Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 - DRAFT

Present:
Selectboard: David Jones (Chair), Gwen Tanza, Joseph Dutton, Bruce Mello, Shelby Brimmer
Town Officers: Guy Tanza (Videographer), Mark Bills (Road Supervisor)
Members of the Public: Sandy Sherman, Theresa Rudolph, Thom Simmons
Recorder: Dorothy Maggio

1. Call to order
   The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

2. Review changes to agenda if any
   David Jones asked that item 6C before item 6B under New Business.
   All were in agreement
   Members of the public were introduced

5. Approve the minutes
   A. David Jones went through the meetings minutes from December 4, 2019
   Corrections were made. David Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Joseph Duttone seconded. Shelby Brimmer abstained. The motion was accepted.
   B. December 10, 2019 special meeting minutes were reviewed. David Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2019 special meeting as amended. Gwen Tanza seconded the motion. All in favor - no abstentions

3. Scheduled members of the public
   A. Thom Simmons and Theresa Rudolph came to inform the Selectboard of the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census. The specialists reviewed the methods that will be used to get an accurate census in Brookline. The reapportionment for up to 65 different federal programs are tied to the census numbers. Census day is April 1. There is a need for census takers from Brookline to sign up. The salary rate is $17.50 per hour to knock on doors to eliminate undercounting. Schools will send home flyers to inform parents to count their children.

Joseph Dutton suggested that a few minutes be spent during the Town Meeting encouraging the community to comply with the census in 2020.

4. Unscheduled members of the public
   Sandy Sherman RE: 6C Papoose Lane Dog Situation
   Resident Sandy Sherman came to the selectobord with her complaints regarding dogs owned by Matthew Prue. Between the hours of 1 AM and 5 AM, Mrs. Sherman and her daughter were awaken to a pack of dogs on her porch trying to break into her home through the door and window. The dogs appeared to be hungry and cold. A description of the disruption that these loose dogs caused was heard. A formal complaint was lodged with the VSP for the

record. The ACO was contacted - Phone calls were made trying to safely secure two dogs that showed up again later that same night. Those two dogs were identified as being the same two dogs that were stray twice before in the same week. Summons will be issued as per the Brookline Dog Ordinance for these two dogs.

It was suggested that a review of the statues beyond our local dog ordinance could be beneficial. David Jones offered to call Lieutenant French of the VSP to see what he has to say. The ACO will work with the Windham County Humane Society and follow up.

6 BTown Meeting Time

The time for the 2020 Town Meeting needs to be warned on January 8, 2020

Town meeting usually lasts 3 hours

Joseph Dutton suggested that the starting time for the meeting be warned for 6 PM with a pot luck food table earlier. Gwen Tanza asked about who might organize a potluck this year. Guy Tanza asked about the lighting outside the town meeting room. David Jones said he would like people to be able to access the meeting through the main door up stairs. It would be safer. Bruce Mello offered to ask Olivia if there was a chance of offering daycare services upstairs during town meeting time for families with children. He will speak with Olivia.

Set up of meeting room - it takes about an hour to set up the chairs and tables when several volunteers help. It may be possible to set up the room on Sunday.

7- Old Business

A. Road equipment

Three bids were received - including the machine that was considered last year.

A discussion ensued about the ages of the used equipment vs a new machine. Attachments were also discussed. Joseph Dutton offered to print out all of the bids for the next advisory meeting. Mr. Dutton asked that the other members of the board attend the next advisory meeting scheduled for Monday January 6th. A detailed discussion would be possible on January 6th with the Selectboard voting at the January 8th regular selectboard meeting on the wording for the article to be warned. Shelby Brimmer asked that the bids be emailed out ahead of time.

7B - Building Commissioner

An updated job description was passed out for review

A discussion ensued about projecting costs for repairs. The building commissioner would ask as a landlord and communicate efficiently with the selectboard

David Jones will add the Building Commissioner to the January 22, 2020 agenda to discuss and make any changes at a later date. The board was in agreement

7C - Road Commissioner

Joseph Dutton will reach out to Tom Statts to see if he is willing to be our road commissioner. Others who may be interested will be invited to the board meetings as well.

January 22, 2020 will have an agenda item on it regarding who to nominate and appoint for the road commissioner position.

7D - Town Health Officer

Dot Maggio was asked if she would consider staying on. She said she would consider it at least until the Town Meeting in March.

Gwen Tanza is not willing to stay on as Deputy health officer

Shelby Brimmer asked to read more about the role of the Health Officer. Gwen Tanza handed over her Health Officer Handbook to Ms. Brimmer. Shelby said she would send out the email seeking others to volunteer.

7E - Deer Run Letter.

David Jones made a motion to approve a letter of support to the Green Mountain Conservancy. Bruce Mello seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

7F - Budget Plan

Major components of the budget are completed. The auditors are reviewing the books and will determine if there is a surplus or not and what to do about it.

Appropriation requests were reviewed

It was suggested that an appropriation spolicy be considered in the future. Those ongoing appropriations that were repeats from last year were approved

David Jones motions to suggest through separate articles within the warning proposed the following two appropriation requests.

Southern Vermont Therapeutic Riding center for $500
Winston Prouty $250.
Bruce Mello seconded the motion. All in favor Motion accepted.

Mark Bills asked about making any budget changes that may be needed to purchase new equipment. Guy Tansa said that there is enough money in the budget for the down payment. If changes in the budget need to be made, David said it could be done on January 8th.

8 - Town Clerk Report - Guy Tanza

Vital statistics such as births and death as well as marriages may be eliminated in the town report as a means to fight cyber security.

9- Highways and Roads

Mark Bills said another load of road salt (30.5 tons)was delivered within 5 hours of it being ordered. Sand was also replenished at the shed. Mr. Bills reported that winds caused more dead debris to come down from the trees and some power outages resulted.
A clogged culvert was reported near the driveway owned by Jimmy Rogers. Water was jumping the bank and some erosion damage was repaired. The issue starts outside of the towns right of

way. The land owner may have to address this. There may need to be some trenching done. Mark Bills will put some effort into correcting this as it has happened in the past. Sometimes the culverts are not handling the volume of water that is coming through them and it jumps out onto the road.

Joseph Dutton suggested that the owner be contacted to see if he was going to improve the culverts on his property as this would help the situation. The town will review the area again this spring.

Mark Bills and David Jones have been working on the Better Back Roads grant project last week. The grant proposal was sent it and the town is waiting to see if they will be awarded something for next year.

10 Communications

A. Email -
   from ACO regarding dog complaints
   Broadband meeting in January - David Jones said he would try to attend
B. Regular Mail -
   Town Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer Appointment forms
   Watershed letter
   SEVCA Appropriation request
   VLTC News

11 - Payorders

A. David Jones made a motion to accept Payroll warrant number 2020-24 signed on December 6, 2019 in the amount of $7077.68… Shelby Brimmer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed

B. David Jones made a motion to accept Account payable warrant number 2020-21 dated December 18 2019 in the amount of $14474.85 as presented. Joseph Dutton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

12 - Set agenda for the next meeting

Wednesday January 8, 2020

Town Meeting warning
Suzie Little Peanuts Windows
Discuss Road Commissioner

13. David Jones made a motion to adjourn the selectboard meeting
Bruce Mello seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm