



**Selectmen's Meeting
MINUTES
Bristol Town Office, August 5th, 2020**

Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates

Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Candy Congdon (Lincoln County News); Pat Porter.

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 July 29th meeting. Motion passed 3 - 0.

New Business:

Annual committee appointments: Hall asked the Board to consider the list of Committee appointments, normally made immediately following the annual Town Meeting. This includes three members of the Board of Appeals for two-year terms; four members of the Budget Committee for three-year terms; and annual appointments to the Fish Committee, Harbor Committee, Shellfish Conservation Committee and Veterans' Memorial Committee. The Board also considered whether to re-appoint the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee, with its chair Pat Porter speaking from the floor as to possible work it could do between now and the March 2021 Town Meeting.

Hall was asked to advertise for expressions of interest in serving on the budget Committee, and the matter was tabled until August 19th.

Old Business:

The School Board was in session at the same time as the Select Board, reviewing plans for reopening the Bristol Consolidated School in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Hall had distributed a paper from the Superintendent showing 'Green', 'Yellow' and 'Red' scenarios corresponding respectively to full reopening, a hybrid model of partial in-person and partial online tuition, and fully online teaching. Hall had attended meetings to go over the plan and believed the intent to reopen fully under the 'Green' scenario recommended by the state was appropriate at this time. The School has adequate room to space out students, especially by using the (larger) music and arts rooms and library as classrooms for the present; this is not the case at Lincoln Academy, which will implement a variant of the 'Yellow' plan due to the small classrooms size in their older buildings which precludes adequate spacing of students.

The School Board will meet with the Select Board on August 19th. Hall hoped that by then, a number of remaining questions will be resolved. These include how to handle pupils and staff who exhibit symptoms of Covid, handle those who may have been exposed to them, and at what point the apparent presence of the virus would trigger a move to 'Yellow' or 'Red' operations. There is the to-date unresolved question of how to handle students whose families may insist on remote learning (rather than homeschooling) due, for example, to their own vulnerability; and the availability of testing (both for symptoms such as fever temperature, and for the virus itself) is under discussion with the school nurse and LincolnHealth. Hanna asked about transportation and arrangements for this, too, are still under discussion; a survey of parents with a deadline of the next day (August 6) should show how many parents wish to utilize the buses and whether additional buses will be needed given the reduction in capacity.

On Town projects, Hanna noted the progress on the fish ladder and Hall that the school ballfield is now ready for seeding. He expects that the final bill from Hanley will be sent in this month.

The Board reviewed the Roads budget spending to date and committed expenditure, with an expected balance remaining of \$54,682. With this money Hall asked permission to advertise an RFP for the Old County Road culvert replacement. The DEP had confirmed this day that its grant of \$74,250 is good through September 1, 2021; the cost estimate from Gartley and Dorsky showed that the Town would likely need to match this to the amount of \$35,750. It is possible, however, that with the current backlog of work with local contractors, that the job might have to be deferred into 2021 to get a reasonable price.

Regular Business:

The Board reviewed the latest cash flow report, which showed that both excise tax and property tax collections have now improved to the point that they are exceeding 2019's collections at this date. Hall reviewed the seven months' expenditure details, which are under budget for most lines; excluding the County Tax payment due in September, Town Government expenses to date are at 50.3% of the year's budget.

The Board also reviewed the July check reconciliation and the Real Estate and Personal Property Tax reconciliations.

The Board considered an Abatement Warrant for an error in not granting a BETE exemption of Personal Property Tax on a leased copier. It was moved by Yates, seconded by Poland, to approve Abatement Warrant number 2020-0011 in the amount of \$104.40.

The Board reviewed and approved Building Permit applications for Map 004-E, lot 216-B, and Map 029, lot 010.

Selectmen reviewed and approved Warrants for accounts payable and payroll for the Town Office, Bristol Fire and Rescue, Bristol Parks and Recreation, and the Bristol-South Bristol Transfer Station.

Under Correspondence, the Lincoln County Commissioners invited the Board to a caucus of elected officials to vote for the 2021 County Budget Committee, to take place in Wiscasset on Thursday September 17th, at 6 pm in the Court House's Superior Courtroom.

In the Public Comment period, Pat Porter asked about the availability of funding for families known to Caring For Kids to be in need. The Board asked her to have such families contact the Treasurer and General Assistance Administrator, Jessica Westhaver, or the Town Administrator for interview with a view to using the General Assistance or Worthy Poor funds.

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

- Planning Board, Thursday, August 6th, 7 pm at the Town Office
- Parks Commission, Tuesday, August 18th, 6 pm at the Ellingwood Information Center
- Selectmen: Wednesday, August 19th, 7 pm at the Town Office
- Harbor Committee: Thursday, August 27th, 5 pm at the Town Office

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved to adjourn at 7.45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall, Town Administrator