

# TOWN OF BROWNFIELD



## Selectmen's Meeting June 21, 2022

**Selectmen in Attendance:** William Flynn, Rick Emery, Dick Norcross

**Attendees:** Dana Forcier, Erik Walker, Caleb Ness, Carrie Garland, Richard Perreault, Cliff Cousins, Lisa Thompson, Sooz Eland, Brian Fortier, Bob Konczal, Whit Lucy, Patrick Bryant and Willy Tracy came towards the end.

**Zoom attendees:** Cindy Eaton, Cindy Walker, Cristin, Esther, Yvette & Rob, Hailey's S21, 256-7216

5:30 pm the meeting was called to order by Chair, William Flynn.

**Minutes** of June 7th were approved by Bill; seconded by Dick. Vote 2-0-0.

**Bob Konczal, Atlantic Valuation Services** – Bob would like to begin assessing until the tax assessment time and then see if revaluation would make sense at that time. He needs to hook up remotely to Trio and a contract was signed with Bob as well as Certificate of Appointment. He wanted a new email account established and Deb was to set up that as well as one for herself. Rick suggested having an IT help with that and Bob will also need office time.

**Anjali McDonnell** – Anjali, a 13 yr old, read a letter that she wrote claiming she was being ignored by the Rec Director, Willy Tracy and not being allowed to use the fields for home school students. It was decided that Will would reach out again to them to arrange a time for her to use the field and supply a schedule as quickly as possible.

~There was a microphone disfunction during the beginning of the meeting.  
It seemed to level out later.~

**Caleb Ness** – Caleeb Ness is running for Nate Wadsworth's seat. He feels that he can help with key Maine issues and briefly introduced himself and his views on key issues.

**Patrick Bryant and Broad Band**– Broadband has a consultant to help with the proposed contract and he presented that to the selectmen – asking each town to have \$8800 ready along with the

other 7 towns. Chatham fell off the list. Deb was to make copies of the contract for all selectmen to read. By signing the contract, there would be discussion with all 7 towns to determine what each wants. Coming projects involve citizen outreach and surveys have shown that the people want broadband.

**Street Light Contract** – Deb explained that she got a contract from CMP that would put the town on a list to replace all street lights with LEDs. It would take the current yearly cost from over \$9000 to roughly \$6400 and is a 15 year contract with buy out available at 10 years. Rick said that it used to cost \$35K to replace just one with LED and then they went to a policy of replacing them as they went out. This new program makes sense and by signing a contract, which Deb will get, the town should have them replaced within the year.

**Inspection Time**– Safety works had written up all departments and Dickie and Deb are to make the repairs, changes and document revisions necessary to satisfy the requirements. Cliff weighed in as to what was being done at Public Works and Deb said that Mary Mathews would be contacted when everything was finished. The work at the transfer station is being done.

**Spigot at the rec center** – Dick asked if there were threads on the new spigots installed out in the rec fields. Michelle needs a threaded one to be able to fill the water slide at Old Home Days. The new spigots do not have threads so Dick wants Cliff to find out what can be done so hoses can be attached. Dana explained the style that currently is out there.

**Water Testing** – The water has been tested at Town Office. It has not been done at the rec center, public works or transfer station. The approximate cost is \$65. Bill made a motion to test the water at public works, rec center and transfer station and Rick seconded. 3-0-0

**Newsletter**– People have found fault with the newsletter. Over a year ago, it was suggested that one be started and in March 15, it was talked about at a selectboard meeting. Deb got some people together. Now she is asking if all 3 selectmen still approve of the newsletter and if they want to have her group to continue with it. And if so, what process moving forward, should be used to have all selectmen see it to OK the content. PDF file format was suggested by Deb which would give them a chance to object or not. Bill said that he was unsure what criteria he would use to view a newsletter and looked over the last one brought into question and there was nothing he saw that he felt should have been censored. Cliff brought up, that as Public Works director, he liked the chance to tell people what was going on with his department. The newsletter allows him to do that and he felt that that if a picture or content bothered someone, but it had been looked over, it was unavoidable sometimes to please everyone. Deb mentioned that the costs had been born by her group and that the 11 X 17 paper was getting costly and that it would be nice to get help with the cost. Dick said as long as content was neutral, that was all that they needed to do. The newsletter has been heavily questioned so Deb was having a lawyer look over the content to see what the problems could be. Sooz Eland was also in on the start of the newsletter and originally thought a FaceBook page might be the answer, but the newsletter layout made the most sense. She talked about how the articles came together and how we strove to be factual. She also said that the public welcomed the project. Lisa Thompson said that the group wanted to reach out to more groups for feedback and content such as girlscouts, schools, community dinners, etc. would be

sought out. Carrie Garland spoke out about the newsletter and said that she had started one in Stow. She said that an editorial should be in its' own section. There should be disclaimers and each article should be authored. There are 2 ways of going over it- either opinion pieces and not part of the town, or a town only topic piece. Dick said that if there is an editorial, to print both sides of the argument. The issue was bias in the content of the Warrant article edition. If the Town of Brownfield is on it, the selectmen should have final say before release and the ability to censor, Dick said. Bill said that he did not know if he knew enough about 'what' to censor and was uncomfortable with that term. Sooz asked if it required a motion, and Bill said that the board agreed and that was enough. Moving forward, a copy of draft newsletters will be sent to all selectmen for approval prior to printing.

**Rec Director Request** – Willy had requested a trash barrel to be out near the field to be emptied on Wednesdays. There are a lot of people out in the field and a lot of trash is generated. Dick made a suggestion to put a barrel out and Bill suggested Cliff talk to Willy about it. Willy had just purchased one to be near the swimming lessons. Willy has 45 kids swimming now and they provide breakfast and lunches. The backpack program had moved from the rec center to Fryeburg.

**Brian Fortier-** Brian voiced his opinion about what Mr. Hicks had said to greatly upset Deb Merrill on Friday, June 17 in her office and requested Mr. Hicks treat Deb with respect moving forward. Dick stated that he had brought Mr. Hicks in to apologize earlier in the day on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Flags and Lights-** Dick asked if there were flags and lights to be put out front.

**Rec Center Front Yard-** Carrie said that in Stow they installed a tree and flagpole in the front yard and there was discussion of what to do there.

**Political Sign Theft-** There are state and federal statutes Rick said about the placement of signs and Sooz said that it was not right that all of the "yes" signs were stolen and the "nos" were not. Nothing can really be done. She just voiced the fact that the fliers stuffed into mailboxes was illegal and done by a black SUV with Mass plates and the companies put onto the handouts were NOT asked if it was OK.

6:40 pm Bill motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Ricky. Vote 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Merrill