne Anderson commented that he has seen a fall off of people who attend Town Meeting and this is an opportunity to try something different and new. Tom Keegan asked if there will still be a Budget Committee with SB2. Mr. Lagueux replied that there is and that the budget is discussed at a deliberative session and can be changed at the deliberative session. Tom Keegan stated that he is not in favor of this Article. Margaret Hoyle asked if the town is not locked into this if it passes. Mr. Lagueux replied that it would take a 3/5 majority vote to repeal it. Mr. Alpers commented that both forms of government has pitfalls and that the town can also look into a town charter form of government which is the most efficient way to run the town and has the most say as a community. John Sellers commented that the biggest hurdle of SB2 is the education of all the warrant articles. Steve Favorite asked what would happen with the Town Report. Mr. Lagueux replied that there would still be a town report. Mr. Alpers commented that everything in the process gets sped up, the budget would be due in mid-January to have a deliberative session in mid-February. Betsy Schneider asked if this is voted on the ballot or at Town Meeting. Mr. Lagueux replied that it is on the ballot. Mr. Lagueux closed the Public Hearing on Article #5.

**Article #9:** Mr. Lagueux informed the Board that they are voting to recommend or not recommend the Budget Committee number for the operating budget of \$5,931,480. Mr. Morrison made a motion to recommend the Budget Committee budget number of \$5,931,480, seconded by Mr. Alpers. Mr. Morrison commented that this number is premised on an increase of 2.5% but not including the wage study amounts. Mr. Lagueux commented that this number is 2.5% over the adopted Town Meeting number from last year. The Board voted 1-3 to not recommend Article #9.

**Nyberg Road/Emergency Lane Discussion:** Mr. Coates informed the Board that it has been determined that Nyberg Road is not a Class VI road but a private road. If the Board moved forward with the emergency lane all abutters would have to be noticed and a public hearing would have to be held. Mr. Alpers commented that public safety is a tricky thing. Mr. Coates commented that Mark Bucklin has said

that it is a difficult road to navigate and the trucks can't turn around. Mr. Lagueux commented that snow removal and sanding can be done privately. Ms. Dion commented that this is a slippery slope to go down with this road. Mr. Alpers commented that other private roads take care of their roads and that the town trucks can come out fairly quickly to assist emergency vehicles getting up the road when needed.

**Town Administrators Report:** Mr. Coates updated the Board regarding the following:

The last visit with Nick Manolis has been rescheduled for Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00PM at the Water/Sewer Meeting room.

Finance update: Jen is getting closer with balancing the Water/Sewer numbers and she has balanced with Raymah. Mr. Alpers commented that he wants to review the resumes and perhaps stay the course with Jen and let her finish up 2016 and interview when the Board is ready

The road standards continue to be worked on by Christina Goodwin.

EDC update: The Committee is moving forward with building a partnership with Lakes Region Community College, the school district, and Freudenberg regarding employment. Mr. Coates talked to several General Managers of hotel chains and one is interested in developing a hotel in Bristol.

The Treasurer has requested that the Board sign off on some transfers. Mr. Lagueux read the details of the 2016 Police Detail Revolving Fund transfers into the record. Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the recommended Treasurer's transfers as read, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

**Select Board Items:**

Ms. Dion commented that the March dance issue needs to be resolved. The Community Events Committee is hosting a dance at the Old Town Hall and it's the first time the new alcohol policy will be used. There could be revenue from the event and it needs to be discussed where the money would go. The Historical Society would like to see the money used for a new kitchen at the Old Town Hall. Ms. Dion commented that the Historical Society said they would take over the event but that they cannot provide a certificate of insurance. Mr. Alpers commented that the event has been advertised as a town community sponsored event and that the money should be run through the town books. Ms. Dion commented that the money would go to the general fund but that a revenue line should be established for town events such as this and the fireworks. Mr. Alpers replied that this revenue now goes under miscellaneous revenue but that there may need to be a revolving fund for this type of revenue.

Mr. Alpers thanked that Highway Department for all their work the past couple of weeks due to the many snow storms.

**Public Comment:**

Barbara Greenwood commented that the senior luncheon had to be canceled due to the storms and is being rescheduled for March.

Steve Favorite commented that on the Planning Board side there is an increase in rental property that will be completed with quality downtown.

Mr. Alpers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Costigan