

**`TOWN OF BRADFORD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN AGENDA/MINUTES
Monday, March 22, 2021
@6:00 pm**

Item 1. Open meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Bruce, Bailey, Timothy Bubar, Carlene Oakes, Samantha Saunders

Absent: Vance Corliss

Item 2. Approval of minutes – None

Item 3. Review of Treasurer's Warrants – acted upon

Item 4. Open Session – A. Hines, P. Nevells, J. McCarthy, Joyce and the new guy on the Middle Rd. named Gary that is doing the dog kennel

J. McCarthy brought information for the board about making Bradford a safe haven town for 2nd amendment rights. She shared information from the towns of Exeter and Paris that are both adopting this policy. The board agreed to look at the information and discuss at the next meeting.

Item 5. Committee Reports:

- a. Planning Board/CEO:** Joyce gave the board a proposed change to the Land Use Ordinance. She stated that the Land Use Ordinance is not as strict as the Manufactured Housing Ordinance. The proposed change would make the language the same in both, so they do not contradict each other. S. Saunders stated that the board is going to look over the Land Use Ordinance and may update it. They will take this change into consideration when doing so.
- b. Recreation Committee:** no written report. S. Saunders stated that baseball/softball sign ups were being done virtually, as stated on the Rec's Facebook page. J. McCarthy asked when the town hall would be open for town groups, such as the Rec program. S. Saunders told her that it would not open until COVID restrictions are reduced, but the Rec and other town groups are welcome to hold outdoor events.
- c. Fire Department:** no written report.

- d. Road Commissioner:** We still have 400-500 yds of sand left in the building. Rob Higgins is looking into fixing the guardrail on the Middle Rd. He will get an estimate of what it will cost to fix the other side as well. The dirt roads are holding up especially well this spring. It may be the nice weather or the switch from powder to liquid calcium, or a combination of the two.
- e. Future Fire Station Committee:** The new specs just came in. The planning board and fire department are looking at them and will present to the board at the next meeting. They are still hoping to have something prepared for presentation at town meeting.
- f. Town Manager:** no written report as she was out of town

Item 6. Old Business – N/A

Item 7. New Business – N/A

Item 8. BOS Concerns: None

Item 9. Correspondence: None

Item 10. Request for Additional Agenda Items: None

Item 11. Executive Session: None

Meet with Budget Committee:

Budget committee members present: J. Worster, M. Michaud, R. Jack, J. Spearing, Erik Hanson, Errol Hanson, D. Kelley, E. Nevells

Jenny began by thanking the town manager and Select Board for their hard work on the budget. She stated that the committee made no changes to the numbers given to them by the selectmen, but they did have a few suggestions for how best to use the money that we have in savings/reserves, and how to get the money for certain line items.

Bottles for the fire department – The committee suggested leaving the \$30,000 in the budget line, adding \$5,000 from the department's savings account and taking a 3-year loan to pay for the rest. There was a lot of discussion on the topic. Some members agreed that the bottles are not needed at this time, and the board should wait to see if the vote to move forward with a new station passes before deciding on taking a loan out

to buy new bottles. E. Nevells suggested keeping \$20,000 in the budget line and using \$15,000 from the department's savings and taking a 3-year loan out for the rest. E. Nevells made a motion to change the Budget Committee's recommendation on this line amount, and D. Kelley seconded it. The committee voted 5 in favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried.

The Budget Committee recommended that the BOS do away with the capped appropriation articles at town meeting.

E. Nevells recommended using the "Bradford Corner TIF" and \$200,000 from surplus funds to pay for part of the new fire station building, if it passes. This would offset the amount of the loan that would be needed to pay for the project. E. Nevells also recommended adding exact dollar amounts to the final warrant article. The Budget Committee agreed. They believe that it is more transparent, and that town's people who are not familiar with the budget/budget process will have an easier time understanding the article if the dollar amounts are included.

J. Spearing stated that he is unhappy about using "dirty numbers" or a "working budget" when going through this process. He is also unhappy about the way the budget process works. He would like to see the Budget Committee and BOS work together throughout the process instead of working separately and meeting up once at the end to go over their ideas. S. Saunders explained that the BOS would be revising the budget process that the town adopted a few years ago to make the process more of a cooperative effort next year. She also explained that the TM and BOS are looking into the possibility of moving town meeting to the summer, which would mean we would have more exact numbers to work with when going over the budget next year.

Item 12. Adjourn: 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____/s/_____

Samantha Saunders

_____/s/_____

Selectman Bruce Bailey

_____/s/_____

Selectman Carlene Oakes

_____/s/_____

Selectman Timothy Bubar

_____ Absent _____

Selectman Vance Corliss