



**Selectmen's Meeting
MINUTES
Bristol Town Office, June 17th, 2020**

Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates

Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Rachel Bizarro (Town Clerk); Clyde Pendleton (Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission); Phil Congden (Chair, Broadband Committee); Alan Hinsey (Tidewater Telecom); Candy Congdon (Lincoln County News); Cary Myles; Pat Porter; Chuck Hanson.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chad Hanna, at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Yates, seconded by Poland, to accept the minutes from the May 27th meeting. Motion passed 3 - 0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Chair opened a Public Hearing on the application for an On-Premises Liquor License from Cary Myles, new proprietor of The Harbor Room restaurant.

There were no public comments.

The Chair closed the hearing and it was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to approve the license. Motion passed, 3 – 0.

Old Business:

Broadband: Phil Congdon presented initial findings of the Broadband Committee, whose work has been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their survey revealed that very few Bristol residents have what the FCC calls 'appropriate service,' meaning download speeds in excess of 25Mbps and 6Mbps upload. Between 20 and 25% of homes do not have either fiber or cable on their roads and so have no access to broadband service at all. He distributed a map showing the present distribution of fiber in Bristol, revealing that while the middle portion of the town – the Pemaquid Harbor, Pemaquid Falls and Chamberlain area – is well served, the

For Tidewater Telecom, Alan Hinsey noted that since his last presentation to the Board, his company had added another couple of miles of fiber in Bristol, and has the intention of building out another 59 miles over the next five years to give substantially 100% coverage. However to justify accelerating that schedule, when each town served by Tidewater is competing for a limited pool of investment capital, would require some form of grant or other subsidy.

Hinsey and Congdon discussed the option of securing a planning grant from the Island Institute, which would pay for the detailed engineering and market study necessary to apply for ConnectME funding, and which even absent ConnectME funds could justify accelerated investment by Tidewater. Such a grant would typically cover \$15,000 of a \$30,000 study; Tidewater would put in \$7,500 largely in in-kind work, and the Town would be asked to put in \$7,500. The Board asked Hall to see if donors in the community would contribute to this cost, while Poland indicated that if independent funding cannot be quickly secured, the Board should consider using contingency or other town funds.

The Board will return to this matter on July 1st.

Parks and Recreation: The Chair of the Parks Commission requested time to discuss storage of floats at the Town Landings, and in particular New Harbor where space constraints had been exacerbated by the long-term storage of three vessels, a pontoon boat, a fishing boat and a sailboat, one of which had now been occupying space without fees for more than five years. Parks receives a fee of \$75 per winter per float, and it should be possible to stack 13 to 15 floats at the New Harbor landing. The Harbor Committee had not been responsive to requests to remove the stored vessels, one of which is owned by a member of the Harbor Committee. In consequence, Pendleton asked the Board to propose an ordinance (1) banning non-commercial vessels from storage on town landing property, and (2) setting fees for storage of commercial vessels.

Hanna pointed out that the Board would normally take up a matter like this on referral from the Harbor Committee, and would normally defer to their recommendation. Bizarro, who as Town Clerk also staffs the Harbor Committee, said she would place the matter on that committee's agenda for June 25th, at 5 pm, and ask the Commissioner to join that meeting. Selectmen will take the matter up after that discussion.

Hall asked Pendleton if the Commission still wished to ask the Town for more than the \$50,000 line of credit requested from the Town Meeting, which question, it was hoped, will now be voted on August 4th. He answered that he felt the \$50,000 would now be sufficient, especially as he is hopeful of a good cash flow for the remainder of the summer season. This day was the first day the Beach Park is open, and by 4 pm some 170 visitors had been recorded. The new pavilion has received many favorable comments.

Tax billing: Hall thanked the Town Clerk and the Treasurer for their work in getting the tax bills out in the week of June 8th. Bizarro noted that payments are now arriving at the Town Office at a pace similar to past years, i.e. with no discernable impact from the Coronavirus. Hall hoped that the tax anticipation line of credit can soon be repaid.

Road paving: Hall noted that the pre-bid conference would now be on Friday, June 26th. Requests for proposals have been sent to Hagar, Crooker, Pike and

Lane, and the work is being advertised in the Lincoln County News. Hanna will return a call he had just received from Pike in relation to the work.

New Business

Election arrangements: Hall noted that concern had been expressed by the fire Chief with regard to the Covid-19 sanitary arrangements that would be needed at the Bristol Mills Fire Station for the July 14th primary election. Hall thought it important to continue with the plan to vote at the Fire Station. Bizarro concurred and noted that there will be separation of voting booths such that a maximum of six booths will be in use. This should be sufficient at this election, when a high percentage of voters have applied for absentee ballots. It will likely not be enough in November, when the school gym may be needed to allow social distancing. In discussion, it was agreed to review the arrangements for November later in the summer as Covid-19 developments, and related election rules, become clearer.

Animal control: The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office submitted for renewal their annual contract for Animal Control Services. It was noted that they are appointing Candace Wall as ACO for Bristol. Poland moved, seconded by Yates, that the contract be accepted as presented. Motion carried, 3 – 0, and Selectmen signed the contract.

Regular Business:

Two applications for the renewal of On-Premise Liquor Licenses had been received. It was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to approve the application from King Ro Market. Motion passed, 3 – 0, and the Board signed the application. It was then moved by Yates, seconded by Poland, to approve the application from Stone Cove Catering, d/b/a 1812 Farm. Motion passed, 3 – 0, and Selectmen signed the application.

A number of Entertainment Permits for events with live entertainment during the balance of the year were also received from the 1812 Farm, which Selectmen approved and signed.

The Board reviewed and approved Building Permit applications for Map 002, lot 098-B; Map 008, lot 077; Map 012, lot 008-A; Map 014, lot 088; Map 029, lot 028-G; Map 029, lot 042.

Selectmen reviewed and approved Warrants for accounts payable and payroll for the Town Office, Bristol Consolidated School, the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation and the Bristol/South Bristol Transfer Station.

Under correspondence, Hall advised the Board that the Town may receive one or more applications for commercial or co-operative solar farms. These will be treated as unheated commercial structures under the building permit rules, at a rate of \$0.25 per square foot of ground covered. He noted that Damariscotta and Waldoboro have recently permitted arrays using a \$0.30 per square foot fee. This could lead to apparently very high permit fees, but it should be borne in mind

that such arrays could be exempt from property taxes, so the fees are in a sense compensation for the removal from the tax rolls of developable property.

A letter had been received from Russ Guibord advising the Board of the impending completion of the restoration of the Liberty Pole. The pole will be erected on June 22, and dedicated on July 4.

The Bristol Mills watering trough had been tested for water quality. While the e coli and nitrate tests were good, the total coliform count indicated the likely presence of soil or leaves in the well. Hall is continuing to post the trough as unsuitable for drinking or cooking. It is not considered a public water supply by the state, based on usage counts.

Public Meetings: The Chair gave notice of forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Planning Board: Thursday, June 18th, 7 pm at the Town Office
- Bristol-South Bristol Transfer Station: quarterly meeting of Bristol and South Bristol Select Board, Tuesday, June 23rd, 7 pm at the Bristol Town Office
- Harbor Committee, Thursday, July 25th, 5 pm at the Town Office
- Selectmen: Wednesday, July 1st, 7 pm at the Town Office

He also noted that the Town Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, in celebration of Independence Day.

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved to adjourn at 8.38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall, Town Administrator