

Bristol Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2022

**Work Session:** Chair Milbrand opened the work session at 5:31pm. The Library Trustees, Jennifer Davis, Minot-Sleeper Library Director, and the Board discussed common goals and how to better work together. Some of the topics the group discussed were the savings and the offsetting of costs with the solar array, Story Corps grant, building issues, homelessness at the library, and First Amendment audits. The Select Board, the Library Trustees and Library Director thought the work session was productive. The Trustees and Library Director invited Select Board members to join their meetings which are held every fourth Thursday.

**Present:** Select Board members: Chair Don Milbrand, Anita Avery, Shaun Lagueux, JP Morrison, and Nik Coates, Town Administrator; Remote Select Board member, Les Dion.

**Absent:** none

**Nonpublic Session Per RSA 91-A:3, II (c)** Mr. Lagueux made a motion to enter into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (c) motion was seconded by Ms. Avery. Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session: Chair Milbrand, yes; Mr. Lagueux, yes; Ms. Avery, yes; Ms. Dion, yes; Mr. Morrison, yes. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed. Nonpublic session entered at 6:38pm.

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session was made by Mr. Lagueux. Motion seconded by Ms. Dion. Roll call vote taken: Chair Milbrand, yes; Mr. Lagueux, yes; Ms. Avery, yes; Ms. Dion, yes; Mr. Morrison, yes. The Board voted, 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed. Nonpublic session adjourned at 7:05pm.

**Others Present:** Ned Gordon, Town Moderator; Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Ben LaRoche, Fire Chief; James McIntire, Police Chief; Nancy Dowey, Sustainability Committee Member; Sterling Messer, Ernie Richards, John Sellers, Eric Nelson, Community Members; Bill Dowey, Economic Development Committee Chair; Cade Overton, Media Manager; Deborah Clarke-Tivey, Administrative Assistant.

**Public Session:** Chair Milbrand opened the public meeting at 7:11pm by having Mr. Gordon lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public and Nonpublic Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Lagueux made a motion to accept the minutes of January 6, 2022, and January 12, 2022, public and nonpublic meeting minutes, as written, seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**Consent Agenda and Manifests:** Mr. Lagueux made a motion to approve the consent agenda dated, January 20, 2022, to include the items named therein, motion seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**Town Meeting and Elections Planning:** Ms. Simpson and Mr. Gordon proposed to the Board that elections be held at the Historic Town Hall at 45 Summer Street so voters would have more room to spread out and social distance. It would be recommended that voters wear masks and masks will be available. There is currently no plan to transport voters up to the Historic Town Hall if a voter has

mobility issues, such as the use of golf carts. There was discussion about voting not happening if the weather is inclement. This decision is made by the Town Moderator in consultation with the State and other Moderators. Mr. Gordon discussed how calling off the elections, due to inclement weather, would happen. The Board came to consensus that voting will happen at the Historic Town Hall. Mr. Gordon let the Board know that he and the Superintendent of Schools have agreed on the following plan for Town Meeting: the meeting will be held at Newfound High School's gymnasium, social distancing, no separate rooms but those wearing masks will sit on one side of the gymnasium and unmasked people will sit on the other side of the gymnasium.

**Public Safety Building Grants and Loan Update:** Mr. Coates presented information about potential grants and loans to help offset the cost of constructing the Public Safety Building. He reminded the Board that the loan information will be presented again on February 3, 2022, at the Bond Public Hearing. Both Chief LaRoche and Mr. Coates gave an update on potential grant opportunities to aid with the Public Safety Building project. He and the Chief and have been talking to members of GOFERR at the State to see if ARPA funds from the federal government could be used to create a grant program to help fund Police and Fire Department construction projects across the state. The Town is also looking at two grant possibilities through the USDA.

**AFG Grant and Purchase Approval:** Chief LaRoche asked the Board to approve the purchase of fire hose through the awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the Fire Department's hoses. He explained the quotes and discussed the demonstration hoses they received. Mr. Lagueux made a motion to approve Purchase Order #004800 for the purchase of fire hose from HSE Fire/Safety Equipment in the amount of \$49,645.00; \$38,880.95 to come from the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant and the remaining \$10,764.05 to come from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morrison. No discussion. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**Warrant Update:** The Board reviewed the proposed Warrant Articles. Mr. Coates informed the Board that the Warrant Articles have been submitted for pre-review to the Department of Revenue Administration. He let the Board know that if the Department of Revenue Administration had any edits or concerns, he would present that information on February 3, 2022. Mr. Coates reminded the Board that Warrants Articles would be finalized at the February 3, 2022, meeting and that the Board will vote to recommend or not recommend them at that meeting.

**Town Crier Naming:** Mr. Coates let the Board know that Mr. Overton ran a contest to rename the "Town Crier." They presented the Board with the submissions received. The Board reviewed the options submitted. Mr. Lagueux made a motion to rename The Town Crier to *The Bristol Buzz*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morrison. No discussion. The Board voted 4-1-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**Surplus Equipment Sale Results:** Mr. Coates informed the Board that the Town ran a surplus sale for old AV equipment and office chairs, but no bids were received. He reminded the Board that Town Policy says that those items can now be disposed of or donated. He let the Board know that if no one had any use for these items he was going to send them to the Transfer Station for disposal. Chair Milbrand ask Mr. Coates to ask the school if they had a need for anything before throwing anything away.

**2022 Board Meeting Schedule & Times:** Mr. Coates asked the Board if they would like to continue meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month. He also asked the Board to consider moving

meeting times up a couple of hours and proposed at 3:30pm start to Board meetings. The Board agreed to a 3:30pm start to their meetings for a trial run to see if it was feasible.

**Town Administrator's Report:** Mr. Coates informed the Board that he has scheduled a two-hour work session on February 3, 2022, beginning at 3:00pm to get an in-depth explanation of the Sewer extension project. Underwood Engineers will explain the routes, costs, and next steps in the project. Mr. Overton will record the session so voters can see that the Board is taking voters questions seriously, working through the process and considering facts.

**Select Board Items:** Mr. Lagueux made a motion to nominate David Shirley as a full-time member to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Avery. No discussion. The Board voted 4-0-1, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Morrison recognized Hayden Marsh who recently passed away.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Dowey let the Board know that Bristol will be participating in a program called Rethinking Plastic in Our Community. She explained that there will be a virtual meeting to kick off the program and the program will kick off on February 7, 2022. The program has ten actions, and the Sustainability Community will decide what actions will be appropriate for Bristol to adopt.

Mr. Dowey updated the Board on a possible unforeseen cost to installing an electric car charging station at the Minot-Sleeper Library. He let the Board know that if this \$10,000.00 cost was not covered by grant funds that the project might not go any further. He also let the Board know of some of the reservations the library had with the electric car charging station being placed at the library.

Mr. Sellers expressed his displeasure with the proposed electric car charging stations in Bristol and the parking spaces that would be lost to the public if the project went through. He questioned the Board as to why it appeared the Sewer project was moving ahead, and he asked the Board to listen to the people of Bristol he felt already voted no on this project.

Mr. Richards also spoke against the Sewer project moving forward and questioned several RSAs associated with the project. Mr. Richards did not believe that everyone should be taxed on a project that was only for some residences and he asked the Board to stop the project.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to how much revenue cardboard recycling had produced the Town. No costs were readily available to give but he was told the Town receives about \$200.00 a ton for recycled cardboard. Mr. Nelson is against the electric car charging stations if it costs the Town any money and does feel the Town using parking spaces is not a good idea. He expressed concerns for condos being built around the lake because of the Sewer project, which he did not feel positive about. He expressed that he wanted the Board to listen to the people who he believed voted against the project.

Mr. Messer supported the Public Safety Building because of his experiences in law enforcement. He wanted the Town Moderator to read the preamble every time a vote was taken at Town Meeting because he felt it was important for all voters to know that this was a binding contract between the Town and taxpayers. He wanted it made clear that the Sewer project would be going down Route 3A.

Mr. Dowey and Mr. Sellers talked to the Board about the performance of the fiber project and what that performance meant for additional projects in the Town.

Nonpublic Session Per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c) Mr. Lagueux made a motion to enter into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c) the motion was seconded by Ms. Dion. Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session: Chair Milbrand, yes; Mr. Lagueux, yes; Ms. Avery, yes; Ms. Dion, yes; Mr. Morrison, yes. Motion passed 5-0-0. Nonpublic session entered at 8:34pm.

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session was made by Mr. Lagueux, seconded by Ms. Dion. Roll call vote taken: Chair Milbrand, yes; Mr. Lagueux, yes; Ms. Avery, yes; Ms. Dion, yes; Mr. Morrison, yes. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed. Nonpublic session adjourned at 8:59pm.

Mr. Lagueux made a motion to seal the non-public minutes of January 20, 2022, for an indefinite period, seconded by Ms. Avery. Roll call vote to seal the minutes of the non-public session: Chair Milbrand, yes; Mr. Lagueux, yes; Ms. Avery, yes; Ms. Dion, yes; Mr. Morrison, yes. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Lagueux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Board voted 5-0-0, in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah A. Clarke-Tivey