

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM, in order to maintain appropriate physical distance under COVID-19 precautions. Members present: Roger Arnold, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Claudette Brochu; Marcia Calloway (joined the meeting at 6:53 pm); Robert Gere; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 13 people in the audience.

Also participating: Charlotte Metcalf, Peter Orner.

1. Approval of Agenda. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve the agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**
2. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.
3. Consent Agenda. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve the consent agenda. **Motion approved unanimously.**
4. Executive Session to Discuss Town Manager Performance. Layton **moved** (2nd Brochu) to enter executive session under 1 VSA §313(a)(3) to discuss the Town Manager performance improvement plan, and to invite the Town Manager to join said executive session. **Motion approved unanimously.** SB went into executive session at 6:38 pm. Layton **moved** (2nd Calloway) to enter public session. **Motion approved unanimously.** SB moved into public session at 8:06 pm.

SB members agreed to reorder the agenda to move to item #6 next, then take up item #5 after the break.

6. Discussion of Policing Study, Reforms, and Process. Arnold thanked Calloway and Brochu for their memos in the meeting packet. SB members discussed the chart prepared by Calloway on page 60 of the packet. SB members discussed Brochu's draft timeline for facilitated discussions and gathering/analyzing data on policing. SB members agreed they are leaning toward putting out an RFQ or RFP to solicit help with the process. SB members discussed what this might look like. Brochu and Calloway agreed to draft an RFQ/RFP to then share with the SB for discussion and action. Charlotte Metcalf read from a written statement she prepared after her conversation with former Norwich Police Chief, Doug Robinson. Metcalf shared information provided to her by Robinson. Metcalf said she is upset about the reduction in police force.
7. Board Statement on Policing Study.... Arnold asked fellow SB members if they feel ready to issue a public statement regarding the policing discussion process. Calloway asked for an update on talks with the union regarding an interim police chief. Durfee said they have had some conversations, but have not reached resolution yet; hopefully they will have worked it out by the end of this week. Durfee said he will be advertising to seek a full-time temporary officer. SB members agreed that Arnold will draft a public statement regarding the status of efforts concerning the police department.
8. Discussion of Process Issue Relating to Beaver Meadow Sidewalk Bike/Ped Grant Application. Brochu gave a verbal timeline synopsis regarding Beaver Meadow Road (BMR) sidewalk efforts to date. SB members discussed the process and possible ways to improve for the future. Peter Orner said he has gathered a large number of signature of people who support the BMR project. Orner said it's important to implement safety measures for pedestrians. Brochu said

she thinks the SB needs the find some short-term measures to address traffic concerns on BMR. Brochu volunteered to find past information about traffic calming possibilities and provide that to the SB. Durfee said he will talk to DPW Director about fog line painting on BMR. Orner asked if the SB is open to other ideas from the public, such as a speed cart.

SB members agreed to defer agenda items #9 (Operational Plan for '21-'22) and #10 (Highway Fund, Chart of Accounts and Fund Balance Reserve Policy) to a future meeting.

5. Town Manager Report. Durfee gave a few updates, including: the town was awarded a Women's Club grant for trails signage; VTrans paving grant has been awarded, with a focus on paving on Beaver Meadow Road; the town was awarded a Summer Matters 2021 grant for extended-hours day camp for children. Durfee has learned that the town is eligible for ARPA funds of approximately \$356,000 over 2 years; he has requested these funds today and SB will need to determine what they're permitted to spend it on. Durfee said he is working on an updated plan to re-open Tracy Hall, hopefully next week. Brochu said there's interest among public in reopening the book shed and plowshares shed and Transfer Station. Durfee said he's been talking to CATV about having cameras in the multipurpose room in Tracy Hall to allow for a combination meeting (remote/in-person) when the SB is back to meeting in person after the VT governor's emergency order ends. Durfee said he emailed to the SB an update on the Katucki lawsuit. Durfee said the MOU with the school district is being worked out and will be shared with the SB as soon as a draft has been developed. Durfee said we have retained TRORC to complete a sidewalk inventory, et cetera.

11. Adjourn. Layton **moved** (2nd Calloway) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on June 23, 2021

Roger Arnold
Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – June 23, 2021 – Meeting at 6:30

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