

**R I C H M O N D S E L E C T B O A R D
R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
D e c e m b e r 7 , 2 0 1 5 M I N U T E S**

Members Present: David Sander; Ellen Kane; Bard Hill; Taylor Yeates; Lincoln Bressor
Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Stephanie Rogers; Keith Rogers; Mary Houle; Barbara Cimaglio, VT Department of Health; Sen. Ginny Lyons; Danial Goodyear, Richmond Family Medicine; Jack Linn; Gunther Hetzet; Sen. Tim Ashe; Dennis Doherty; Ian Bender; Erin Wagg; Connie Doherty, Finance Assistant; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

David Sander called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Sander asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mary Houle asked if there was any Greystone update, and Mr. Sander said it would be discussed under reports on construction . Ms. Houle said she had a problem with the storm water system there, and Mr. Sander said we could talk about it later on the agenda.

2. Items for Presentation with Those Present

Opiate Addiction: Prevention and Treatment Discussion

Mr. Sander explained that this discussion should be limited to thirty minutes if possible, and introduced Linda Donovan.

Linda Donovan identified herself as the owner of the Lucky Spot store, with her husband, James. She had organized the November 18th session also, and had spoken with Mr. Hill and the Manager about coming to this meeting.

Mr. Hill said he asked to have this on the agenda where we have an interested audience. He noted that two State Senators were in attendance, Ginny Lyons and Tim Ashe, but Senator Michael Sirotkin and Representative O'Brien could not attend. He said that Senator Sirotkin was preparing legislation to open up additional treatment options. So, what can the town do? He said that prevention activities and a Narcotics Anonymous meeting could be done but otherwise treatment centers and access were not in our capability. It was commonly known that treatment centers have a waiting list of 4-12 months, which was making it difficult for people to combat addiction and adjudicate crimes.

Linda Donovan said she had asked a doctor from Richmond Family Medicine to attend, to speak about possible suboxone treatment. Dr. Daniel Goodyear identified himself and said that no one at his practice was certified to prescribe or administer suboxone and felt that the primary care setting made it difficult to manage that program. Suboxone treatment took a lot of time, counseling and wasn't a quick process for treatment.

Linda Donovan asked if he had any recommendations, and Dr. Goodyear said it took a team effort for suboxone treatment, and it was outside of the capabilities of primary care.

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2 Barbara Cimaglio, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health, said her department provided
3 oversight for public treatment facilities as well as licensing of private facilities. She was willing to
4 provide information and answer questions, and the department's website had more information also.
5 She spoke about some statistics about the issue and the challenges the State has in providing care.
6 With her was Ryan Mitofsky who specialized in prevention, and provided an overview of what his
7 office can do.

8
9 Ms. Kane asked what the fastest growing population was for heroin abuse. Ms. Cimaglio said that the
10 group of 18-24 was most at-risk, but the problem was across all age groups.

11
12 Linda Donovan said that it was important to get youth busy and involved in activities.

13
14 Someone from NarAnon said that this was a 12-step program that needs to grow. She was from
15 Middlebury, but needed 3-4 people who would be committed to the program to start one in Richmond.
16 Anyone who wants to can participate, especially family and friends of addicts.

17
18 Sen. Ginny Lyons said she was on the Health and Welfare Committee, and mentioned Act 51 from the
19 legislature from the 1980s was one of the first efforts to combat addiction, and the problem itself
20 wasn't new. She said that education on prevention was needed in the schools.

21
22 Senator Tim Ashe said just increasing penalties for offenders wasn't a solution, particularly for those
23 transporting the drugs. He said the leaders of these organizations don't come to Vermont and if you
24 arrest one person carrying, they easily find someone else. These people are often from out of state and
25 don't know about penalties or don't care. It is the demand which creates the problem.

26
27 Connie Van Eaghen said she worked for UVM in supporting patients who need pain management.
28 This is often a source of addiction.

29
30 There was some additional discussion about the problem and the scope. It was recognized that the
31 Selectboard could do little as far as solving the problem, but developing and advocating policy
32 objectives was one area that the Selectboard could invest its efforts. The board thanked all who came
33 to speak.

34 35 Richmond Rescue: Budget and Paramedicine

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37 Mr. Yeates, also President of Richmond Rescue, introduced the topic and explained Richmond
38 Rescue's budget request (which had been included in the proposed budget for the Selectboard) and
39 how they managed their organization within their budget. He spoke of volunteers and how well the
40 squad is doing, and that they would start up their paramedicine program on January 1st. This was a big
41 change for Richmond Rescue, and puts them in the same care capability as Colchester, Essex, and
42 other area departments. Paramedics have several advantages over the advanced EMTs, including pain
43 management, acute care and other services while responding to calls.

44
45 Mr. Yeates also noted that Medicaid has cut reimbursements to ambulance transports by .5%, and the
46 typical 2% bonus was in jeopardy. These reimbursable costs are 60% of Richmond Rescue's revenue.
47 He also encouraged everyone to subscribe, as this would help cover costs.
48

1 There was discussion about the costs of new ambulances (\$165,000) and how long they might last
2 (between 6-8 years). Ms. Kane asked if every town had its own rescue squad and if other towns
3 support Richmond Rescue.

4
5 Mr. Yeates said that we are one of the few regional squads, covering Richmond, Huntington, Bolton
6 and part of Jericho. He said that all towns contribute municipal funds to Richmond Rescue. He said
7 Hinesburg still uses St. Michael's which seems inconvenient.

8
9 The Selectboard thanked Mr. Yeates for his informative presentation.

10 Williams Hill Water Issue

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12
13 The Manager explained that channeling of water on Williams Hill across the public road, particularly
14 across the Rogers and Linn properties, have generated erosion concerns. Since the heavy rains of
15 2013, it seems that the storm water issues have been increasing in frequency and volume, particularly
16 at the top of the hill.

17
18 In this area, the Rogers and Linns have a total of three drainages across their properties which
19 discharge water that is collected from uphill of Williams Hill road. These ditches are separate at the
20 road, but interconnect further downhill, but the amount of water from 2013 and 2015 has been
21 extraordinary, creating more and more erosion in the drainages, causing concern for all – but the
22 Rogers have been particularly vocal about it, since after the 2013 storm Peter Gosselin installed a 36”
23 culvert to discharge into their drainage, where before only a 20” culvert existed.

24
25 Pete Gosselin's explanation is that the larger culvert is needed to prevent overflow from this area,
26 flowing downhill into the next culvert, which only channels it into the Linn's property and the
27 drainage there is historic, and not unique to this property – other people have the same issue. There
28 are other facts involved, also, but I must say that the primary culprit in all this is the instances of 3
29 inches of rain in an hour that these freak storms have produced – both declared disasters (2013 &
30 2015) produced all of their damages in the same way – by overwhelming existing infrastructure and
31 damaging both public and private property. Unfortunately, in both cases, only public damages have
32 been covered by FEMA.

33
34 Still, the residents are concerned and have contacted the Selectboard recently about this. Both the
35 Rogers' and the Linns were present to talk about the issue.

36
37 Stephanie Rogers provided pictures and an overview of her concerns, especially the new culvert and
38 the recent erosion. Jack Linn said he has the same problem from the culvert at the road, and said that
39 the ditches converge at the end of his property and the erosion there causes the ditch to be more than
40 13 feet deep, where it never was that deep before. This all travels down to Collins Mountain Road.

41
42 Mr. Linn also said that in the 2013 storm many trees blew down at the top, and he had been harvesting
43 the logs but their roots had exposed slate beneath them – the ledge was very shallow. He said he had
44 tried to put the root balls back in place, but in many areas the slate was exposed and this was probably
45 adding to the problem.

46
47 Mr. Yeates said that this has been an issue that has come up repeatedly, and will continue to define
48 budget and zoning issues in the future. We couldn't do extra work on private property – do the
49 taxpayers want that? Mr. Bressor agreed, and said this was not a problem unique to Williams Hill.

1 There was additional discussion. The Selectboard did not anticipate a solution this evening, but would
2 consider what options it had for stormwater in this area.

3 4 Erosion Control Plan for 290 Cemetery Road

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6 Dennis Doherty was present with an updated driveway and erosion control plan for his proposed
7 subdivision on Cemetery Road. Mr. Doherty showed how the first part of his original driveway was
8 being widened to twenty four feet, with two two-foot shoulders, to comply with the rural road
9 standards. Mr. Doherty disagreed that the rural road standards applied here, stating that the policy
10 indicated that it was for homes only and not total lots. The Manager disagreed, but said that the
11 erosion control plan submitted tonight was in line with the policy. There was some additional back
12 and forth on this issue, but the Selectboard recalled that it had waived the 60-foot right of way
13 requirement only.

14
15 Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve the erosion control plan for the Doherty subdivision and was
16 seconded by Mr. Bressor. The motion carried 5-0.

17 18 **3. Other Business**

19 20 FY2017 Budget

21
22 The Manager explained the pay grid changes and how this would fit in with recent town policy. There
23 was significant discussion from the board, and the general pay plan. The two main issues were higher
24 starting salaries for new employees and how the remaining employees would fit into the new grid, at
25 salaries similarly higher. The board indicated that they weren't able to understand what the vision
26 was, and the Manager suggested a special budget meeting to just deal with personnel and salaries, and
27 the board agreed.

28
29 The Manager then moved to the police vehicle discussion. The information presented by Connie
30 Doherty showed how the annual pricing fluctuated from year to year under two scenarios – all five
31 vehicles under a 3-year lease, and under a partial-purchase partial-lease program. The least expensive
32 option continued to be the all-lease option, especially when considering repair costs. However, the
33 board asked several questions about warranties under each option and it was not clear what the
34 warranties were, or that the same warranties applied under each option. Connie Doherty was directed
35 to continue that research.

36 37 Green Lantern Group – Net Metered Solar Contract

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39 The Manager reported that the changes had been worked out and found acceptable to the Town
40 Attorney and Green Lantern Group, and a final contract was ready for approval. Mr. Yeates offered a
41 motion to approve the contract for a net-metered solar agreement with Green Lantern Group and was
42 seconded by Mr. Hill, and the motion carried 5-0.

43
44 At this time, the Selectboard requested some items be moved to the next agenda due to the lateness of
45 the hour. The CCRPC unified work program discussion, the Hazard Mitigation update and the
46 Delinquent Tax policy discussions were all deferred to December 21st.

47 48 Approval of Town Manager Contract

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1 Mr. Sander said that this was an agreement to renew the Town Manager's contract, to extend the
2 duration and modify the annual cost of living adjustment to match that of what's typically given to
3 other employees.

4
5 Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve the contract with the Town Manager, and was seconded by Mr.
6 Hill and the motion carried 5-0.

7
8 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

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10 The Manager noted the Works in Progress and Police Reports. The Manager reported that Greystone
11 Drive was awarded, and SD Ireland was preparing to mobilize. The weather so far was holding out.

12
13 Mary Houle said that flooding caused by a faulty stormwater abatement system on Greystone Drive
14 damaged her property, and it was not installed correctly despite being certified that it is functioning as
15 planned. She said she had a letter from the town's attorney, Mark Sperry, sent certified mail where
16 Mr. Sperry threatens to condemn part of her property for stormwater flow unless she provided an
17 easement for it (said easement was granted to Carl Parker, and later assumed by the Town). She was
18 denied a VLCT claim against the town's insurance for her damages.

19
20 Mr. Sander said he would find out more about this system and the claim.

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22 Approval of Warrants

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24 The warrants were approved.

25
26 Approval of Minutes

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28 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2015 and was seconded by Mr.
29 Bressor, and the motion carried 5-0.

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31 Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2015 and was seconded by Mr.
32 Bressor, and the motion carried 5-0.

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34 There was some discussion on the next agenda, related to items above which were rescheduled, and
35 the budget.

36
37 **4. Adjourn**

38 Motion by Mr. Bressor to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kane. So voted.