

MINUTES SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 23, 2021
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair
Shari Cornish
Michael Deering - *absent*
Gary Bellavance

Others Present

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Others Present

Special Meeting

6:03 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:03 P.M. Set/Adjust Agenda – Add an Item #2 Pedestrian Bridge Project Grant before the Executive Session

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Gary Bellavance, the Select Board voted to adjust the agenda as stated.

6:04 P.M. Communication from the Audience - none

6:04 P.M. – 6:23 P.M. Item # 1 Select Board to discuss whether to hire an interim Town Manager while conducting a search for a permanent Town Manager.

Eric mentioned that VLCT recommended hiring an interim manager to give some time to find a permanent replacement. It was brought up that it might be a harder transition to do the interim, but Shari thinks that would not be the case. Abbie at VLCT gave us the name of a person who has done several interim positions in Towns. Eric spoke to Jon Jewett who might be interested, but he may not want to act in a full-time capacity. Jon asked what the Select Board priorities would be for the interim and how many hours per week. The Board will need to discuss that and follow up with Jon later.

Ceilidh asked if we can just do an appointment of an interim. Eric explained that the Select Board can just appoint the interim and even a permanent Town Manager. They are not required to do a formal search.

There was some discussion about the length of the interim Manager. Eric and Shari thought that it would be around 3-4 months or possibly less.

Gary asked if we would talk to the person that VLCT mentioned since they might be interested in the position on a permanent basis. Eric said that he was under the impression the person was retired and was only looking for interim, but it would not hurt to reach out to them.

Ceilidh suggested that the Board create a timeline for the interim and permanent replacement and then review at the next Select Board meeting.

Shaun offered some input on remote working and what it might look like until COVID is over. Some aspects can be done remotely, but at least a split of remote and some days in person would be helpful.

The Select Board generally agreed that they want to hire an interim Town Manager. Ceilidh offered to work with Shaun to draft a timeline as she referenced and then present to the whole Board at the April 1 meeting. The initial thought is for the summer and to hire a new Town Manager late Summer/early Fall.

6:24 P.M. – 6:44 P.M. Item # 2 Update on the Pedestrian Bridge Project

Shaun indicated that he spoke with Geoff and the timeline of the AARP grant does not really work with our current projects, specifically the RBDG grant that Geoff is working on and is a major priority.

Shaun shared that we did get the Small Bike/Ped grant of \$40,000 for sidewalk improvements on Maple and Church St.

Eric asked about the RBDG grant budget. Shaun noted that Geoff has reviewed and the budget to be shown for RDBG application will ensure proper proportion of in-kind match. Shari offered comments in support of the AARP grant as part of the project process and Shaun noted this grant program timeline would be problematic. After additional discussion, it was determined the Town will not be completing an AARP grant application. There will be some steps taken to ensure community has some input on final design. All were in agreement this is an important aspect of the project. The concern is that we do not want to be locked into a prefab bridge in the grant budget.

Ceilidh suggested that we should talk about community engagement for the project and talk about this further in a future meeting. Shari thinks it's very important for the community to be involved, especially since so many participated in the survey about the pedestrian bridge.

6:44 P.M. *Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session for contract terms for granting Economic Development loan to Keg of Glory LLC pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to include the Business Manager and Town Manager.*

6:54 P.M. Exited Executive Session

6:55 P.M. *Upon motion Shari Cornish, seconded by Gary Bellavance, the Board voted to have Town the Manager's office move forward with the loan request for Myles & Katie Tandy, i.e., Keg of Glory LLC d/b/a Birdsong Beer & Wine.*

6:56 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager