

**TOWN of BRIDPORT**  
**Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2019**



PRESENT: Joan Huestis (Chair), David Bronson, Tim Howlett, Mike Lawton and Matt Lawton

Also Present: Valerie Bourgeois (Town Clerk), Irene Zaccor (Treasurer/Assistant Town Clerk),  
Dusty Huestis (DPW Foreman), H.Kent Wright and Corey Pratt

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Joan Huestis.

**Public Comment**

H. Kent Wright notified the board that the floors in the Masonic Hall are dirty again and should be cleaned after each use.

**Appoint a Chair**

Matt Lawton made a motion which Tim Howlett seconded to appoint Joan Huestis as the Chair of the Selectboard for another year. All approved and motion passed.

**Approve Minutes**

Matt Lawton moved and Tim Howlett seconded a motion to approve the five sets of minutes from 2/11, 2/27 and three from 3/7/2019. All approved and motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

SB Orders for \$64,334.24 presented. Current balance at NBM is \$137,059.97. Remaining balances of 2019 budget distributed. Tim moved and Mike seconded to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. All approved and motion passed.

**DPW/Road Report**

Items discussed: potholes being repaired, floors at DPW waxed, 1 ton transmission still under repair, new tandem truck inquiries have been started, low on salt, hopefully plowing is about done for the season. The Middle Road bridge over Potash Brook needs replacement as it is 100 years old.

**Appointments**

Appointments for one year as follows;

Town Clerk: TBD

Treasurer: Irene Zaccor

Zoning Administrator: Ed Payne

Assistant Zoning Administrator: Steve Bourgeois

Tree Warden: David Basque

Fire Warden: Bruce Stocker

Health Officer: Barbara Wagner

Planning Commission: Paul Miller and JoAnne Kenyon

FEMA/Civil Defense: Joan Huestis

ACSWMD Representative: Ed Payne

ACSWMD Alternate Representative: Andrew Manning

ACRPC Representatives: Ed Payne and Andrew Manning

ACRPC Alternate Representatives: Mark Pumiglia and Paul Miller

Dog Warden: Jerry Forbes

Town Service Officer: Linda Barrett

911 Coordinator: Clifford (Dusty) Huestis

### **Old Business**

1. No revised quote received as yet from Rick Scott for security system.
2. A second letter was sent to State of Vermont Agency of Transportation in regard to the knoll on VT Route 125 near the Middlebury College.
3. Masonic/Community Hall contract discussed. Deposit for cleaning to be required. Liability insurance to be researched. Hall needs to be checked thoroughly after each event. Contract modifications to be consolidated into a new document for review at next meeting.
4. Delinquent Tax Policy review in progress.

### **New Business**

Corey Pratt wants to make Town aware of issue regarding hunting dogs on posted land. Do laws regarding hunting outweigh property owner rights? Dogs chased a wounded coyote onto his land and badly upset his animals and spouse. Could the Town consider a policy of some sort to address this problem? Leash law is not sufficient. What can be done?

### **Other Business**

Suggestion made to put Grand List online as it is public record. Investigate what other Towns do before deciding.

Motion made by Tim Howlett, seconded by Matt Lawton to go into Executive Session for personnel reasons at 7:19 pm. Motion passed all in favor. Out of Executive Session at 8:23pm. No official action taken.

Motion made by David Bronson and seconded by Matt Lawton to recess meeting until 6pm on Tuesday March 12 at the Town Offices.

Meeting reconvened at Town Offices at 6:04pm on March 12, 2019 at the Town Offices. Four Selectboard members present and Mike Lawton was present via mobile telephone. Went in Executive Session at 6:05pm to discuss personnel issues. Out of Executive Session at 6:16pm.

Joan Huestis made a motion which was seconded by Matt Lawton stating that after interviewing Valerie Bourgeois, Julie Howlett and Kerry White for the Town Clerk position and on the basis that she is the most qualified to fulfill the best interests of the Town, Julie Howlett is appointed as the Bridport Town Clerk for the term commencing March 13, 2019 and running through March 9, 2020. Motion passed by voice vote, 4 in favor with 1 abstention (Tim Howlett).

Mike Lawton left the meeting at this point.

Joan Huestis made a motion with Tim Howlett seconding to give Valerie Bourgeois a full weeks pay. Motion passed all in favor.

David Bronson made a motion with Matt Lawton seconding to accept Julie Howlett's resignation as Lister. Motion passed all in favor.

David Bronson made a motion with Matt Lawton seconding that on behalf of the Town of Bridport, the Selectboard thanks Valerie Bourgeois for her many years of service to the Town, including first as Assistant Town Clerk and then from March of 2000 as Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer. Motion passed all in favor.

David Bronson made a motion with Joan Huestis seconding, to amend the Planning Commission appointments of Paul Miller and JoAnne Kenyon to four (4) years. Motion passed all in favor.

Joan Huestis made a motion, seconded by Tim Howlett to sign the annual contract for 2019 with Vermont Appraisal Company/Kermit Blaisdell. Motion passed all in favor.

Matt Lawton moved to adjourn with Tim Howlett seconding at 6:38 pm. Motion passed all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Zaccor

Town Treasurer & Assistant Town Clerk