

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021
via Zoom at 6 pm

[Click here for Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 857 3228 2540 Passcode: 405355

To call in, dial: 1 646 558 8656

6 pm Call to order & approval of agenda.

Appointments:

Representative Kirk White – monthly check-in

Public Comment

Appoint Leo Bangerter to the Energy Committee

Motion to appoint

Discussion of H.48 (authorizes Selectboard to require Clerks to mail ballots)

Discussion

2021 First & Third Class Liquor License Renewals for Tozier's Restaurant

Motion to approve

Mascoma Bank Change in Terms for Loan 63033838 to 11/18/44 Maturity Date

Motion to accept

Social Media Policy Draft

Discussion item only – including plan for input

2021 Better Connections Grant Letter of Intent

Discussion item only

June 30, 2020 Bethel/Royalton Transfer Station Audit

Discussion

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 1/11/2021
3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

Town Manager's Report for the January 25, 2021 meeting:

- Kirk will be here to update you on what is happening at the Capital. I have included a copy of the Weekly Legislative Report, so if you have any questions/concerns you can speak with him about them. While the last 2 pages of the Report outline a summary of new bills, keep in mind a lot of those will never get out of committee.
- Leo should have been appointed to the Energy Committee a while ago. The ball was dropped here in the office.
- Discussion of H.48. I am sure you are all aware that legislation was passed giving you the authority to have the Town Clerk mail the ballots to all registered voters, like the State did in November. Pam does not want to mail the ballots to all registered voters. She does plan on putting an ad in the paper, posting the information on Facebook and our website. It is very easy for a resident to request an absentee ballot...
 - o Online My Voter Page on Secretary of State's website
 - o Call the Town Clerk's Office or Town Manager's Office
 - o Leave a message on our voicemail over the weekend or at night
 - o Email the Town Clerk
- Liquor licenses will mean you will need to come by my office to sign them after the meeting. They will be on a clipboard at the back door as usual.
- Same goes for the Change in Terms paperwork.
- We have needed a Social Media Policy, so I started work on one. I used VLCT's template and have modified it. I want you all to read it and submit your thoughts to me via email or write on the policy and drop it off. I plan to have a representative from Equity & Inclusion, Energy Committee, Recreation Committee and Staff give feedback too. Once that happens, I will bring you another draft with the changes/modifications. I don't know who has given permission in the past for committees to start their own websites or Facebook pages. I feel you need to be in control of and authorize (or not) the social media presence the Town has. In the Office, we turned off comments on our Facebook page as we want to disseminate information not have a dialogue. We also received some very negative and inappropriate posts. As you can see by reading the policy, there are a lot of laws to consider. I see social media as a tool to get information out so people can attend duly warned meetings to have community discussions. We also do not have the staff to oversee a bunch of different sites 24/7. If you allow someone to have a Facebook page or website, they should have the sole responsibility of maintaining it and being accountable for it. The Town bears the liability for these sites.

- ☑ A copy of the Letter of Intent for the Better Connections grant is in your packet. We have settled on getting a planning study on how to make the downtown and a bit of the outlying area more accessible to people from 8 to 80. We would also like recommendations for low cost options downtown businesses can do to make their buildings/businesses more accessible. There may also be an economic survey component to it. We have another meeting on 1/28/21 at 4 pm via Zoom to discuss it.
- ☑ I have also included a copy of the Bethel Roylton Transfer Station audit for you.
- ☑ I had to make 2 small changes to the warrant after the training I took on 1/13. I had to remove the Town Agent as the legislation changed regarding that position in 2020. I also had to adjust the numbers on #10 so they subtracted #11 and #12.
- ☑ Town report has gone to the printers and should be mailed out by the end of next week at the latest.
- ☑ The Vermont Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, has asked for GMWEA's help updating information on statewide past-due balances – arrearages – **during the last 60 days**. I provided that information as it looks like they may do another round of funding. Bethel users received over \$16,000 via this program in the last round.

Dear Select Board,

My Family and I recently relocated from Miami, FL to the Green Mountain State. We'd like to think that the Town of Bethel found us and not the other way around.

Early on my wife and I realized that towns like this one can only make way with the collaboration of neighbors and we certainly want to be a part of that effort!

This sense of community is one of the reasons why we wanted to escape the often hectic life in a big city, where most lose their individuality and very few look out for others.

We were born in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. This is also a big city that is home to over 1.5 million people with many of the typical problems of big cities. We were then very young but heard the call of nature and peacefulness. It was so that on a shoestring decided to move to a small farming community where we homesteaded.

Two short years after this grueling effort I received a job offer from my then employer to move to the US. After a very, very short decision-making process we capitalized on that opportunity and moved to the US in late 2001.

Fast forward to 2018, we were confronted with the fact that our moral values did not align with those of the community surrounding us. With two young boys to guide it was clear that the influence from sources outside of our family circle would have a negative effect that will have a lifelong impact. It was time for a change.

It was through a visit to our school that we felt that this was the right place for our Family to grow roots.

As for me, I have been involved in technical roles for almost 30 years even though my formal background is in international and wholesale business. I've worked as a handyman, in customer and dealer support for a motorcycle manufacturer, for an airplane distributor, as a marine electrical and electronics technician and more recently as service and project manager for a solar energy company based in Norwich, VT.

I feel at home with tools in my hand while educating customers. I am a man of many hobbies (some say too many) from sailing to flying to fixing everything I can put my hands on. My Family is by far and beyond the most important part of my life.

Is hard for me to make a request to volunteer for one particular commission, since I do not have enough specific knowledge of the requisites and needs. I will leave this decision up to this Board hoping that I will be accepted were I can serve best our Community.

Sincerely yours

Leonardo Bangerter

Leonardo Bangerter

(802)565-7496 lbangerter@gmail.com 889 North Road, Bethel, VT -5032

Profile

Detail oriented, technically inclined, who feels at home working in team, solving problems and interacting with Customers. Strong business background with over 23 years experience in technical support roles for after sales and the manufacturing process.

Experience

Service Manager, Solaflect Energy, Norwich, VT - 2019 - Present

Monitor, service, diagnose and repair of grid tied dual axis solar tracker systems, including single and three phase inverter units. Assist in coordinating new builds. Customer orientation on new equipment. Point of contact for special projects.

Co-owner, Nautor Marine Electronics LLC, Key Biscayne, FL – 2010 - 2019

Founded Nautor Marine Electronics LLC, a small business focused on the design and installation of marine navigation, A/V and power distribution systems on pleasure yachts. Average annual revenue of US\$480,000. Responsible for the sale, design and execution of all projects, as well as Customer training, after-sales support and warranty administration.

Independent Marine Technical Support Specialist, FL – 2006-2009

Head independent technician for Nautor Marine, based in Miami, FL. Designed, planned and executed simple to complex electrical and electronics systems including MFD's, autopilots, instrumentation, integration, automation, remote control and monitoring of systems, alternative energy power systems (wind, solar, hydro), power distribution systems (both A/C and D/C). Survey of faulty equipment and systems malfunctions. Performed Customer orientation and training, recorded installation details and filed warranty registrations with manufacturers.

Operations Manager, MOD Cycles Corp (Subsidiary of Deceleste S.A.), Miami, FL – 2002-2005

Developed the Logistics and Technical Department (service and spare parts) of motorcycle wholesaler with an average annual volume of 4800 units. Responsible for the certification of new vehicles by the US DOT and EPA. Warranty administrator. Parts and accessories Manager. Analyzed warranty data reported by field technicians to detect tendencies. Main technical liaison with manufacturers from India, Italy, Spain, UK, China, Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico.

Technical Support Manager, Deceleste S.A., Uruguay – 1996-2001

Company focused on wholesale and service of motorcycles, bicycles, fitness equipment, spare parts and accessories, with an annual volume of over 35,000 motorcycles, scooters, bicycles and fitness equipment units. Responsible for Warranty Administration and Technical Support Department. Re-designed warranty process to enable traceability of claims as well as gathering of field data to produce monthly warranty reports for all three divisions (Powersports, Bicycles, Fitness). In direct contact with engineering and manufacturing to implement improvements both in-house and with suppliers. Developed and lead annual training sessions of over 140 authorized service centers. Created Owner's Manuals, Repair Manuals, and Spare Parts Catalogues for over 20 products. Supported the ISO 9001 Certification process. Managed

internal Service Department consisting of over 10 technicians and 3 clerks. Administrator of independent authorized service centers throughout the country including both, remote and in-person technical assistance.

Education

Berufbildungszentrum (BBZ), Uruguay – Degree in International and Wholesale Commerce, Trilingual (German, English, Spanish), 1996.

Skills

Able to perform forensic-like analysis of technical issues to identify the source of the problem.

Outstanding communication skills, with a “listen-to-fist” attitude.

Ability to build strong bridges with Customers and Colleagues.

Great performer under adapting conditions.

Fluent in Spanish and English, both spoken and written.

U.S. and EU Citizenship.

Hobbies and Interests

Exploring this Country with my Family on our Airstream.

Passionate about flying. I hold a Private Pilot Certificate, which I first got at 17 years of age.

Enjoy working with my hands, from tinkering with cars, bikes, rigging a boat to woodworking.

Rowing (of course), both sculling and sweeping as schedule permits.

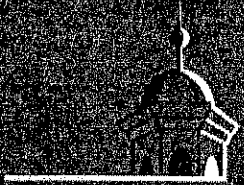
References

- Mr. Jay Arritola - General Manager and Dockmaster - Rickenbacker Marina, Inc.
(786) 299-3627 - ja@rmimarina.com
- Mr. Dennis O. Shillen - Shillen and Mackall Law Office - (802) 296-1364 -
ds@promotingjustice.com
- Mr. Jose Carlos Martinez - CEO - Sociedad Nacional de Pesqueria - (212) 433-0216 -
jcm1706@yahoo.com
- Mr. Gerry Ferrari - Co-owner - Nautor Marine Electronics, LLC - (305) 496-2557 -
gerry@nautormarine.com

January 15, 2021

Issue No. 3

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT



VERMONT LEAGUE
OF CITIES & TOWNS

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Town Meeting 2021

As they had promised, the legislature this week passed H.48, the highly anticipated bill that enables municipalities to adjust how and when to conduct this year's annual meetings. The bill addresses *all* of Vermont's municipal entities – not just cities, towns, and villages, but school districts, incorporated schools, fire districts, incorporated villages and other governmental incorporated units such as solid waste districts. Last year's Act 162 enabled local legislative bodies to vote to temporarily move to an Australian ballot system of voting for the 2021 annual meeting in towns that vote from the floor. It also waived the requirements for voter signature collection for candidates in local elections. H.48 goes further and addresses other lingering issues, including:

- **Changing the date of annual meeting.** The bill would permit municipalities to move their 2021 annual meeting to a later (and potentially safer) date. It will be up to the municipality to determine the later date.
- **Voting by mail.** The bill would permit local legislative bodies to require municipal clerks to mail 2021 annual meeting early voter absentee Australian ballots to all active registered municipal voters to encourage absentee voting, and thereby reduce possible exposure to COVID-19.
- **Brattleboro.** The bill would authorize the Town of Brattleboro to hold its annual representative town meeting by electronic means. Brattleboro is the only town in the state with a representative town meeting.
- **Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District.** Its board of supervisors may vote to adopt the district's budget for the ensuing fiscal year.
- **Extending municipal officer term.** Municipal officers would serve until the annual meeting and successors are chosen if a local legislative body chooses to move the date of the 2021 annual meeting.
- **Secretary of State's supplemental authority.** H.48 would authorize the secretary of state to order or permit supplemental election procedures related to the provisions within the bill. Under current law, the secretary of state has no authority over local elections, however directives and assistance from his office proved invaluable to municipalities in 2020 during the early days of the pandemic.

This authority is only meant to be supplemental and to help municipalities conduct successful annual meetings and protect the health, safety, and welfare of voters, election workers, and candidates. The secretary of state would further adopt any necessary procedures that ensure the public can monitor polling places and vote counting.

H.48 takes into account municipalities with charters that have more specific provisions regulating annual meeting. Those charter provisions will remain in place and are not affected by the bill. House Gov. Ops. made a point to also include language that encourages municipal cooperation between municipal entities. H.48 requests municipal officials – including boards of civil authority and municipal clerks – to cooperate with school districts and other incorporated districts with administering annual district meetings and budget votes. School districts in particular rely heavily on towns and cities to help perform their annual meetings; to the extent practicable, they both should be working together to align meeting dates and resources. This will both ensure the best use of limited monetary and human resources and create less confusion and a more streamlined process for voters.

VLCT thanks both Government Operations committees, House and Senate leadership, and the secretary of state for shepherding this legislation to the finish line in record time. The bill is now in the hands of the House Clerk's office and will go to the governor's desk for his signature in the coming days.

Committees Dive in to Work

This week, legislative committees organized themselves by electing the committee clerk, enumerating members' priorities, and welcoming legislative staff and administration representatives to explain both committee areas of jurisdiction and administration requests.

Those requests do not yet include budget recommendations as those discussions are traditionally held until after the governor's budget address, which he will deliver next Thursday at 2:00. (You can watch the address by clicking the Watch House Live Video link on the [legislative website's home page](#).) Immediately after his address, administration commissioners and secretaries descend on the various committees to explain their proposed budgets.

Your Advocacy staff follows legislation that affects local government, and a lot of those bills land in the Government Operations, Transportation, Natural Resources, Energy and Technology, and the four money committees. The top priorities this session are stabilizing the Vermont economy, developing a budget that is sustainable in the long term after COVID-19-related federal assistance is exhausted, and addressing the pandemic and its aftermath. Clearly, both Appropriations committees and the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees will focus on the revenue picture for the General, Education, and Transportation Funds in addition to economic recovery and addressing the COVID crisis. Ways and Means also heard a dated and fairly skewed report on tax increment financing districts this week, and all committees heard revenue updates from the Joint Fiscal Office.

The Emergency Board is meeting next Tuesday, January 19, to hear revenue forecasts from the state economists. The Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees will soon receive recommendations from the two-year Tax Structure Commission, which thoroughly studied education and consumption taxes as well as the balance of revenue sources that make up the state budget.

However, legislative priorities this session extend far beyond those key issues.

Some priorities are developed and refined in caucuses before they are introduced in the form of bills. House and Senate members may join a variety of caucuses, which are essentially groups of legislators committed to working together to further a particular set of issues. In addition to the Democratic, Republican, and Progressive Party caucuses, other legislative caucuses include Climate Solutions, Workers, Tourism, Rural, Sportsmen's, Older Vermonters', National Guard, and Social Equity. You won't find meeting announcements of those other caucuses on the legislative website, making it tricky to follow those conversations – unless you happen to hear the announcement during a House or Senate floor session.

Priorities of the Senate Government Operations Committee include:

- Elections, mail-in ballots, defective ballot curing, voter checklists
- Municipal public records
- Ethics
- Law enforcement
 - Data collections and systemic demographic data collection
 - Municipal records (from lessons learned during COVID-19)
 - Non-citizen voting, rank choice voting (in charters)
 - Self-governance pilot proposal from the last biennium

The House Government Operations Committee is concerned about law enforcement and elections as well.

The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee's priorities are:

- Soil health and regenerative soils
- Spreading bio-solids and PFOA
- Giving towns tools to address PCBs lead and radon
- Broadband
- Renewable and affordable energy and climate change
- Act 250
- Contaminated sites and brownfields
- Single use plastics

House Natural Resources' first priority is to consider again the provisions in the comprehensive Act 250 reform bill that passed out of that committee last year.

The Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee and companion committees in the House will continue to try to facilitate the construction of affordable housing, spur economic recovery efforts, provide for stressed Vermonters' basic needs during the pandemic, and address employee/employer issues.

Both Transportation committees typically address matters vital to local governments' core statutory responsibilities: keeping the roads open and "accessible to a pleasure car in all seasons of the year".

Those functions have significantly expanded in recent years to include alternative transportation; networks that are friendly to pedestrians, bicycles, and electric vehicles; and mass transit. See page 5 for details on the Transportation Bill this year.

Your Advocacy staff will keep you up to date as issues that are taken up in the legislature develop. We welcome your feedback! Please email us at Khorn@vlct.org or Gzakov@vlct.org.

Federal Funds Aid in COVID Relief and Economic Recovery

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) passed by Congress and signed by the President in December, included both the federal budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (which started on October 1, 2020) and a new federal economic relief package of \$900 billion. That relief package built on the \$4 trillion Congress had previously appropriated to address the pandemic.

Importantly, the CAA extended the time for using Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars through December 31, 2021. According to Vermont's Joint Fiscal Office, the extension could affect \$10 to 30 million that remains unspent. One helpful result for local governments is that the Joint Fiscal Committee was able to re-allocate up to \$2 million to pay for mailing of Australian ballots for town meeting in towns and other districts that decide to employ Australian ballot for their annual meeting. Another request from local governments is to extend into 2021 the timeframe in which to spend CRF Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) grant money. While all those dollars have already been granted, not all cities and towns were able to spend them before the original December 20 deadline. Likewise, there may be opportunities to extend funding to help customers pay municipal utility bills (electric, water, wastewater) through the Vermont Covid-19 Arrearage Assistance Program administered by the Department of Public Service.

As described by the Joint Fiscal Office, total CRF funds allocated or appropriated are \$1,240,393,078 of the \$1.25 billion grant that Vermont received. By any standard, that is quite a feat, inasmuch as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed March 27 and, under its provisions, all funds had to be spent by December 30, 2020.

The Joint Fiscal Office estimates that total relief from the CAA that is coming to Vermont will be between \$1.4 and \$2.5 billion, much of which will be allocated directly to programs such as individual stimulus payments of \$600, Paycheck Protection Program funding, small business assistance, and unemployment insurance. The amount that the legislature will have discretion to allocate is approximately \$650 million, which includes \$45 to 50 million for vaccine funding, testing, tracing, and mitigation. Despite the valiant efforts of the Vermont delegation and many others – including those of you who contacted the delegation's offices – the CAA contains no direct aid to municipalities or states.

On Thursday evening, President-Elect Joe Biden proposed a \$1.9 trillion emergency relief package – the American Rescue Plan – that would address the twin crises of the surging pandemic and backsliding economy. As he noted, nearly one million people filed for unemployment in the last week. Other priorities in his proposal include re-opening schools, a \$15-per-hour minimum wage, and \$350 billion in emergency aid for state, local and territorial governments.

Your Advocacy staff will keep you up to date as the details of the CAA and the fate of the American Rescue Plan unfold.

Resources

- [CRF Appropriation Tracker](#)
- [CAA Economic Relief Stimulus Package](#)

Transportation 101

Typically, the first few weeks of a legislative session look and feel like a crash course in different subject matters for both new and veteran legislators. And transportation is one of the most dense and complicated subjects. This week, both chambers' transportation committees began hearing from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office to understand the laws, finances, and policies that comprise Vermont's transportation landscape. The House Transportation Committee leads the creation of each year's transportation budget bill, therefore that committee got very detailed presentations from legal counsel on federal and Vermont transportation law and from the Joint Fiscal Office explaining the budget process and the ins and out of how the state funds all transportation initiatives.

Both committees heard an update from Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn on the state of the state's transportation system and agency. Committees also were updated by different VTrans division heads regarding the work of their individual divisions. Generally, these updates take several weeks to complete. The agency's strategic plan is as follows:

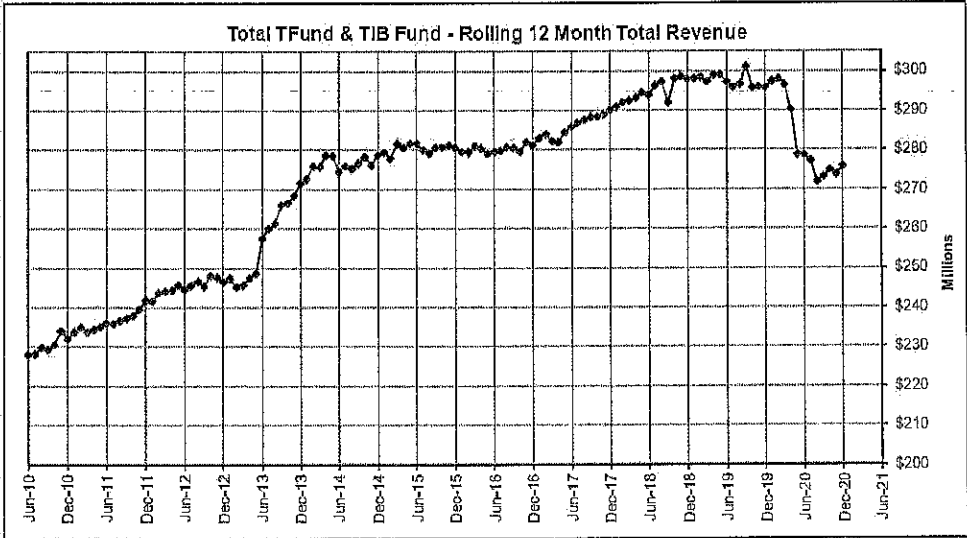
- Promote organizational excellence by attracting, developing, and retaining a talented, diverse, and engaged workforce.
- Transition to an energy efficient, advanced technology transportation system.
- Grow Vermont's economy by providing a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system in a state of good repair.
- Make Vermont more affordable and serve the vulnerable by providing accessible, convenient, and affordable travel choices.
- Modernize and improve government efficiency through innovation, continuous improvement and quality customer service.

All decisions and policy considerations spearheaded by the agency are made with the state's strategic plan in mind. Municipalities have nearly identical transportation goals and considerations at play – although at smaller scales and multiplied across more than 246 municipal jurisdictions. Municipalities depend not only on state and federal aid to help pay for their transportation infrastructure over their 13,090 miles of town Class 1-4 highways, but also the agency's technical and professional services and support to keep the entire state's transportation network functioning and in good repair. This partnership with respect to Vermont's transportation system is probably the most important and interconnected alliance municipalities have with state government.

As the legislature addresses another difficult budget year, it is very important that the budgetary struggles of local governments are not lost in the process. The COVID-19-related revenue impacts have only further

exacerbated an already stressed state transportation budget that relies on revenues from sources that no longer keep up with the needs of our transportation system. The biggest sources of state revenues are the gas taxes and assessments. However, as vehicles become more efficient, as driver drive less and as the use of electric vehicles increase, this tried and true source of reliable revenues will continue to diminish year over year. Other sources of revenue such as Department of Motor Vehicle fees and Purchase and Use taxes are also limited in their growth potential because Vermonters only have so much tolerance for more fee increases.

TRANSPORTATION REVENUES OVER TIME



There are indications that the extension of the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and Congress' Consolidated Appropriation Act, passed into law last month, will lessen the blow to Vermont's transportation budget concerns. State officials are still determining exactly how much money Vermont will receive, with the early estimate around \$83 million. The bulk of the funding is directed to the state's Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Block Grants, which are estimated to receive slightly over \$50 million. These block grants offer flexible funding for a wide variety of state and municipal transportation projects that preserve and improve our state's transportation infrastructure. The second largest program funding increase is for the Rural Area Formula Program, with state funding estimates in excess of \$26 million. This program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of fewer than 50,000. VTrans is currently planning how to distribute these funds, and those plans are expected to be reflected in the upcoming budget this session.

Estimated COVID-19 Relief Federal Transportation Funding for Vermont (H.R. 133)	
Grant	Estimated Funding (\$)
FAA - Airport Coronavirus Response Grant	3,922,116
FHWA - Surface Transportation Block Grant	50,411,349
FTA Sec. 5307 - Urbanized Area Formula Grants	2,480,670
FTA Sec. 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	89,028
FTA Sec. 5311 - Rural Area Formula Grants	26,725,119
Total Transportation Investment Directed to Vermont	\$83,628,282

Estimate from Federal Funds Information for States, December 21, 2020.

VLCT looks forward to working with the legislature, the administration and the agency to direct a fair and reasonable proportion of these funds to municipalities and municipal projects. Once the governor presents his budget at the end of the month, the real work will begin in committee. VLCT Advocacy staff look forward to being a partner in the process.

Resources

- [Joint Fiscal Presentation on Transportation Funding](#)
- [Joint Fiscal Detailed Primer on Budget Process](#)
- [AOT 2020 Performance & Highlights](#)

Governor Issues First Executive Orders of 2021

On Thursday, Governor Phil Scott issued the first two executive orders of his new term of office, taking action to reorganize components of state government, which the legislature has been unable to do for many years. Any organizational changes made by the governor are subject to *disapproval* by the legislature.

EO-01-21 creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety’s ten-point strategy to accelerate progress in the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernize data collection, expand crisis response, enhance development of model policies, develop community oversight models, and address training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Safety., The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added on July 1, 2021. EO 01-21 was sent to the House Government Operations Committee.

EO 02-21 restructures the Natural Resources Board to comprise three full-time professional members as of July 1, 2021. Board members will be eventually be appointed for six-year terms. The executive order transfers many responsibilities of district commissions to the Natural Resources Board, including whether to determine an application minor or major. EO 02-21 was sent to House Natural Resources.

Resources

- [EO 01-21](#)
- [EO 02-21](#)

Declaration of Inclusion

On Wednesday morning, the legislature's Social Equity Caucus held its weekly meeting. As is typically the case, members discussed myriad subjects, one of which was that the Town of Pittsford adopted a "Declaration of Inclusion" at its November 4 selectboard meeting. Within the next few weeks, the VLCT will launch its own Equity Committee, and many towns around the state are likewise hosting equity and inclusion committees or hiring directors of equity. A declaration such as Pittsford's clearly establishes the intention of the community as it undertakes some very hard work.

"The Town of Pittsford condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and will protect these classes to the fullest extent of the law.

"As a town, we formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms and commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.

"The Town of Pittsford has been and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions."

Elsewhere in the State House

Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee reviews fiscal issues and is charged with approving grants, carrying out rescissions under 32 V.S.A 704, and overseeing the legislative fiscal staff who work for the Joint Fiscal Office. Last session, the committee met *25 times* to oversee the distribution of Coronavirus Relief Fund money.

The newly appointed committee for the 2021-2022 biennium consists of:

Rep. Janet Ancel, Calais
Rep. Timothy Briglin, Thetford
Rep. Peter Fagan, Rutland City
Rep. Mary Hooper, Montpelier
Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, Brattleboro

Sen. Becca Balint
Sen. Ann Cummings (ex officio)
Sen. Jane Kitchel (ex officio)
Sen. Dick Sears
Sen. Richard Westman

Ways and Means Committee Members. Last week's Report inadvertently mis-identified the vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Here is the correct list of committee members.

Rep. Janet Ancel, Calais, Chair
Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, Brattleboro, Vice Chair
Rep. Scott Beck, St. Johnsbury
Rep. Patrick Brennan, Colchester
Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven
Rep. David Durfee, Shaftsbury

Rep. Caleb Elder, Starksboro
Rep. James Masland, Thetford
Rep. Christopher Mattos, Milton
Rep. Carol Ode, Burlington
Rep. George W. Till, Jericho

Biweekly Advocacy Chat. Did you miss last Monday's Biweekly Advocacy Chat? If you did, you can still watch it here <https://youtu.be/xxxUTAjNH4>. And be sure to catch the *next* always informative video chat, scheduled for Monday, January 25, at eleven o'clock.

BILL NUMBER	SUMMARY OF NEW BILLS	CURRENT LOCATION
<u>H.54</u>	Would implement the recommendations in the Pupil Weighting Factors Report of December 24, 2019, by adjusting the existing factors and adding new factors to calculate equalized pupils while mitigating property tax rate increases that result from these changes.	House Education
<u>H.56</u>	Would authorize the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue permits for the use of blue, amber, and red signal lamps on law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical service vehicles.	House Transportation
<u>H.57</u>	Would create a Council on the Economic Future of Vermont to develop an economic development plan that includes action steps for Vermont to (1) grow the majority of its food within five years; (2) strengthen and preserve the infrastructure to enable rural Vermont to thrive, including necessary policy changes; (3) increase Vermont household income to the top fifth in the nation; and (4) address and prevent adverse childhood experiences in Vermont.	House Commerce and Econ. Development
<u>H.70</u>	Would authorize the use of low-impact wastewater systems designed to manage and treat wastewater from plumbing fixtures supplied by hand-carried or hand-pumped water.	House Nat. Resources, Fish, and Wildlife
<u>H.72</u>	Would direct the Agency of Education to provide postsecondary career technical education courses at regional technical centers for Firefighter I and Emergency Medical Responder certifications.	House Commerce and Econ. Development
<u>H.73</u>	Would provide funding and create a rural innovation initiative in Bennington and Rutland counties to accelerate the productivity of working and natural lands and to connect the region to northern New England's food economy.	House Commerce and Econ. Development
<u>H.76</u>	Would clarify that a tenant, and not the landowner, has the right to post political signs on the property in order to ensure tenants' rights to express themselves politically.	House Gen., Housing, and Military Affairs
<u>H.77</u>	Would prohibit the use of the property transfer tax revenue dedicated to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund for any other governmental purpose.	House Ways and Means
<u>H.78</u>	For the purpose of calculating a school district's excess education spending, costs would not include annual employer-required increases in health insurance premiums.	House Education
<u>H.82</u>	Would allow municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services to their customers.	House Energy and Technology
<u>H.83</u>	Would extend Act 250 jurisdiction to development within 100 feet of a stream above 1,500 feet and any subdivisions above the elevation of 2,000 feet.	House Nat. Resources, Fish, and Wildlife
<u>H.84</u>	Would extend the downtown and village center tax credit program to neighborhood development areas as well as raise the cap on the amount of tax credits available.	House Ways and Means
<u>S.9</u>	Would extend until July 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Labor's authority to waive or amend certain workers' compensation related deadlines and requirements during a state of emergency related to COVID-19. Would also extend the presumption that certain workers who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are entitled to workers' compensation for the disease until July 1, 2021.	Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

BILL NUMBER	SUMMARY OF NEW BILLS	CURRENT LOCATION
<u>S.10</u>	Would extend until July 1, 2021, certain provisions providing COVID-19 related unemployment insurance experience-rating relief and provisions allowing individuals who quit employment for certain COVID-19 related reasons to be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.	Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
<u>S.13</u>	Would require the Agency of Education to develop a plan to implement the equalized pupil weighting changes outlined in the Pupil Weighting Factors Report dated December 24, 2019, produced by a University of Vermont-led team of researchers.	Senate Education
<u>S.14</u>	Would invalidate new binding agreements that would prohibit the construction of accessory dwelling units or the development of small lots able to connect to municipal water and sewer service.	Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
<u>S.15</u>	Would allow an early or absentee voter to correct certain defects in the voter's early voter absentee ballot.	Senate Government Operations
<u>S.17</u>	Would require public high school students to pass a civics course as a condition of graduation.	Senate Education
<u>S.19</u>	Would require the Department of Health to develop and adopt a statewide climate change response plan. Would require regional planning commissions to help identify climate change related public health risks	Senate Health and Welfare
<u>S.20</u>	Would impose restrictions on the use, manufacture, sale, and distribution of class B firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and impose restrictions on the manufacture, sale, and distribution of food packaging to which PFAS have been added.	Senate Health and Welfare
<u>S.25</u>	Would require towns to place the issue of retail sales of cannabis on the ballot by March 1, 2022; allow the Cannabis Control Board discretion as to whether to grant any integrated licenses; and require the board to consider reduced license fees for individuals who historically have been disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition and to present a proposal to the legislature by April 1, 2021, regarding a low-interest loan fund.	Senate Judiciary
<u>S.26</u>	Would establish the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont to report on the current status of Vermont's libraries and recommend improvements to the public library system; and update and make technical corrections to certain statutes concerning the Vermont Department of Libraries.	Senate Education
<u>S.30</u>	Would prohibit the possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings.	Senate Judiciary
<u>S.33</u>	Would authorize the Vermont Economic Progress Council to establish a project-based tax increment financing pilot program.	Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
<u>S.34</u>	Would create a housing bond or series of housing bonds supported by property transfer tax revenues to provide funding to the Vermont Housing Conservation Board for permanent affordable housing developments and improvements.	Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

Please note: For the 2021 session, the *Weekly Legislative Report* will be an all-digital publication with this exception: Readers without reliable internet service can receive paper copies if they notify us at mailings@vlct.org. Thanks for reading!

2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT/BAR LICENSE TO SELL MALT AND VINOUS BEVERAGES

324-001-1RST-001
Page 1

License Year Beginning May 1, 2021 ending April 30, 2022

Fee: \$230.00 of which
\$115.00 is paid to town/city
\$115.00 is paid to DLC
Town: 14020 - BETHEL

MISREPRESENTATION OF A MATERIAL FACT ON ANY LICENSE APPLICATION SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE, AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING

Applicant: Review all of the information presented on this form, indicating any changes in the spaces provided.

Applicant: Tozier's Restaurant, Inc. Licensee # 324- 1

Doing Business As:

Tozier's Restaurant

Route 107

Bethel VT 05032

Telephone: (802) 234-9400

Mailing Address:

2678 River Street

Bethel VT 05032

PLEASE INCLUDE EMAIL ADDRESS: gcamp1124@aol.com

Description of Premises:

Premises: XX Owned ___ Leased

Restaurant in a one-story frame building located on the north side of Route #107, three miles west of the Village of Bethel, Town of Bethel, Vermont.

Last Enforcement Seminar: 01/16/2019

Fed. ID Number: 27-0120527 Incorporation Date: 01/01/1987 Valid Charter?: **Yes** State of Charter: Vermont

Majority of Directors are US Citizens: **Yes**

ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET TO THIS APPLICATION NOTING ANY NECESSARY CORRECTIONS OR CHANGES AND UPDATES THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Corporation	Name	Address	Town/City	State	Zip Code
Director	1. Campbell Jr., Gordon W.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Director	2. Campbell, Sharon A.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Stockholder	3. Campbell Jr., Gordon W.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Stockholder	4. Campbell, Sharon A.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032

Has any director or stockholder been convicted or pleaded guilty to any criminal or motor vehicle offense in any court of law (including traffic tickets by mail) during the last year? ___Yes XNo
If yes, please attach the following information: Individual's name, court/traffic bureau, offense and date

In the past year has any director or stockholder of the corporation held any elective or appointive state, county, city, village or town office in Vermont (See VSA, T.7, Ch.9, Sec. 223)? ___Yes XNo
If yes, please attach the following information: Individual's name, office and jurisdiction

Vt. Dept. of Health Food License No.: 1226

Vt. Dept. of Health Lodging No.:

Vt. Tax Dept. Meals & Rooms Cert./Acct. No.: 440270120527F-01

Disclosure of Non-profit Organization?: ___Yes XXNo

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN

The applicant understands and agrees that the Liquor and Lottery Control Board may obtain criminal history record information from State and Federal record repositories.

I/We hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that I/We are in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan approved by the Commissioner of Taxes to pay any and all taxes due the State of Vermont as of the date of this application. (VSA, Title 32, Section 3113)

I/We hereby certify that I/We are not under an obligation to pay child support or that I/We are in good standing with respect to child support or are in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all child support payable under a support order. (VSA, Title 15, Section 795)

In accordance with 21 VSA, Section 1378(b), I/We certify, under pains and penalties of perjury, that I/We are in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all contributions or payments in lieu of contributions due to the Department of Employment and Training.

I/We have registered the trade name of these premises with the Secretary of State.

Continued on next page

2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT/BAR LICENSE TO SELL MALT AND VINOUS BEVERAGES

324-001-1RST-001
Page 2

I/We hereby certify that the information in this application is true and complete.

Dated this 11 day of January, 2012

Signature of authorized agent
of corporation, company, club or association

Signature of individual or partners

Andrew C. Plunk president
Sharon Campbell vice president

(Title)

Are you making this application for the benefit of any other party? Yes No

----- LOCAL COMMISSIONER SECTION BELOW -----

Upon being satisfied that the conditions precedent to the granting of this license as provided in Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, have been fully met by the applicant, the commissioners will endorse their recommendation on the back of the application and transmit it to the Liquor and Lottery Control Board for suitable action thereon, before any License may be granted. For the information of the Liquor and Lottery Control Board, applications shall carry the signature of each individual commissioner registering either approval or disapproval.

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

Approved by Board of Control Commissioners of the City or Town of _____.

Total Membership _____, _____ members present

Attest, _____, Town Clerk

**TOWN OR CITY CLERK SHALL MAIL APPROVED RENEWAL DIRECTLY TO:
DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL
13 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE
MONTPELIER, VT 05602**

If application is disapproved, local control commissioners shall notify the applicant by letter.

No formal action taken by any agency or authority of any town board of selectmen or city board of aldermen on a first or second class license application shall be considered binding except as taken or made at an open public meeting. VSA T-1, Sec.312

2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
THIRD CLASS RESTAURANT/BAR LICENSE TO SELL SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS

324-001-3RST-001

Page 1

Fee: \$1,095.00

Paid to DLC

Seasonal Fee: \$550.00
Town: 14020 - BETHEL

License Year Beginning May 1, 2021 ending April 30, 2022

MISREPRESENTATION OF A MATERIAL FACT ON ANY LICENSE APPLICATION SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE, AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING

Applicant: Review all of the information presented on this form, indicating any changes in the spaces provided.

Applicant: Tozier's Restaurant, Inc.
Doing Business As:

Licensee # 324- 1

Tozier's Restaurant
Route 107
Bethel VT 05032
Telephone: (802) 234-9400

Mailing Address:
2678 River Street
Bethel VT 05032

PLEASE INCLUDE EMAIL ADDRESS: gcamp1124@aol.com

Description of Premises: Restaurant in a one-story frame building located on the north side of Route #107, three miles west of the Village of Bethel, Town of Bethel, Vermont. Premises: Owned Leased

Last Enforcement Seminar: 01/16/2019

This Club is: An unincorporated Association? Yes No
A Limited Liability Company? Yes No
A Vermont Corporation? Yes No

Fed. ID Number: 27-0120527 Incorporation Date: 01/01/1987 Valid Charter?: **Yes** State of Charter: Vermont
Majority of Directors are US Citizens: **Yes**

ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET TO THIS APPLICATION NOTING ANY NECESSARY CORRECTIONS OR CHANGES AND UPDATES THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Corporation	Name	Address	Town/City	State	Zip Code
Director	1. Campbell Jr., Gordon W.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Director	2. Campbell, Sharon A.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Stockholder	3. Campbell Jr., Gordon W.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032
Stockholder	4. Campbell, Sharon A.	2678 River Street	Bethel	VT	05032

Has any director or stockholder been convicted or pleaded guilty to any criminal or motor vehicle offense in any court of law (including traffic tickets by mail) during the last year? Yes No
If yes, please attach the following information: Individual's name, court/traffic bureau, offense and date

In the past year has any director or stockholder of the corporation held any elective or appointive state, county, city, village or town office in Vermont (See VSA, T.7, Ch.9, Sec. 223)? Yes No
If yes, please attach the following information: Individual's name, office and jurisdiction

Vt. Dept. of Health Food License No.:
Vt. Dept. of Health Lodging No.:
Vt. Tax Dept. Meals & Rooms Cert./Acct. No.:

Disclosure of Non-profit Organization?: Yes No

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN

The applicant understands that he/she must maintain a list of the names and residences of paid up members, a list of club officers, and a list of employees of the club and their annual salaries. These lists must remain on the licensed premises and be available for inspection upon request.

The applicant understands and agrees that the Liquor and Lottery Control Board may obtain criminal history record information from State and Federal record repositories.

I/We hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that I/We are in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan approved by the Commissioner of Taxes to pay any and all taxes due the State of Vermont as of the date of this application. (VSA, Title 32, Section 3113)

I/We hereby certify that I/We are not under an obligation to pay child support or that I/We are in good standing with respect to child support or are in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all child support payable under a support order. (VSA, Title 15, Section 795)

In accordance with 21 VSA, Section 1378(b), I/We certify, under pains and penalties of perjury, that I/We are in good standing with respect to or in full compliance with a plan to pay any and all contributions or payments in lieu of contributions due to the Department of Employment and Training.

I/We have registered the trade name of these premises with the Secretary of State.

Continued on next page

2021 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
THIRD CLASS RESTAURANT/BAR LICENSE TO SELL SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS

324-001-3RST-001
Page 2

I/We hereby certify that the information in this application is true and complete.

Dated this 11 day of January, 2021

Signature of authorized agent
of corporation, company, club or association

Signature of individual or partners

Andrew Campbell President
Sharon Campbell Vice President

(Title)

Are you making this application for the benefit of any other party? Yes No

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VERMONT DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL
13 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE
MONTPELIER, VT 05602

MAIL CHECK WITH COMPLETED FORMS TO THE TOWN OR CITY CLERK

----- LOCAL COMMISSIONER SECTION BELOW -----

Upon being satisfied that the conditions precedent to the granting of this license as provided in Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, have been fully met by the applicant, the commissioners will endorse their recommendation on the back of the application and transmit it to the Liquor and Lottery Control Board for suitable action thereon, before any License may be granted. For the information of the Liquor and Lottery Control Board, applications shall carry the signature of each individual commissioner registering either approval or disapproval.

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

Approved by Board of Control Commissioners of the City or Town of _____.

Total Membership _____, _____ members present Attest, _____, Town Clerk

The seasonal fee applies to establishments open for six continuous months or less of the license year.

TOWN OR CITY CLERK SHALL MAIL APPROVED RENEWAL DIRECTLY TO:
DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL
13 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE
MONTPELIER, VT 05602

If application is disapproved, local control commissioners shall notify the applicant by letter.

No formal action taken by any agency or authority of any town board of selectmen or city board of aldermen on a first or second class license application shall be considered binding except as taken or made at an open public meeting. VSA T-1, Sec.312

CHANGE IN TERMS AGREEMENT

Principal	Loan Date	Maturity	Loan No	Call / Coll	Account	Officer	Initials
\$1,444,000.00	11-20-2013	11-18-2044	63033838	8 / 400	T307211	EAV	
References in the boxes above are for Lender's use only and do not limit the applicability of this document to any particular loan or item. Any item above containing "*****" has been omitted due to text length limitations.							

Borrower: Town of Bethel
PO Box 404
Bethel, VT 05032

Lender: MASCOMA BANK
BETHEL
264 Main St
PO BOX 52
BETHEL, VT 05032

Principal Amount: \$1,444,000.00

Date of Agreement: _____

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS. A Promissory Note from Borrower(S) to Lender dated November 20, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$2,750,000.00, as amended.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE IN TERMS. Effective with the date of this Agreement, the Maturity Date of the Note is hereby extended from November 18, 2043 to November 18, 2044.

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same, unchanged, and in full force and effect.

CONTINUING VALIDITY. Except as expressly changed by this Agreement, the terms of the original obligation or obligations, including all agreements evidenced or securing the obligation(s), remain unchanged and in full force and effect. Consent by Lender to this Agreement does not waive Lender's right to strict performance of the obligation(s) as changed, nor obligate Lender to make any future change in terms. Nothing in this Agreement will constitute a satisfaction of the obligation(s). It is the intention of Lender to retain as liable parties all makers and endorser of the original obligation(s), including accommodation parties, unless a party is expressly released by Lender in writing. Any maker or endorser, including accommodation makers, will not be released by virtue of this Agreement. If any person who signed the original obligation does not sign this Agreement below, then all persons signing below acknowledge that this Agreement is given conditionally, based on the representation to Lender that the non-signing party consents to the changes and provisions of this Agreement or otherwise will not be released by it. This waiver applies not only to any initial extension, modification or release, but also to all such subsequent actions.

DISCOUNTED RATE. 80% of the 10 Year FHLB rate, discounted to reflect the tax exempt status of the loan.

PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, BORROWER READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. BORROWER AGREES TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

BORROWER:

TOWN OF BETHEL

By: _____
Paul Vallee, Selectboard of Town of Bethel

By: _____
Lindley Brainard, Selectboard of Town of Bethel

By: _____
Christopher Jarvis, Chair of Town of Bethel

By: _____
Maurice Brighman, Selectboard of Town of Bethel

LENDER:

MASCOMA BANK

X _____
Authorized Signer

Social Media Policy

Bethel, Vermont

Section 1: Title and Authority.

This policy shall be known as the Bethel Social Media Policy (hereafter “policy”). It has been adopted by the Town of Bethel Selectboard pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 1121, 1122, and 872.

The Selectboard reserves the right to amend any of the provisions of this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.

This policy is administered by the Selectboard or their authorized representative/designee.

Section 2: Purpose.

The purpose of this policy is to provide standards and procedures for the appropriate use of municipal social media platforms. This policy gives direction to municipal employees, elected officials, volunteers, appointees, public bodies, and other authorized users of municipal social media. This policy also creates guidelines for any public user who accesses or posts content on the municipality’s social media.

While this policy generally applies to the most popular platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter), we acknowledge that social media is an evolving communications tool and that new platforms may become available over time. The municipality may utilize social media to communicate information related to the business of the municipality directly to the public, as well as to provide members of the public the opportunity to provide feedback concerning municipal business, including operations and services provided by the municipality. The municipality allows the use of social media to further the goals of the municipality, the missions of its departments and public bodies, and to contribute to the overall vibrancy of its community. However, they do not wish social media to supplant or replace dialogue at duly warned public meetings.

The municipality has an overriding interest and expectation in deciding what is published on behalf of the municipality through social media and in establishing guidelines for the use of municipal social media by municipal officials and the public.

Section 3: Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply to this policy:

Content means any post, writing, comment, remark, response, material, document, photograph, graphic, or other information of any kind, regardless of form that is created, posted, shared, distributed, or transmitted via the municipality's social media platform.

Designated agent means an individual designated by the Selectboard to receive and respond to notifications of claimed copyright infringement. Once named, the municipality must designate the agent with the United States Copyright Office.

Municipality means the Town of Bethel.

Municipal electronic equipment means all municipally owned electronic equipment – including computers, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, any associated hardware or software, and any other municipal equipment – that may be utilized to send or receive electronic communications.

Municipal official means an employee of the municipality, elected or appointed, or a municipal volunteer.

Municipal social media or municipal social media platform means the official social media platform of the municipality.

Municipal social media moderator or moderator means an individual(s) designated by the Selectboard or Town Manager to monitor, manage, and oversee municipal social media content.

Municipal website or official municipal website means the official website or domain of the municipality www.townofbethelvt.com.

Social media platform or social media means a form of information-sharing platforms (such as Facebook, MySpace, Google and Yahoo Groups, Wikipedia, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Flickr, Twitter, LinkedIn, or other news media or content-sharing/blogging service) on which online content and dialogue around specific issues or area of interest are created.

User means a member of the general public who accesses, posts, creates, distributes, shares, or transmits content to a municipal social media platform.

Section 4: Conduct of Municipal Officials.

Those persons designated and authorized to utilize municipal social media do so with the understanding they represent the municipality via social media outlets and must always conduct themselves appropriately. Municipal officials must also consider content carefully, understanding it will be widely accessible, not retractable, and retained or referenced for a long period of time. The municipality expects its officials to be truthful, courteous, and respectful toward their colleagues, residents, customers, members of the general public, and other persons associated with or who do business with the municipality.

Municipal officials' use of municipal social media shall comply with this policy as well as with any other relevant policies, its charter provisions, rules, and regulations.

Official Use of Municipal Social Media Platforms. Municipal officials who use municipal social media in their official capacity, in the scope of their employment or while on duty, whether as a municipal social media moderator or a municipal official, must:

- Make the official's name and title available when they post content in their capacity as a municipal official. Municipal officials may only post and respond to content on those matters that fall within their job description or statutory roles and responsibilities.
- Keep postings factual, accurate, and as up to date as possible. If a mistake is made, admit to it and post a correction as soon as possible.
- When providing content, be sure the content is meaningful, respectful, and relevant.
- Never post content on anything related to legal matters, litigation, or any parties with whom the municipality may be in litigation without prior specific approval from the Town Manager.
- Municipal officials are expressly prohibited from disclosing any information via content posted to municipal social media that may be confidential.
- Refrain from expressing personal opinions or positions regarding policies, programs, or practices of the municipality, its officials, or other public agencies, political organizations, private companies, or non-profit groups on a municipal social media platform. Under no circumstances should a municipal official post, or direct another municipal official to post, a personal opinion or statement held by an individual municipal official on a municipal social media platform.

Information posted to municipal social media is public and is subject to Vermont's Public Records Law, Open Meetings Law, and all other applicable laws, rules, policies, municipal charter provisions, and regulations. Municipal officials should have no expectation of privacy regarding the information posted on municipal social media.

The municipal social media moderator will monitor the content posted by municipal officials and the public on each of the municipality's social media to ensure it complies with this policy for appropriate use and messaging, to be sure it is consistent with the goals of the municipality.

All authorized municipal officials must be provided with a copy of this policy and sign the Acknowledgement of Official Use by Municipal Officials form (see Addendum A) prior to utilizing municipal social media.

Section 5: Designation of Social Media Platforms.

For each of the municipality's social media platforms, the Selectboard has identified and designated the type of speech forum, its purpose, and rules, as follows:

1. Government Speech Forums.

The following social media platforms are hereby designated as government speech forums:

www.townofbethelvt.com

These platforms do not allow any public user content. They are reserved for the municipal government to engage in its own expressive conduct, to promote its own message, and to distribute information.

2. Limited Public Forums.

The following social media platforms are hereby designated as limited public forums:

www.facebook.com/pages/category/Locality/Town-of-Bethel-Vermont-152244938197111/

<https://www.facebook.com/BethelVermontEnergyCommittee/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BethelRecFacility/>

In a limited public forum, public user content is restricted. Public users posting or responding to content constitutes participation in a limited public forum.

Section 6: User Content: Rules and Guidelines.

This section applies to all users who access or post, create, share, distribute, or transmit content on municipal social media. These rules and guidelines apply to all municipal social media. This section's provisions governing user content on municipal social media and its terms of use shall be displayed or made available by hyperlink from the municipality's official website, and on all municipal social media platforms that have been designated in Section 5 of this policy as a limited public forums. Users from the general public shall be informed that agreeing to its terms is a prerequisite to participating in the municipality's social media. The rules and guidelines to display as applicable and relevant are as follows:

Terms of Use

The purpose of this site is to distribute information on matters of public interest and matters of public interest to the municipality as identified and raised by the municipality. The municipality may allow the general public to submit content, but it must address the specific topic(s) discussed. This is a forum limited to the specific topics identified and raised by the municipality. By virtue of such use, users who submit content to this social media platform agree they have read, understand, and agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. I am submitting content voluntarily and on my own behalf;
2. The content I post reflects my own original thoughts or work;
3. I understand the municipality has the right to re-post or share any content that I submit on this or other municipal social media;
4. I have read and understand the policy, including the right of the municipality to remove or archive content as described in this policy and as may be allowed by law;
5. I understand any content I provide will be considered a public record under Vermont's Public Records Law;
6. I understand and agree that, unless specifically identified as a resource for receiving requests for information under Vermont's Public Records Law, municipal social media platforms are not proper vehicles for making requests for public information or public records under Vermont law, and any such requests must be made to the appropriate custodian of the record(s);
7. I understand and agree that my and others' content is subject to removal, in whole or in part, from this site if my or their content violates the conditions of this policy;
8. I understand the views and content expressed on this site only reflect those of the content's author, and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the municipality or its municipal officials;

9. I agree to the following waiver of liability: Because various laws exist that create liability for various actions, including but without limitation defamation, invasion of privacy, false light, breach of contract, procurement violations, violations of due process among many potential areas of exposure for which the municipality accepts no responsibility based on the actions of others or for creating this municipal social media platform, I, for myself, successors and assigns, release and hold harmless, defend and agree to indemnify the municipality, including its municipal officials, from any and all actions, claims, liabilities and damages of whatever kind and nature that arise out of or are in connection with my use of the municipal social media platform.

By posting, sharing, distributing, or transmitting content, I acknowledge that I understand and accept these terms of use.

The municipality is interested in hearing the opinions of the public. Vigorous, constructive conversations are encouraged through participation in duly warned public meetings, outreach to the Town Office and municipal officials. The municipality does not discriminate based on viewpoint but it may remove content and restrict access to users who violate this policy. The municipality reviews content on all its limited public forum social media platforms.

All users must clearly identify themselves; anonymous posting is not allowed. Content created, posted, shared, or transmitted by a member of the public on any municipal social media platform is their opinion only. Publication of content does not imply endorsement of, or agreement by, the municipality, nor does such content necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the municipality. The municipality is not responsible for content that appears on external links. The municipality does not guarantee the authenticity, accuracy, appropriateness, or security of posted hyperlinks, external websites, or content linked thereto and assumes no liability for damages resulting from reliance upon or accessing such content. The municipality reserves the right to delete links and embedded content that violate this policy.

Content posted by authorized municipal officials or the general public shall conform to this policy, including comments or hyperlinks to other content. The following prohibited content shall not be permitted on any municipal social media and shall be subject to removal by the municipal social media moderator:

- profane, obscene, sexual, or pornographic language or images;
- content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination based on race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation;
- solicitations of commerce, including advertising of any business or product for sale;
- links to any unauthorized site or content;
- the promotion or endorsement of a political campaign or candidate;

- personally identifiable information or sensitive personal information that, if released, violates federal or state law;
- disruptively repetitive content;
- conduct or encouragement of illegal activity;
- information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
- information that directly interferes with or compromises ongoing investigations, public safety tactics, or the safety of public safety officers;
- malicious or harmful software (malware);
- defamatory or personal attacks;
- threats of violence or threats to public safety;
- confidential, private, or exempt information or records as defined by state or federal law;
- conduct that violates any federal, state, or local law;
- copyrighted materials in violation of state or federal law; or
- content that is clearly unrelated to the subject matter of any post made on the platform by or on behalf of the municipality.

The municipal social media moderator is authorized to remove content or links that do not conform to the requirements of this policy in a viewpoint neutral and consistent manner. The municipality will not edit or delete any content unless authorized by this policy or allowed by law. Users should understand that third parties having control of a social media platform may edit or delete content independently of the municipality and without the consent, authority, or control of the municipality.

Users who violate this policy may be temporarily or permanently restricted from accessing municipal social media. The municipality reserves the right to deny any user who repeatedly violates this policy access to posting to municipal social media. To appeal the editing or removal of content or the restriction of access to a municipal social media platform, the user must submit a written statement to the Town Manager. The statement should provide grounds for reinstatement of access to or right to publish the edited or removed content.

Requests will be addressed in a reasonably timely manner; content or access, as applicable, will be restored if it is determined that the grounds for reinstatement are sufficient. The Town manager's decision to an appeal will note the basis for the decision. If the user is unsatisfied with the decision, they may appeal to the Selectboard, who will render a reasonable timely response noting the basis for the decision. The decision by the Selectboard shall be the final administrative decision of the municipality.

Users may contact the municipal social media moderator at any time to identify content or other conduct on the municipal social media that violates this policy. Users should avoid and ignore responding to content in violation of this policy, or, if responding, do so in a manner that conforms to this policy.

All content posted to any municipal social media platform is bound by that platform's applicable statement of rights and responsibilities or terms of service. The municipality reserves the right to report any violation of that platform's or site's statement of rights and responsibilities or terms of service to the platform's or site's provider with the intent of the provider taking appropriate and reasonable responsive action.

Section 7: Account Management.

Municipal officials may only establish or use municipal social media on behalf of the municipality after approval by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will review all requests to create new municipal social media accounts. They also have the sole authority to establish new accounts, authorize their use and terminate municipal social media accounts. In this role, the Selectboard will evaluate all requests for creation of a new account, verify the staff authorized to use the account and confirm completion of online training for social media, if deemed necessary. The Selectboard and Town Manager will also be responsible for maintaining a list of all social media platforms in use, the names of all administrators of these accounts, as well as the associated usernames and active passwords.

All municipal social media platforms shall be created by a duly designated municipal official with the approval of, and under the direction of the Selectboard. It shall be published using an approved municipal social networking platform and tools.

Section 8: Municipal Social Media Moderator.

The Selectboard shall designate a municipal social media moderator for each municipal social media account, to monitor, manage, and oversee all content on each social media platform to ensure adherence to this policy, including appropriate use, and messaging that is consistent with the interests and goals of the municipality.

Any content edited or removed by the municipal social media moderator must be retained in accordance with the relevant public records retention schedule. The edit or removal shall be accompanied by a description of the reason such content was deemed unsuitable for posting along with the time, date, and identity of the poster, when available.

The Selectboard, Town Manager or municipal social media moderator or his/her authorized representative or designee retains the sole authority to remove content from the municipality's social media outlets.

Designated department heads and/or other authorized municipal officials are responsible for the content and upkeep of any municipal social media they create.

Wherever possible, content the municipality posts to the municipality's social media will also be available on the municipality's official website. Municipal social media should complement rather than replace the municipality's existing website resources. Content posted on the municipality's social media should contain links directing users to the municipal's official website for additional information, forms, documents, or online services necessary to conduct business with the municipality.

All municipal social media platforms shall clearly indicate they are maintained by the Town of Bethel, and the municipal official maintaining it. They shall prominently display necessary contact information of that municipal official. All municipal social media platforms shall include the prominent placement of the official municipal seal, if available, along with the following notification:

This is the official [insert Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.] platform for the Town of Bethel, Vermont [and will list any specific committee name here as well]. If you are looking for more information about the municipality, please visit the official municipal website at www.townofbethelvt.com. The purpose of this social media platform is to provide general public information only. If you require a response from the municipality or wish to request a municipal service, please visit www.townofbethelvt.com or contact the municipality at 802-234-9340 or at betheltownoffice@comcast.net.

Section 9: Copyright Infringement Notification.

The municipality complies with the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA). Federal law makes it illegal to download, upload, or distribute in any fashion copyrighted material in any form without permission or a license to do so from the copyright holder.

The municipality respects the intellectual property of others and requires users of municipal social media to do the same. In accordance with the DMCA and other applicable law, the municipality may remove content on municipal social media that is copyrighted and may deny access to the municipal social media users who are deemed to be copyright infringers pursuant to this policy.

The following notification shall be made accessible on all municipal social media platforms and on the municipality's official website:

If you believe that any material on the Town of Bethel's official website or municipal social media platforms infringes on any copyright which you own or control, or that any link on municipal social media directs users to another website that contains material that infringes on any copyright that you own or control, you may file a notification of such infringement with the Town of Bethel. Notifications of claimed copyright infringement must be sent to the Town of Bethel's, Vermont's designated agent, for notice of claims of copyright infringement. The municipality's designated agent may be reached as follows:

Designated Agents: Therese Kirby & Kelly Hill
Physical Address: 134 South Main Street Bethel, VT 05032
Telephone Number: 802-234-9340
Email Address: betheltownoffice@comcast.net

Section 10: Public Records Law – Compliance.

Municipal social media platforms and their related content are subject to Vermont's Access to Public Records Law. Any records produced or acquired in the course of municipal business, including material posted to municipal social media, may be a public record. Therefore, there should be no expectation of privacy regarding the information posted on municipal social media. Public records, regardless of format, are available for inspection and copying during customary business hours unless there is a specific statute exempting the record from public disclosure in whole or in part. Those records exempt from public inspection and copying are set out at 1 V.S.A. § 317(c).

The official municipal website and municipal social media accounts shall clearly indicate that any content posted or submitted for posting in whatever format is subject to public disclosure. Content related to municipal business shall be maintained in an accessible format so it can be produced in response to a public records request. Users shall be notified that public disclosure requests must be directed to the proper custodian of public records. The contact information for the Town of Bethel shall be posted on each municipal social media platform so a user knows who to contact in the event they have a public records request.

Section 11: Public Records Law – Retention.

Municipal officials must comply with Vermont's Public Records Law when using municipal social media. Relevant records retention schedules apply to content on the official municipal website as well as to municipal social media. Content posted or submitted for posting shall be retained pursuant to Vermont's Public Records Law in its standard format and in accordance with applicable disposition orders and retention schedules as established by the Vermont State Archivist and be available for copying and inspection during customary business hours.

Any content edited or removed by the municipal social media moderator must be retained in accordance with the relevant public records retention schedule.

Section 12: Open Meeting Law – Compliance.

Municipal officials must comply with Vermont’s Open Meeting Law when using municipal social media. All posts by members of the municipality’s public bodies that relate to municipal business are subject to the Open Meeting Law. Members (elected or appointed) of any municipal public body should refrain from using municipal social media to discuss the business of the public body or to take official action in violation of the Open Meeting Law. A member of a public body who “likes,” “shares,” “tweets,” or otherwise engages in another member’s content on municipal social media may be communicating municipal business and the Open Meeting Law may apply. Furthermore, members of public bodies should refrain from posting content on or responding to inquiries related to quasi-judicial matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of their respective public bodies.

Members of municipal public bodies may utilize municipal social media for gathering public input (i.e.: distributing a survey) and informing the public to the role with which the public body has been charged by statute or the Selectboard, provided the use is authorized in accordance with Vermont law and conforms to this policy.

Information posted by the municipality on its social media will supplement, not replace, required notices and standard methods of providing warnings, postings, and notifications required to be made with regard to public meetings and hearings under Vermont law.

Section 13 – Enforcement against Municipal Officials.

Employees found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment in compliance with the municipality’s personnel policy, employment contract, or collective bargaining agreement, as appropriate.

Appointees and volunteers found in violation of this policy may be subject to removal from their respected public posts.

Elected officials found in violation of this policy may be subject to private or public admonishment and/or may be asked to resign their office.

The municipality may seek all appropriate legal remedies including damages or a court-ordered injunction to enforce compliance with this policy.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

SIGNATURES of Town of Bethel Selectboard:

FYI

2021 Better Connections Grant Letter of Intent

The Better Connections Grant program application process is a two-step procedure. Interested parties submit the Letter of Intent Form electronically by 4PM on January 15, 2021 under the signature of the Town Manager or Selectboard. Letters of intent are evaluated by the Program staff by January 22, 2021. Eligible applicants will then be invited to complete a full application package, due February 19, 2021. Program staff and the Selection Committee will then review the applications based on the BC Program project selection criteria. More information on the program, eligibility requirements, and program contacts can be found on the Program website: vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections

Primary Applicant Municipality: Town of Bethel	
Project Title: Bethel for All: Village Accessibility Plan	
Total Better Connection Funds Requested: \$67,000	
Total Project Local Match: \$7,500	
Total Clean Water Funds Requested (if applicable): \$30,000	
If applicable, please list other engaged partners such as the regional planning commission, local planning commission, conservation commission, other community based organizations, neighborhood associations, local businesses, elected officials, local health department/hospital, local transit providers, etc.	Contributing Match (if applicable)
Town Committees: Energy, Planning, Conservation, Diversity & Equity, Recreation	
Organizations: TRORC, AARP Vermont, Bethel Revitalization Initiative	
Businesses: Babes Bar, Arnold Block, Community Workshop (others expected)	
We are also working to engage others (not confirmed): White River Valley School, Tri-Valley Transit	
Gifford Medical Center, Area Agencies on Aging, White River Partnership, Special Needs Support Center of the UV	
Project Management Approach: MUNICIPAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC) <input type="checkbox"/> AOT <input type="checkbox"/>	
Project Manager Name & Title: Nicole Cyr, Bethel Energy Committee Chair (overall project management)	
Mailing Address: 248 VT RT 14 So. Royalton, VT 05068	
Telephone: 802-763-2818	Email: ncyr@vtc.edu
Municipal Contact Name & Title (if not Project Manager): Therese Kirby, Town Manager (finance/contract management)	
Mailing Address: 134 South Main Street, Bethel, VT 05032	
Telephone: 802-234-9340	Email: betheltownfinance@comcast.net
VTrans District: District 4 (White River Junction)	
Regional Planning Commission: Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission	
Accounting System (CHECK ONE): AUTOMATED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANUAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMBINATION <input type="checkbox"/>	
DUNS#: 042450890	FISCAL YEAR END MONTH: June

Project Description. In no more than 300 words, describe the project purpose and approach, project deliverables, and the expected short and long-term outcomes.

Accessibility is a great challenge for Vermont's aging communities – and a great opportunity. Making Bethel village universally accessible to diverse people of all ages and abilities will strengthen our economy, health, environment, and community. Bethel for All will be Vermont's first comprehensive village accessibility plan: a practical roadmap for Bethel, a resource for local businesses and leaders, and a model for rural communities.

Bethel has a growing number of village assets: businesses, facilities, arts, recreation, river, parks and trails. But they are often disconnected (physically and conceptually), inaccessible to those with mobility challenges or other special needs, and underutilized. To create a thriving village and economy, Bethel must improve physical accessibility, connections and appeal of sites and amenities; identify gaps and missing resources; and ensure people feel welcome.

We'll combine community-led engagement and experimentation with technical expertise to gather data, explore options and design solutions. Deliverables will include:

- Accessibility audits, alternatives, cost estimates and funding sources for improving physical access and appeal of Bethel's core business district (businesses, public spaces and streets)
- Concept, alternatives and cost estimates for creating a connected, accessible "emerald necklace"-style network of parks, multi-modal transportation routes and amenities in the village center
- Existing conditions review, market analysis, interviews and surveys to identify economic opportunities, unmet needs and options for underutilized spaces
- Site and design alternatives and cost/benefit analysis for multi-benefit green infrastructure projects (runoff and flood hazard reduction, public space, beautification)

This project will quickly provide valuable data, boost awareness and set many groups up to create business and public space improvements, placemaking and revitalization projects, and policy/maintenance changes. Long-term, it will help prioritize and integrate accessibility into capital planning and major projects. Together, we'll create a connected, accessible and appealing village for older adults, youth, and everyone in between.

Project Location. In no more than 300 words, describe the project location. Include key features (i.e. project area is within the designated Village; project area is along State Highway anchored by two downtowns; etc.). To the best of your knowledge, please detail what portions of the project area are state, municipal, and privately owned.

This project focuses on Bethel Village – a designated village center and the heart of the Bethel community, situated at the intersection of major transportation routes, an active rail line and two branches of the White River. The project will focus primarily on Bethel's core Main Street business district, with a secondary focus on the rest of the designated village center.

The core business district is a unique 1-block stretch of Main Street with a mix of intact historic buildings and infill, active businesses and vacant or underutilized spaces. Most properties are privately owned; critical municipal assets include the historic Town Hall, parking lot, and several small, undeveloped parcels. Main Street through downtown is a town-maintained section of VT Route 12. The White River is adjacent, but mostly inaccessible.

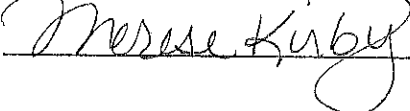
Bethel's designated village center includes the remaining mixed-use downtown area, residential areas (including affordable housing and a mobile home park), and light industrial employers. Most parcels in the village center are private, but the project area includes critical anchor institutions and public/municipal properties including the Bethel Public Library, Town Office, White River Valley School, Fire Station, Recreation Center, Bandshell, churches, and a Tri-Valley Transit stop. A number of important, publicly-owned green spaces, recreation areas, growing trail systems and conservation areas are interspersed, including Bethel's sports fields, Peavine Park, the Brantley Town Forest, a FEMA buyout property and a newly-acquired floodplain parcel. Rt. 12 remains town-maintained throughout the designated village center and most other roads are class 2 and 3 town highways. The southern end of the site includes the junction of VT Rt. 12 and the Class 1 Rt. 107. A significant portion of the designated village center is located in flood hazard, river corridor and/or wellhead protection overlay districts.

Do any applying municipalities have an open Municipal Planning Grant (ACCD) or Bike/Ped Grant (AOT)?

YES NO If Yes, please describe project, funds awarded, year awarded, year anticipated to complete:

Does the primary municipal applicant have an approved Town Plan: YES NO

Municipal Manager or Selectboard Name: Therese Kirby, Town Manager

Municipal Manager or Selectboard Signature*: 

**Electronic signatures accepted*

FVI

WARNING
TOWN OF BETHEL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Bethel are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at the **WHITE RIVER UNIFIED MIDDLE SCHOOL, BETHEL CAMPUS GYMNASIUM**, in said Bethel on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 for voting by Australian ballot between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m for the election of officers and voting on those articles so noted.

1. To elect by ballot, a Town Moderator for the term of one year.
2. To elect by ballot, a Town Clerk for the term of one year.
3. To elect by ballot, a Town Treasurer for the term of one year.
4. To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of three years to succeed Maurice Brigham, whose term expires.
5. To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of two years to succeed Christopher Jarvis, whose term expires.
6. To elect by ballot, a Lister for a term of three years.
7. To elect by ballot, a Lister for a term of two years to succeed Louise Ferris-Burt, whose term expires in 2022.
8. To elect by ballot, one or more Grand Juror.
9. To elect a Trustee of Public Funds under section 24 V.S.A. for a term of three years to succeed Penny Griffin, whose term expires.
10. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$2,383,248 of which \$1,943,543 shall be raised by taxes and \$439,705 non-tax revenues?
11. Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$27,250 to social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? (See the Town Report for a detailed description of each agency.)
12. Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$123,830 to the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc., for continued service to Bethel residents?
13. Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) equal installments, with the due dates being August 16, 2021, November 15, 2021, February 15, 2022, and May 16, 2022, by delivery to the town office postmarked on or before that date?
14. Shall the voters authorize a grace period of 3 days after the established time for payment during which the collector of delinquent taxes shall not charge a penalty pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674 (3) (b)?

TOWN OF BETHEL
REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
NOTICE and AGENDA

The Town of Bethel Selectboard will hold two public informational hearings by electronic means on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6 pm and again on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6 pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning.

Information on how to access the remote hearing for February 15, 2021 at 6 pm:

- By telephone: Dial **1-646-558-8656**. When prompted enter the meeting ID: **823 0188 5640** and Passcode: **506130**.
- By computer: Join meeting by clicking here or typing this link in your browser <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82301885640?pwd=dDh1VFVlNFhCYWRPNmdMNUxXanViQT09> or visiting the Town of Bethel's website.
- By smartphone, tablet, or other device: Download and open the Zoom app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID: **823 0188 5640** and Passcode: **506130**.
- For the link, meeting id and passcode for the Monday, February 22nd Selectboard Meeting where this information will be discussed again, please call the office at 234-9340 or check the Town of Bethel website.

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" to understand how these electronic hearings will be managed. If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) to Town Manager Therese Kirby at betheltownfinance@comcast.net.

To ensure smooth access, we recommend you test software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, please call # 802-234-9340 or email betheltownfinance@comcast.net.**

AGENDA

- 6 pm: Call to Order
- 6:01 pm Additions or deletions to the agenda
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article I: To elect by ballot, a Town Moderator for the term of one year.**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article II: To elect by ballot, a Town Clerk for the term of one year.**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article III: To elect by ballot, a Town Treasurer for the term of one year**
 - Public comment

- Review and discuss **Article IV: To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of three years to succeed Maurice Brigham, whose term expires.**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article V: To elect by ballot, a Selectboard Member for a term of two years to succeed Christopher Jarvis, whose term expires**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article VI: To elect by ballot, a Lister for a term of three years.**
 - Public Comment
- Review and discuss **Article VII: To elect by ballot, a Lister for a term of two years to succeed Louise Ferris-Burt, whose term expires in 2022.**
 - Public Comment
- Review and discuss **Article VIII: To elect by ballot, one or more Grand Juror**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article IX: To elect a Trustee of Public Funds under section 24 V.S.A. for a term of three years to succeed Penny Griffin, whose term expires.**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article X: Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$2,383,248 of which \$1,943,543 shall be raised by taxes and \$439,705 non-tax revenues?**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article XI: Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$27,250 to social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691? (See the Town Report for a detailed description of each agency.)**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article XII: Shall the voters appropriate up to the sum of \$123,830 to the White River Valley Ambulance, Inc., for continued service to Bethel residents?**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article XIII: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes in four (4) equal installments, with the due dates being August 16, 2021, November 15, 2021, February 15, 2022, and May 16, 2022, by delivery to the town office postmarked on or before that date?**
 - Public comment
- Review and discuss **Article XIV: Shall the voters authorize a grace period of 3 days after the established time for payment during which the collector of delinquent taxes shall not charge a penalty pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674 (3) (b)?**
 - Public comment
- Entertain motion to adjourn hearing.

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2021
via Zoom at 6 pm

Present: Chris Jarvis, Moe Brigham, Judi Brigham, Lindley Brainard, Dave Eddy, Paul Vallee, Therese Kirby, Lisa Campbell, Lenny Meeks, Thomas Meeks, Jesse Plotsky and Andrew Plotsky.

6 pm Call to order & approval of agenda. 6:02 pm

Kirby requested to add the Year End Report to the agenda under discussion of the Town Meeting Warning. Jarvis proposed removing the Executive Session for Casella from tonight's agenda. Other board members asked to leave it on the agenda, for informational purposes. Motion to approve agenda as amended, Lindley. Second, Paul. All in favor.

Appointments: None

Public Comment: None

Adoption of Certificate of Highway Mileage 2021 (requires signatures)

Motion to adopt certificate of Highway Mileage for 2021, Brigham. Second, Vallee. All in favor.

Resignation of Brad Morrill Cornelius as Lister

Motion to accept the resignation, Eddy. Second, Brainard. All in favor.

Discussed details of Lister terms, open seats and background needed to serve in a Lister position. Job descriptions/job responsibilities are available on the Secretary of State's website.

Lindley asked what the implications are if there is a write-in candidate on the Australian ballot that win, but they are not qualified. Therese noted there are classes people would need to take to learn how to do the job, but if a Bethel resident runs and gets elected (qualified or not), they get the position.

Appoint Eric Benson to Planning Commission

Motion to Appoint Eric Benson to Planning Commission for one year, Brigham. Second, Vallee. All in favor.

Town Meeting Warning for March 2, 2021, Remote Informational Hearing Notice/Agenda and Informational Handout for Remote Hearings

Therese tried to make the warning as similar to last year as possible. There is one article that asks the voters about making a three day grace period for residents to pay their taxes before being charged interest or penalty. Discussion regarding the length of time it can take for a check to make its way through the mail to the town. Any check postmarked by the due date, will not pay the penalty regardless of how many days it takes to get there. Currently, residents dropping off their taxes will pay a penalty if it is even one day late. This would help resolve that inequity.

Lenny Meeks asked if ballots would be mailed out. Therese said no, the choices are to request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk, or show up on Town Meeting day at the school and vote in person.

Eddy asked if budget amounts can be changed at the informational meetings. Kirby said no, discussions regarding budgets can happen during the informational meeting, but the items cannot be changed from what's already on the ballot.

The Town Meeting Informational Meeting to discuss the articles on the Warning will happen on Monday, February 15th at 6 pm via Zoom and again as part of a regular Selectboard meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Lenny Meeks asked if the budget is set before or after the Informational Meeting. Therese noted said it is set now. The informational meetings give the Selectboard the chance to present the numbers and how they got there. Eddy asked what happens if the budget vote fails. Kirby said that is the downside to Australian ballot, the Selectboard will not have a sense as to why people voted no, and therefore how to "fix" it. Kirby would go back to the budget and start over.

Town Report will go to the printer this Friday.

Therese reviewed her "Year in Review" with the board. Dave and Paul had some corrections and additions. Jarvis said anyone else with corrections or additions, needs to get it to Kirby tomorrow.

Eddy asked about the changes to the Fee Schedule at the Transfer Station. Kirby explained the Transfer Station Board makes those decisions, and the information was published in the paper, on the website, on Front Porch Forum and it had been mailed to people with charge accounts at the Transfer Station. Eddy wondered if inserting a copy of the fee schedule in the town report might be helpful. Thomas and Leonard Meek asked if the town could make the fee schedule more prominent on Town website. Kirby will get both of those things addressed on Tuesday.

Motion to Approve Town Meeting Warning, Brigham. Second, Brainard. All in favor.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report: included in packet.
2. Selectboard Minutes from 12/28/2020. Motion to approve the minutes as written, Brigham. Second, Vallee. All in favor.
3. Other Communications: Brainard mentioned there is a group in town thinking about having a "un-Town" meeting virtually, to provide the social and informational part of Town Meeting, and maybe the pie. She wanted to run it by the Board, because it is in no way intended to supplant the voting or informational meeting. The Board liked the idea.
4. Any Other Business Necessary to come before the Board: Vallee asked about the overtime and salary numbers under the Water Department. Kirby explained one employee gets eight hours of overtime every paycheck, but agreed the salary numbers seemed low. She will double check them tomorrow.

Executive Session entered at 7:10pm.

Two topics to be discussed, one regarding a contract negotiation with Casella and the other a legal matter of pending or probable civil litigation regarding property rights, where the Town Manager has confidential attorney advice to deliver to the Board. Any decisions will be made in open session.

Kirby discussed the State Statute and the reasoning behind two motions and how premature general public knowledge is looked at.

Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding a contract negotiation with Casella and a separate pending/probable legal matter regarding property rights, would clearly place the Town at a disadvantage, because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy on both issues, if it discusses the contract terms in public session, Vallee. Second, Brainard. All in favor.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss the contract negotiation with Casella, and to discuss pending/probable legal matters per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) 1) (a) (e) (f), Eddy. Second, Vallee. All in favor.

Motion to exit executive session at 7:44 pm, Brainard. Second, Brigham. All in favor.

No motions or other discussion happened in open session. Motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm, Brigham. Second, Brainard. All in favor.

BETHEL RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.
- B. The meeting was a Zoom meeting. On the call were Dietre Feeney, Lindsey Schell, Melissa Harwood, Caleb Harwood, Shane Kinsley, Ele Griffin, and David Phair.
- C. Land Water Conservation Fund Presentation: Dietre and Shane reported that the presentation went well. It also went quickly. They were asked about 4 to 5 questions. Questions were asked why the skateboard park is being built with concrete and why in three different phases. Shane answered that we also used 4 feet of stone and that concrete was a material that would keep the structure permanent. The different phases are to give the committee time to fundraise.
- D. Ice Skating Rink: Dietre and Lindsey talked about how hard shoveling the rink is when it has heavy snow. They discussed the best way to do it. Dietre mentioned that she did a section and then posted that she needed help to finish. The post was seen and people came to help shovel. Lindsey said that she would try using that method when she needs help. Dietre also reported that lots of people are using the rink. Kelly at the office has been getting lots of calls with questions. However, people using the rink are not always following the rules. Dietre asked for help monitoring the rink. Melissa and Caleb mentioned that they live close and can help monitor. Dietre will make an e-mail list with what is needed and an e-mail list for scheduling volunteers to monitor the rink. Tomorrow night, Thursday January 7th at 9 pm Dave Aldrighetti is coming to help Dietre resurface the rink. Dietre asked for help. Shane asked what kind of help is needed. Dietre explained in detail what needs to be done. Committee members agreed to help Thursday night. They will bring shovels. Dietre also mentioned that they needed to create walking paths to the rink. The talk of a small snow blower or Zamboni came next. The purchase of one should possibly be a goal for the future.
- E. Trails: There was no report from Thatcher. However, Dietre mentioned being on the trail lately. People are not taking care of their dogs poop. Ele mentioned that she was on the trail in November after the electric line was laid up the hill to the water tank. She mentioned that the trail was not cleared very well. Dietre mentioned that the school end of the trail is cleared, but not the recreation center end.
- F. The December meeting minutes were approved.
- G. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 3rd.

Minutes submitted respectfully,
Ele Griffin

Planning Commission and Development Review Board Meeting via Zoom on 1/7/2021

Present: Chair Rick Benson, Gene Krauss, Owen Daniel -McCarterl, Zoe & Kyle Cartwright, Brad Andrews, Penny Griffin, Wayne Townsend, Therese Kirby and Keith Bollman.

At 7pm Rick called the meeting to order.

Review of sections covered last meeting and the changes that were made.

Discussion of section 3.1 through 3.6. It was agreed that Rick and Therese will meet to draft language for Abandonment of Structures, Parking, Air B-n-B's and any other issues that need research, in advance of the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.



Two Rivers-Offauquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday January 14, 2021

Zoom Conference Call 9:30AM – 11:00AM

Meeting Summary

Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present
Barnard	Jerry Fredrickson	X	Hancock	Monica Collins	X	Royalton	Victoria Paquin	
Bethel	Bill Hall	X	Hartford	Hannah Tyler Matt Osborn	X	Sharon	Deb Jones	X
Bradford	Nancy Jones Phil Page	X	Hartland	Dave Ormiston	X	Stockbridge	-	
Braintree	Bob Moyer	X	Newbury	Bob Beaulieu		Strafford	Jon Mackinnon	
Bridgewater	Jeff Sailer		Norwich	Larry Wiggins Herb Durfee		Thetford	Tom Yennerell	
Brookfield			Pittsfield	George Deblon		Topsham	Jim Bulger	
Chelsea			Plymouth	-		Tunbridge	Michael Sacca	
Corinth	Joe Blodgett		Pomfret			Vershire	-	
Fairlee	Smith Reed	X	Randolph			West Fairlee	-	
Granville	-		Rochester	Doon Hinderyckx		Woodstock	Neil Leiter	
At-Large Members								
Advance Transit	Van Chesnut			VTrans		Katharine Otto		
Tri-Valley Transit	Jim Moulton	X		VTrans D4		Chris Bump/Mike Blakslee		
	Mike Reiderer	X		VTrans D7		Shauna Clifford		
Vital Communities	Bethany Fleishman			Vermont Local Roads		Todd Eaton		

Guests: Peter Gregory, TRORC; Jaqui DeMent, VTrans

- 1. Introductions** – Deb called meeting to order 9:31 am.
- Additions to Agenda and Public Comments - none
- 3. Approval of Nov. 12 Minutes** – Bill Hall moved to approve. Bob Moyer seconded. Nancy Jones abstained. Unanimous approval for the rest.
- 4. Demonstration Projects in VTrans Highway Right of Way** – Jaqui DeMent, VTrans
Jaqui presented on the new guidance from VTrans for municipalities to consider when preparing for demonstration projects in the state highway right of way. Many towns are trying community initiatives to revitalize their downtown and villages where the state highway runs through. Jaqui presented various pilot projects that have been implemented across the state and reviewed criteria towns should consider before demonstrating, including plenty of lead time for VTrans review on safety and permitting. There are also liability insurance requirements



the town or businesses must provide. Towns with Class 1 town highways have a bit more flexibility. Demonstration project applications are on a rolling basis.

For more information:

AOT Guidance for Demonstration Projects in State Highway ROW:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/permitting>

ACCD Better Places Placemaking Resources: The Better Places pilot program provides "placemaking" grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 that improve the vitality of state designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. Additional resources and funding sources are also listed here.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>

Bethel Better Block Case Study:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/CPR-CaseStudy-BetterBlock-Bethel.pdf>

There is also a **new AARP Placemaking initiative:**

Monthly Vermont Placemaking Meet-ups – Virtual Gatherings Geared to Inspire

Winter Is Here: Explore Light & Warmth Elements

January 29, 2020 from 12 PM – 1PM

Ongoing series on the last Friday of the Month

[Register Here](#)

5. **Tri-Valley Transit's Upper Valley Community Transportation Center** – Jim Moulton and Mike Reiderer, Tri-Valley Transit (dba Stagecoach)
Jim and Mike presented on a new bus facility in Bradford behind the VTrans Park and Ride lot. Jim walked through the existing conditions for the current bus facility which was inadequate for bus operations and for drivers. Jim reviewed the study process and how the site was selected along with key partners at the federal, state and local levels including the funding stream. The new \$3.4 million bus facility design is to be net-zero emissions including solar and rainwater collection to be used for bus washing. The energy savings will go towards focusing on service operations on the River Route and the Circulator. The site broke ground last month and anticipates to finish construction end of June. TVT plans to have an in-person grand opening if Covid guidelines allow.

See presentation posted on TRORC site:

<https://www.trorc.org/programs/transportation/tac/>



6. Other business

- Comment Period Open "Process for Non – Metropolitan Local Official Participation in the Statewide Transportation Planning Process" – due March 1, 2021
Rita reported VTrans required to solicit public input on their process for local official participation and accepting comments until March.
- District Class 2 paving and Structures grants – Spring
Rita confirmed with District staff that the Class 2 paving and Structures anticipate to resume "normal" grant solicitation schedule this spring.
- VTrans Better Roads FY21 deadline.
Rita reported our region submitted 22 project applications and they should be awarded for start date of July 1, 2021.
- Grants in Aid Year 4 – Rita and Pete are finishing up visiting towns on project scopes. We're waiting on final grant offers to be finalized – should be this month and will send out final offers and project scopes to towns.
- VTrans Small Scale Bike Ped Grants – due Feb. 19, 2021
Rita reviewed the grant requirements that just got released. VTrans looking for projects that include sidewalks and bike lanes that are ready to go to construction 2021. Projects that require right of way acquisition, permitting, utility, etc... is advised not appropriate. Towns required 50% local match.
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>

7. Meeting adjourned 10:45am

Next meeting on Thursday March 11, 2021

- Test run through of the new Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Process

2021 TRORC TAC Meeting Dates:

March 11 / May 13 / July 8 / September 6 / November 11

Bethel Energy Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/12/20 Time: 6:30pm Location: Online – Google Meet
Attendees: Nicole Cyr, Scott Putney, Casey Hess, Christopher Scheffler

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

12/08/20 meeting minutes and agenda approved-MSP Nicole/Casey/Robert/Chris.

The Committee reviewed its 2021 Vision, Mission, Goals. The Committee agreed that it will continue its Electric Vehicle Outreach and Infrastructure strategy and increase focus on electric vehicle charging infrastructure research. Specifically, the Committee is going to review existing research and add information where necessary. Also, the Committee agreed that the specific targets set out for the Mobile Home Energy Savings Program are achievable given the Committee's capacity, but the Committee aims to exceed these goals. The Mobile Home Energy Savings Program timeline is as follows: January 15-22, outreach material distributed for Commissions' feedback; January 25, online volunteer kickoff meeting; weekly check-ins following the kickoff meeting; the first mailing to residents will be on February 8; and April 16, Vital Communities aims to have final survey responses compiled.

Regarding the WindowDressers and Municipal Infrastructure, Solarization, and WRVMS strategies, the degree the Committee acts on these strategies depends largely on the effect of COVID19 in the future months. However, the Committee discussed a potential draft timeline for WindowDressers in the fall months, suggested multiple policy recommendations to effectuate the Town Plan's Energy Chapter, discussed the possibility of a Solar Saturday, and discussed ongoing efforts to maintain the relationship with WRVMS. These strategies will be continually revisited by the Committee in future meetings.

All members approved the January media communications and Leo's new member welcome letter. Following Leo's approval of the letter, Nicole will send the letter to the Selectboard. Bethel submitted the Better Connections grant, and the grant is awarded in March.

The tentative date for the Committee's next meeting is February 9, 2021 at 5:30pm in the Bethel Town Hall.

Adjourn at 7:42 p.m.