

Ward 6 NPA Draft Agenda
February 6, 2020
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 South Willard Street

6:00 - 6:30: Community dinner and music with Ana Ruesink and Andy Barker

6:30 - 6:35: Public comment

6:35 - 6:45: Ward 6 Poll Workers Needed. Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

6:45- 7:15: Burlington Telecom Service in Ward 6. Mike Loucy, General Manager, Burlington Telecom

7:15 – 7:35: Vermont Gas Service in Ward 6. Karen Kotecki, Community Engagement & Marketing Manager, Vermont Gas. Construction Personnel, Vermont Gas

7:35 - 7:50: Burlington Schools Update. Jeff Wick, School Board Commissioner

7:50 - 8:20: Housing Trust Fund Assessment. Miro Weinberger, Mayor of Burlington*

Brian Pine, Ward 3 City Councilor. Michael Monte, CFO and COO, Champlain Housing Trust. Karen Paul, Ward 6 City Councilor. Joan Shannon, South District City Councilor

*The mayor will also discuss the ballot item on changing the date for election submissions.

8:20 - 8:30: City Council Update. Karen Paul, Ward 6 City Councilor. Joan Shannon, South District City Councilor

All residents are encouraged to come for a community dinner at 6:00 PM!
All presentations on the agenda will include time for questions/discussion with community members attending.

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 6 are:

- Michelle Mraz, michelle.mraz@gmail.com
- Matt Grady, matt7631@gmail.com
- Gail Rafferty, gailraff8890@gmail.com
- Mary Riley, rileyburl@burlingtontelecom.net
- Joel Fitzgerald, joel.fitzgerald@mausd.org

For more information about Ward 6 NPA [Register for the Ward 6 NPA e-newsletter](http://eepurl.com/c9pQLL)
<http://eepurl.com/c9pQLL>

*Parking entrance off of Ledge Road on the east side of the Rotary. Overflow parking at foot of Willard St, or even Christ the King School, and walk up paved walkway from Willard directly to church.

Ward 6 NPA
600 Willard Street, Greek Orthodox Church
February 6th, 2020

Committee Members Present: Matt Grady, Michelle Mraz, Mary Riley, Joel Fitzgerald

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Public Comment

- City of BTV now using 'VT alerts', Mary Riley read a description.
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085617457#/signup>

Ward 6 Poll Workers Needed. Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

- Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk discusses that Ward 6 poll workers needed. Preparing for March 3rd election, seeking people to work at polls, relies on volunteers (\$10.96/hr, variety of shifts available, many different tasks). Has a signup sheet, approximately 20 people generally work in a typical election day.
- Rob Backus mentioned that the ward needs people to run for inspector of elections, two openings, write in campaign possible.

Burlington Telecom Service in Ward 6 and Vermont Gas Service. Mike Loucy, General Manager, Burlington Telecom

- Burlington Telecom Service in Ward 6, Possible Build-Out of Presently Unserved Streets
- Mike Loucy/GM, along with support from BTs construction manager, as well as engineering members from Burlington Electric
- Mike came from VELCO, been at BT 9 months
- Has diagrams from city DPW showing the routing on some of the streets (Deforest Heights, etc.)
- Looking for capital need with BED/DPW to have synergy, they don't have much scheduled in the areas of interest for approximately 2 years
- Significant utilities to work around, have done conceptual design however
- Wanting to gauge level of interest among residents, see how much of a commitment can be made
- BT is willing to collaborate with any party who is going to be working in specific areas
- Everyone is aware of the problems, genuinely want to get up there
- Need to determine how many installations, which streets, etc. Can go down 18 inches to see if there is possibility to drill/install at a not-too-deep level underground
- Need to have to give enough space around things like sewer/water lines, can't just follow alongside
- Have a conduit agreement with BED, some of these might be able to be shared with fiber
- If residents are willing to commit, and on which roads, that will help BT figure out feasibility

- Edgewood lane, 5 houses, no VT gas or BT...Mike says they would work with VT gas, VTGas needs to be down at least 3 feet, could have some cost/benefit sharing
- About 1.5mi of trunk fiber needed, then 1.4mi of connection to house
- Mike would like to take this input from residents, get street by street commitment
- Have three college students in marketing, they are doing door-to-door surveys to find out interest
- There are wireless technologies available as well, 'cbrs' license, but not the same speed levels as fiber...even 5G is quite early. But it is being examined as a solution. Trees/houses can stop it, etc.
- Net zero energy plan question...is it a good idea to build in more fossil fuel infrastructure? We don't really have the right people here for that discussion.
- Percentage that don't have access...121 houses, 343 chosen not to take it can serve all but 700 residences. 43% of eligible homes in BTV have taken service
- BT looks at DPW/VT Gas/BED build plans, communicates together to look for synergies.
- Also need to have distance away from other conduit (like Comcast, for example)
- 85 homes in the areas we've been talking about this evening.

Burlington Schools Update. Jeff Wick, School Board Commisioner

- Burlington Schools Update (Jeff Wick, vice chair of the board, jwick@bsdvt.org)
- Edmunds principal vacancy: Shelly Mattias retiring...public update from superintendent next week
- High school renovations update...\$70M authorization, first round of schematic design was \$91M.
- Soils around south side of A-building were softer than anticipated, was going to require installation of pilings, therefore taking out wrap-around of gym. Black River Design will be presenting BCOC with their second round design Feb20, will include cost savings options. Meeting @Edmunds middle school library at 5:30pm.
- Superintendent search...term finishes June30. Have appointed a committee, chaired by two commissioners. RFP resulted in hiring of national search firm, have a consultant assigned. BSD school website has info on the process. Have had community stakeholder forums, feedback is posted, more forums are planned (teachers, students, other employees). Screening committee being formed, 11 chosen from 30 applications. Closing date for applications was today, Feb 18th the screening committee will get started. On March 4th, school board will interview...March 5th, community forum for final candidates. Expect announcement by mid-March.
- Question on consultant compensation? All prospects go to a small number of firms, have to work with them.
- School budget: \$88.7M budget this year. Steady state (no new pgms) increases by 4% for next year. Health insurance premiums up 13%, ~1200 employees. Progressive raises and special ed costs will go up naturally. Plus debt service for high school improvements, is beginning, plus 10 year capital plan service. Found ~\$1M of cuts. Then proposed \$360K for increase. Net is ~3% increase.

- BUT – due to state property tax equalization, 7.3% property tax increase. However, if you are an income-based payer, should be more like 3%.
- Expected increase matched actual last year, ~4.7%.
- Change in student numbers also has an impact, BTV has been pretty steady population, but equalized pupil count is decreasing by 1.5% next year.
- Bill in legislature to modify formulas? City council urging that they take this up. BTV has lots of revenue from payment in lieu of taxes (hospital, university), which does not participate in school tax structure. Plus BTV has more new American students than many other communities, requires more resources. These are structural disadvantages for BTV.

Housing Trust Fund Assessment. Miro Weinberger, Mayor of Burlington*

Brian Pine, Ward 3 City Councilor. Michael Monte, CFO and COO, Champlain Housing Trust.

Karen Paul, Ward 6 City Councilor. Joan Shannon, South District City Councilor

***The mayor will also discuss the ballot item on changing the date for election submissions.**

- 1989, BTV approved \$0.01 tax assessment for housing, response to Regan/Bush administrations which cut federal funding for affordable housing
- 1800 housing units created or preserved since 1990.
- Provides seed capital to developers for affordable housing investigation. Yield has been shrinking over time, trust fund has not grown as a result. Value is being made up with general fund revenue. New ballot item is to have fund keep up with property assessment so that it will stay at the proper value over time.
- Michael...other communities looking at similar mechanisms, BTV is a leader in this area. Housing distributed about ~\$1M in the last year, brought in \$41M in new investment. Bright Street co-op is a good example. Cambrian Rise another example, ~\$300K in 3-4 years as seed money.
- Asking for a charter change? Yes, needs state legislature approval after ballot item.
- Per sq ft costs @Cambrian Rise? Total cost is 30% of income for some people, up to 80%...median is ~\$1000 including utilities 2-bedroom.
- Have two social workers now with Michael M, 18% of people in the apartments the Champlain Housing Trust is building were previously homeless
- Mayor Weinberger noted that in the case of the Farrington mobile home park, residents purchased the park with help from the housing trust fund assessment.

Public Safety Tax, Mayor Miro Weinberger and Fire Chief Steven Locke

- First increase in public safety tax since 2005, part of municipal tax
- For emergency services, fire department, ambulance, etc. Two ambulances presently, calls are increasing, capacity is getting stressed. Staffing is a big part of the cost increase needed, 9 firefighters addition. In 9 years, city operating taxes have risen slower than rate of inflation. 3.5% increase in municipal tax proposed (which is 30% of the total tax bill)
- City re-assessment, will be for FY 2022, revenue neutral for the city

- CityPlace <is> paying taxes, they've had a modest decrease since the building is down, but are still paying. Have paid ~\$0.5M in costs to the city as a result of their delays in getting started. Sales and gross receipts taxes are still strong.

Deadlines for ballot inclusion item, make it so that all ballots (state/federal/local) are all at the same time.

City Council Update. Karen Paul, Ward 6 City Councilor. Joan Shannon, South District City Councilor

- Joan Shannon / South District, Re-assessment done by 4/1/2021, bill in July 2021
- Average differential from market value is 72%. Most recent properties have been sold at 50%-80% of market value. Average mkt value is \$460K.
- Burlington Telecom – the City can decide on taking on carried interest or not. Re-investment would be \$2.4M, gets us 7.5% interest, one seat on board (7 person board). Is this a good use or not, good investment? Will our value increase over time? It is a private company, board discussions are private, most members are part of parent company. Joan is looking for community input on this decision.

Meeting Ends at 8:30 PM