

# Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:30 PM

## Present

*Selectboard:* David Jones (Chair), Bruce Mello, Joseph Dutton, Gwen Tanza, Shelby Brimmer

*Town Officers:* Guy Tanza (videographer)

*Recorder:* Peter Barus

## Call the meeting to order

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

## Review changes to agenda if any

Scheduled members of the public not present.

Road Commissioner: tabled until March 4 (Reorganization Meeting).

Add to Old Business: Road Equipment

## Scheduled members of the public (none)

## Unscheduled members of the public (none)

## Approve Minutes

### Minutes from January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting

Corrections were made.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes for January 8, 2019, as amended. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

## New Business

### Road Commissioner Appointment (tabled)

### Building Commissioner Position/Appointment

The Chair opened discussion on language of the job description. There was discussion of language about the relationship between the Building Commissioner, advisory committees and the Selectboard. Some changes were made.

Mr. Jones moved to create the appointed position of Building Commissioner for the Town of Brookline. Second by Mr. Mello. **All in Favor.**

Mr. Jones moved to approve the job description for the Building Commissioner position as amended. Second by Ms. Tanza. **All in Favor.**

## Marijuana Legislation

It was noted that a summary by Daniel Dobson (Planning Commission) had been provided in preparation for an upcoming meeting. Mr. Jones opened the floor for discussion, noting that municipalities may implement certain taxes, regulations, etc., and encouraged members to attend a preliminary Planning Commission meeting scheduled for February 6, 2020. There was discussion; on use of the terms “marijuana” and “cannabis” and how this could affect taxes, etc.; examples included hemp grown for fiber.

## WRC Broadband Project

Mr. Jones had attended a meeting at the fire station about this, WRC in partnership with private nonprofits have received a grant related to broadband in the Windham region, to determine feasibility of a fiber-optic service to rural towns. It was noted that a survey will be conducted among the towns to determine public response; and that the Town is not obligated beyond assisting with the promotion of the survey.

Mr. Jones moved to express the intention of the Town of Brookline to participate in the WRC Broadband Project, and to appoint Mr. Jones as the official contact person. Second by Ms. Tanza.

In discussion, Mr. Jones explained that there should be no cost to the Town; that he would render such assistance as would be appropriate.

On the Motion, **All in Favor.**

## Old Business

### SLP Building Update

Mr. Mello reported on attempts to reach two painters; conversations with Mr. Momancy about completed work; and with the tenant, noting that the building may not be used for day-care during Town Meeting for legal reasons; on discussions with Mr. Zelasko about the possibility of rebuilding the old windows in the Spring. There was discussion of a previously approved bid for painting and glazing repair that had not included fixing the window sash-cords, which would be an additional though minor cost. There was discussion.

## Town Meeting

Mr. Mello will inquire with Sara Webb about coordinating food service this year. It was suggested that in view of this year’s schedule change, planning should include more of the public; and that legislators be informed about the new Town Meeting schedule. It was suggested that a potluck be announced for 5:00 PM before the 6:00 PM Town Meeting.

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It was agreed that Ms. Brimmer and Mr. Dutton will take the lead regarding food service planning. Mr. Tanza will speak with Bob Audette of the *Reformer* about publicity, noting that the *Reformer* and *Front Porch Forum* may be used without cost to inform the public. There was discussion of donations; of informing the public by word-of-mouth, road signs; about setting up the room for the meeting.

## Town Report

Mr. Jones reported that no word had been received from the Auditor to date, noting that they had been informed that this must be done by Monday; and discussed plans for the draft Selectboard Report.

## Road Equipment

Mr. Mello expressed appreciation for the work of the Advisory Committee; and discussed research on availability of suitable pieces of road equipment. There was discussion of features and prices, age and hours, and size of equipment. Mr. Jones suggested passing the information to the Committee for discussion at a future meeting.

## Summary / Update / Reports

### Guy Tanza – Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza reported that by statute, party affiliation is required for early absentee ballot requests; that in the general election three ballots are provided, and only one returned; that affiliation must be specified for the Presidential primary; that dog licenses have been selling, and the record digitizing project continues.

## Highways & Roads

### Mark Bills – Road Supervisor

Mr. Bills reported that warm weather had caused side roads to soften up, requiring application of a dozen or more large truckloads of ¼-inch stone over three or four days on four different roads; that stocks had been replenished at the Town Yard; that normally gravel is not available this time of year, but that this year suppliers had stayed open into January; that this time of year normally requires plowing and sanding, pushing the snowbanks back, this is the first time in a dozen years the road surfaces needed attention, and he had smoothed the surfaces so they would freeze smooth.

Mr. Bills reported GMP representative installing three new poles on Putney Mountain Road that he approved, and had then toured the Town roads; that statewide, GMP will be moving powerlines for ease of access for maintenance, out of the woods to the Town roads; that GMP showed these and that at least six poles were very close to travel lanes, often hit by plow trucks and heavy equipment; that he had showed the GMP representative these concerns, and they returned and re-staked poles as much as twenty feet away from the roads; and noted one pole on Hill Road that is very close; that GMP has provided contact information for this pole and may move the telephone lines to the electrical poles and remove the old pole.

There was discussion of certain locations.

Mr. Bills discussed a new driveway access where some work will be done to set the guard rail back, improving the entrance, for which some new reflective arrow signs are on order; discussed and other projects such as twenty trees along power lines to be removed in Summer; that GMP is inquiring to see how many they will remove; that the rest may require a budget item for a contract tree service.

There was discussion; of new GMP pole locations and road surfacing along the river.

Mr. Bills discussed the Emerald Ash-borer and the anticipated impacts, costs of tree removal/replacement; and noted counting ash trees near roadways, anticipating attending the upcoming meeting on this invasive insect.

## Communications

### Email

- Emerald Ash Borer preparedness meeting announcement
- Bike race (Tour de Heifer) date changed; part of the route planned through Brookline (Mr. Tanza discussed insurance, VLCT advice, possibility of Town opting out)
- Update from Ms. Maggio regarding work with State Police on Merrill Drive

### Regular Mail

- RCJSV pamphlet
- Dept of Taxes, corrected equalization results
- Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation announcement & survey
- VLCT News
- Census Bureau re confirming contact information, map review, form to return by March 1, 2020

## Pay Orders

### Accounts Payable

Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2020-29, dated January 21, 2020, in the amount of \$9,114.78. Second by Ms. Brimmer. **All in Favor.**

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## **Payroll**

Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2020-30 Jan 22, 2020, in the amount of \$2,900.97. Second by Ms. Brimmer. **All in Favor.**

## **Set agenda for the next meeting – Wednesday February 5, 2019**

- Road equipment purchase discussion
- Town Meeting
- Annual State Highway mileage form

Mr. Jones moved to reschedule both February meetings to Friday, February 7 and Friday, February 21, at 6:30 PM. Second by Ms. Brimmer. **All in Favor.**

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Jones moved to Adjourn. Second by Ms. Brimmer. All in Favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Peter Barns, Recording Secretary, January 23, 2019*