

MINUTES
BRISTOL SELECT BOARD
August 18, 2014

PRESENT: Select Board Members: Rick Alpers, Shaun Lagueux, Janet Cote, Betsy Schneider, and Town Administrator Michael Capone.

Chairman Alpers called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

Mrs. Cote made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 28, 2014 with a second from Mr. Lagueux. With no further discussion, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of approving the minutes.

Consent Agenda: Mr. Lagueux motioned to approve the consent agenda of August 18th to include one accounts payable manifest dated 8/13/14, a payroll manifest dates 8/8/14, an appointment to the Planning Board for Deborah Denning, timber cut report, intent to cut request, MS-1 extension and MS-5 as prepared by Melanson and Heath auditors, seconded by Mrs. Cote. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of approving the consent agenda.

New Business:

Senator Jeannie Forrester attended the meeting to discuss legislative updates over the past year. Senator Forrester reviewed health care, gas tax, recent bills and flood control payments for Bristol. Updated information on funding for various projects throughout the state was reviewed. She announced she would be running for reelection and her agenda included working on the Northern Pass project and increasing the rainy day fund. Mr. Alpers thanked Senator Forrester for coming and meeting with the Board. She commented on the Town Meeting vote for citizens united and asked if there were any inquiries and on the economic development project for Bristol. Mr. Capone asked the Senator for any support she could provide on renewable energy funds. Bill Dowey added to Mr. Capone's statement by sharing his concerns on the lack of funds for renewable energy projects and the desire to expand programs in the area. Eric Rottenecker inquired about a suggestion Mr. Lagueux had recently. Mr. Lagueux shared with Senator Forrester that he had spoken with Valerie Fraser from New Hampton about self-financing.

Jeff Chartier – Water/Sewer Quarterly Update

Updated financial statements were provided to the Board from Mr. Chartier. He discussed pursuing options for our current program for the sludge disposal project in an effort to lower costs. Pilot testing with new dewatering equipment will take place in September. A CCTV inspection of the sewage collection system is planned for 2015. Revenue from customers was discussed which showed a 5% increase over last year's revenues. Possible rate increases will be discussed once accurate data has been obtained from the current usage. The last rate increase was 2012. Debt service and the reserve fund were reviewed with the Board. The available funds in the sewer checking account are approximately \$100,000.

A proposal for renewable energy project with the Fowler well site was discussed. Mr. Chartier had a proposal for a variable frequency drive unit on the production well monitor to test the efficiency and see if this would save on electrical costs.

The Water/Sewer Department will be raising gate box covers and manholes for upcoming paving projects.

Financial updates were provided for the Water Department. The five year projected operating budget averages \$304,500 with a projected maximum of \$315,194. The average water debt service is \$65,000 with a total debt of \$1,036,198 to be paid off in 2031. An annual surplus of \$9,000 is to be placed in the capital reserve which will leave a balance of \$565,140 in the water account.

Mr. Alpers inquired on any breaks or issues recently. Water service issues or consumption monitoring for various businesses were discussed. The Board inquired on the North Main Street station. Structurally the building is fine but is in need of a power washing of the building to clean it up. Mr. Chartier invited anyone to visit the treatment plant. Mrs. Cote inquired on how the Water Department was assisting residents with new meters in monitoring water usage in their homes. Mr. Cote inquired on how many opt-outs the Water Department had. Mr. Chartier explained three requests were in writing currently. Mr. Rottenecker inquired on whether there had been any savings seen yet. Mr. Chartier explained the process for monitoring consumption and costs associated with the new meters.

Bill Dowey- Energy Committee – Solar Project Updates

A report was provided to the Board with an update on the solar project at the Library. The Library project was reviewed to show that in one year, the solar array installed has produced 20 mWh which results in a savings of \$3,000 or \$0.15/kWh. This efficiency has proven successful with the Library. Rosemary D'Arcy, a Library Board Trustee commented on the solar array at the Library and its success. Mr. Cote inquired if the Library could expect zero dollar utility expense for the upcoming year. Mrs. D'Arcy commented that did not expect it yet as they still had some work to do before it became completely reliant on the solar array. Mr. Dowey explained the renewable energy credit (REC) process for the solar array which would generate money for the Town. Ms. Schneider inquired if the \$58 fee from the aggregator included their fee. Mr. Dowey explained the Town received \$58 after his fee. Mr. Rottenecker inquired if there was a battery back-up for the system. Mr. Dowey explained there was not nor would he recommend one.

Mr. Dowey explained a grant process for procuring funds to aid with installing a one megawatt solar array at the Water/Sewer Facility which would provide enough coverage for municipal buildings and the schools in Bristol. The project cost would be \$3-4 million. The PUC gives out grants each year to aid in this work at approximately \$300,000 each. In addition to the reducing the operating expenses of the Town and Schools, the sale of RECs could produce as much as \$75,000 in revenue. Mr. Alpers inquired on securing a large grant that size. Mr. Dowey explained that there haven't been many projects of this size so it is unknown. Ms. Schneider shared some information on the Peterborough grant funded project which did not cost any money to tax payers. Mr. Dowey explained that after six or seven years

the Town would need to spend funds on the array to purchase it at the end of the agreement. Kilowatt rates are set for a set amount of years in this agreement. Mr. Capone offered to obtain information from Peterborough on the project. Mrs. Cote asked what happens to the array if it is built. Mr. Dowey explained the process for building an array. Efficiency over a period of time was explained as well. Funding options were reviewed. Mr. Lagueux inquired what the timeline would be for this type of project. Depending on the grant type, deadlines have been set for June in the past with funds being distributed the following spring. Mrs. Cote inquired on why Mr. Dowey wouldn't use Frase again. He stated the company could most likely not handle a project of this size. Other companies were discussed. Mrs. Cote commented on the limited timeframe for making a decision on this matter and shared her concerns with making a quick decision on the project. Mr. Dowey explained it is important to get the information out now but this is not an urgent situation. Mrs. Cote and Ms. Schneider added that they felt it was due diligence to wait and take time with the process due to the dollar amount on this project. The Board urged Mr. Dowey to continue research efforts on the project. The Bristol Energy Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Office.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Capone reminded the Board they are switching back to their regular meeting schedule in September. The next meeting is September 11th.

The School was contacted again regarding the fuel information for fuel bids to be sent out.

Chimney work at the Old Town Hall is starting this week.

The Pasquaney Garden Club installed a sculpture in the Butterfly Garden today and is having a public unveiling on Tuesday.

The Town Administrator noted that he will be attending a workshop on the TAP program on September 4.

Select Board items

Mr. Alpers announced events being held for Old Home Day which are advertised on the website.

Mrs. Cote and Mr. Alpers met earlier to discuss the charge of the economic development committee. They suggested thinking about who should be on that committee and organizing a meeting. Ms. Schneider added that she thought there should be two Select Board members on the committee as discussed previously. Mrs. Cote shared that there are people who are interested and ready to work on this.

A request for Town assistance from the Police Department for officers and cruisers with the 'Run your Buns Off' event in August was discussed. Funds from the event benefit two different charities. Mr. Alpers made a motion to waive the fees for this event, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. The Board approved the motion in a 4-0 vote. Waivers are approved on a case by case situation and upon review by the Board.

Mr. Alpers asked the Board to be available on September 12th for an employee barbeque to show appreciation to employees. This has been done annually in the past and he would like to start this up again for employees. The food is donated by local business so there is no cost to the Town. The Fire Station hosts the event and healthy food is served. Milestones are recognized at the event. Mrs. Manganiello offered to donate some desserts for the event and asked for some numbers to plan for.

Public Comment

Eric Rottenecker commented on Rainy Day funding, and revenue from legalizing marijuana.

With no other public business to come before the Board, at 8:05PM, Mr. Lagueux made a motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 (a) and (e), seconded by Ms. Schneider. The motion passed in a roll call vote by the Board 4-0.

At 8:13PM, Mr. Lagueux made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schneider. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kelly Lacasse

Rick Alpers, Chair

Shaun Lagueux, Vice Chair

Betsy Schneider, Select Board

Janet Cote, Select Board