



**Selectmen's Meeting
MINUTES
Bristol Town Office, December 4th, 2019**

*Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates
Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator), Candy Congdon (Lincoln County News), Charles Hanson (Budget Committee), Dr. Karin Tichy.*

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chad Hanna, at 7:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to accept the minutes from the November 20th meeting. Motion passed 3 – 0.

New Business:

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office had sent a contract covering shellfish enforcement services for the calendar year 2020. The terms are identical to the 2019 contract. It was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to approve the contract. Motion carried, 3 – 0.

Hall reported that the group of towns seeking bids on replacement of their street lights with LED lights, led by Damariscotta, is increasing and may include Wiscasset as well as Somerville, Newcastle, Nobleboro and Bristol. One option will be to have CMP replace the lights at their expense but with the Town continuing to pay monthly per-light fees in addition to electricity use. Other options involve the Town taking ownership; a number of towns such as Waldoboro have recently made such a decision, with an expected payback of 3 to 5 years. He is awaiting the return of proposals from vendors.

Selectmen asked Dr. Karin Tichy to speak on the subject, as she had expressed concerns about the impact of increased lighting on dark night skies. She presented information on ordinances being adopted in other towns nationally, seeking to limit light pollution generally and to control intensive 'nuisance' lighting. In discussion, Selectmen suggested that it was unlikely that Bristol could enforce a lighting ordinance even if it adopted one, as – being a town of less than 4,000 residents – it is not required to, and does not, enforce building codes. With regard to the multi-town bid for street lighting, it was agreed that it will be important to adopt shielded, directionally-focused LED lights. It is also important to have lighting that is on the less-harsh, 'yellow' or 'warm' end of the color spectrum rather than 'blue' or 'cool' lighting.

Chair Hanna summed up the discussion, saying that the energy and cost savings from moving to LED lighting mean that their adoption is inevitable; it would be

helpful for the C.E.O. to have information on good versus bad lighting, to advise homeowners.

Old Business:

Selectmen took up the request to lease land at Thompson Landing, tabled on November 20th. Hall stated his understanding that the land in question is actually part of the right-of-way of the town's Thompson Road. It appears there is not land available for multiple users to rent, and in discussion Selectmen did not wish to grant any exclusive use over any part of a confined space for public access. Hall will report this back to the Harbor Committee.

Repair of the Bristol Mills Dam, scheduled for November, has not been possible because of the persistently high water. Hall will try to schedule Knowles, the contractor, for July 2020 after the alewife migration is over.

In discussing the 2020 Budget, Hall indicated that he would bring 3- and 5-year capital spending plans to the meeting on December 18th. Meanwhile, following up on matters discussed on November 4th, he had a letter from Joe Rose confirming that the Ervine School property was of a size that could be used for residence if a septic system is installed. He was asked to confirm whether this and a well could both be sited on the property given its configuration. Hall indicated he would address the question of payroll increases later, in Executive Session.

Regular Business:

Masters Machine submitted an application for BETR reimbursement from the state, requiring Selectmen's verification of personal property taxes paid. Selectmen approved and signed the application.

One Abatement Warrant was reviewed. It was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to approve Abatement Warrant number 2019-0013, for Map 002, lot 064, in the amount of \$184.27. Motion passed, 3 – 0.

Selectmen reviewed and approved a building permit for the owners of Map 031, Lot 072.

Selectmen signed an affidavit of dates of employment for Jessica Westhaver's certification by MMTCTA as a Treasurer and Tax Collector.

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

In public comments, Hanson reported that the School Board had voted this day to transfer the \$25,000 authorized at Town meeting, from surplus to the capital spending account. This is earmarked for the ballfield project. He also noted that there will be a public meeting of the School Board at 5.30 pm on December 18th to go over the School Budget. Selectmen agreed that they would try to attend that meeting, and at Poland's suggestion will schedule their own December 18th meeting for the School Gym immediately following the School Board meeting.

Hanson also raised the question of Bristol's representation on the County Budget Committee. It was noted that Terry Lowd had been elected for a three-year term in 2018. However it is not clear if members have to be sitting Selectmen; Hall was asked to clarify this with the County Administrator.

There was no correspondence received.

Executive Session:

It was moved by Yates, seconded by Poland, to enter Executive Session to consider personnel matters, subject to M.R.S. 13, §405.6.a.1. Motion passed, 3 – 0, and the Board entered Executive Session at 8.29 pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8.49 pm. No action was taken arising from the Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8.50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall
Town Administrator