

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 1, 2016 MINUTES**

Members Present: Ellen Kane; Lincoln Bressor; Bard Hill; Steve May; David Sander

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Judy Rosovsky, Conservation Commission chair; Kristin Nelson; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Clare Rock, Town Planner; Gary Bressor; Jean Bressor; Mary Houle; Maureen Kangley; Harland Stockwell; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Ellen Kane called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Kane asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mary Houle spoke about the police unionization and said that she had it on moderate authority that board member Steve May had participated in the AFL/CIO and she wanted the Selectboard to exclude Mr. May from police communications, and he should be banned from the executive session dealing with this matter.

Harland Stockwell thanked Pete Gosselin for the work he did in the park to improve traffic flow.

Judy Rosovsky asked if the Conservation Commission appointment could be moved up since it looked like the traffic calming discussion was going to take some time, and the board agreed.

Ms. Kane also asked to add the amendment to the water loan RF3-335, as IIf on the agenda. Mr. Hill offered a motion to add this item and was seconded by Mr. Bressor, and the motion carried 5-0.

2. Items for Discussion with Those Present

Conservation Commission Appointment

Judy Rosovsky introduced Kristin Nelson, who had previously been interested in a vacancy on the Conservation Commission, but at that time had not been able to commit. Due to the vacancy created by the resignation of Andy Solomon, Ms. Nelson was now interested. Ms. Nelson introduced herself and spoke of her interest and background.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to appoint Kristin Nelson to the Conservation Commission, filling the unexpired term of Andy Solomon and was seconded by Mr. Bressor. The motion carried 5-0.

Traffic Calming Discussion

The Manager introduced the issue. From time to time the town receives requests to consider traffic calming around town – sometimes these requests are for speed humps and sometimes they are for radar speed signs or other items. In the past, due to costs, signs have not been installed except in the

1 area around the school where a 2009 Safe Routes to Schools grant was utilized and the State actually
2 completed the grant. In the village we have a number of crosswalks, particularly on Bridge Street,
3 East & West Main Street and on Jericho Road but none but at the “4 corners” have any signalization.
4 The speed limits on Jericho Road and Bridge Street are 25 mph and East & West Main are 30 mph.
5 Our police routinely patrol these areas and run radar at various locations.

6
7 Recently, there has been discussion on Front Porch Forum about need for additional traffic calming,
8 particularly on Bridge Street. Some of this discussion has been about speed humps, and the need for
9 additional police presence. The Manager asked both Highway Foreman Pete Gosselin and Chief of
10 Police Alan Buck to comment on these issues, as well as other traffic calming matters. Additionally,
11 Town Planner Clare Rock has some ideas on what we can do to call more attention to crosswalks.

12
13 Pete Gosselin was present to discuss traffic flow on the highway and Clare Rock would provide some
14 information on vibrant crosswalks from other locations as ideas for our town.

15
16 Highway Foreman Pete Gosselin spoke about speed bumps and their difficulties. He said the town
17 needs data to justify making the change and right now we have none. He said Bridge Street was a
18 heavily travelled Class 2 highway, with commercial and emergency vehicles. He suggested that speed
19 bumps were more often found in residential areas where traffic volume was lower. He said what
20 would be installed would be a speed table, which is larger, but all bumps are noisy and people will
21 complain about the noise and damaged vehicles. He recommended additional police work if there is a
22 problem on Bridge Street.

23
24 Mr. Hill said that as he understood the situation, it wasn't that people were doing 50 or 60 miles per
25 hour on Bridge Street but that the interplay with motor vehicles and pedestrians was a problem –
26 particularly at the crosswalk at the top of the hill.

27
28 Mr. Gosselin said that some towns have what's called a center delineator, but they often get damaged
29 and in certain places here such as at the top of the hill they get damaged more easily. He said that he
30 had spoken with the Manager about lighted signs, which are in use in nearby towns, including Bolton
31 and Burlington.

32
33 Mr. Bressor asked if there might be money from local motion for something like this, and Clare Rock
34 believed that there was.

35
36 Steve May asked about placing potted flowers in the crosswalks. Peter Gosselin said everything now
37 has to be “crash compliant” and not cause damage to vehicles, or else the town would be liable for that
38 damage.

39
40 Clare Rock then presented some ideas for “road murals” which can be found in crosswalks in many
41 areas. These not only call greater attention to the crosswalk, but allow for artistic expression in a very
42 public way. Ms. Rock also explained the streetscape plans for the Town Plan and how thinking about
43 this now will help plan what to do, perhaps for a project next Spring or Summer.

44
45 Ms. Kane said for now, the Selectboard wants at least one signal for the crosswalk at the top of the
46 hill. The vision for the murals needed additional final development. The Selectboard thanked
47 everyone for coming.

48
49 Winooski River Bank Erosion

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1 The Manager explained that following the Irene flooding in 2011 we began noticing increased erosion
2 along the Winooski River at Volunteers Green, upstream from the village well, and near the canoe
3 access on Cochran Road. Discussions about armoring the river bank at Volunteers Green and the well
4 site were had, and ultimately decided we would go for a site plan approval to implement these
5 improvements. During site plan approval the DRB, and others, discussed the project and noted that
6 the Volunteers Green project required removal of over 600 feet of vegetation at the river bank. Even
7 today people comment to me about “that time when they took down those trees in Volunteers Green.”
8 If that action by the Selectboard at that time generated so much negativity, the thought was that the
9 river bank work would cause a riot, so the DRB approved the well site work but not the Volunteers
10 Green work and the Manager was in agreement at the time.

11
12 Ms. Kane asked how successful these erosion projects were, generally. Clare Rock said that rivers
13 move, and channelizing rivers can push erosion problems further downstream by increasing velocity.
14 She suggested there might be engineered vegetative technologies available.

15
16 Mary Houle said she would like to see more vegetation than less.

17
18 Mr. Bressor said he wanted the well head project completed, since it was approved and not
19 controversial.

20
21 Gary Bressor showed some photographs, and explained how the erosion was happening in the areas
22 close to Bridge Street. Lincoln Bressor was concerned that the project could be less intrusive than
23 described and the Selectboard requested additional information for the next meeting.

24 25 26 **3. Other Business**

27 28 Public Works Spec Introduction

29
30 The Manager explained that the document had been finalized and would be ready for introduction, and
31 we should publish and set a public hearing date of September 6th at 7:30 pm.

32
33 Mr. Sander offered a motion to introduce the Public Work Spec and set a public hearing date of
34 September 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm. Mr. Bressor seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

35 36 Legal Services Award

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38 The Manager explained that following the RFP process and selection process by the board, Stitzel
39 Page & Fletcher was selected as the town’s attorney. They had provided an engagement letter which
40 also pointed to their earlier proposal. Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve and sign the
41 engagement letter with Stitzel Page & Fletcher for legal services and was seconded by Mr. Hill, and
42 the motion carried 5-0.

43
44 Ms. Houle asked what the costs were. The Manager said that principals charged \$170 per hour and
45 associates were \$150 per hour, and we had been paying the prior attorney \$160 per hour.

46 47 Engineering RFP and Facilities Manager discussion

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49 The Manager explained that in the past, the town has discussed having someone evaluate or manage
50 repairs and improvements in our town buildings. We also have not had an appointed town engineer

1 since Michael Weisel retired two years ago. These two positions often could do the same tasks. There
2 was discussion about facilities assessment. The Selectboard wanted to move forward with finding
3 someone to inspect and assess facilities that would lead to an in-house development of plans and
4 schedules for repairs and improvements. If possible, energy audits should be included or a plan to
5 conduct them.

6 7 Snipe Island Bridge update

8
9 The Manager explained that from the last meeting, the question was raised about whether or not the
10 Selectboard knew of the option to request a temporary bridge for this project, keeping traffic flowing
11 on Route 2 and not detoured. The Manager said that the meeting with VTrans in 2014 was not a
12 Selectboard meeting, so no minutes were kept. The presentation was provided by Jill Barrett, and it
13 did mention that a temporary bridge was examined but not preferred due to cost.

14
15 There was some discussion on this. It was noted that the State's contract included incentives to
16 complete the project sooner than 28 days. At the conclusion of the discussion the board declined to
17 request a temporary bridge for this project.

18
19 Mr. May mentioned that the flaggers on the East Main Street project are generating complaints. He
20 wanted to be sure that this was addressed, and that we address any potential issues with this bridge
21 closure as well.

22 23 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

24
25 The Manager noted the police report and reported that the NEPBA, representing Richmond's police
26 officers, had requested a meeting to begin negotiations.

27
28 Mary Houle said you don't know if a petition might be circulated to get rid of the Police Department.
29 Maureen Kangley said that Steve May shouldn't be included in the negotiations because of his past
30 involvement with unions.

31
32 The Manager reported on progress for East Main Street and that we had received the loan modification
33 that will be taken up shortly. This would allow us to include Pleasant Street in the project. Work was
34 expected on East Main Street through early October and additional traffic delays were possible.

35
36 The Manager also reported on the progress for the work in Volunteers Green and it had so far gone
37 well.

38 39 Amendment Number 1 to East Main Street Water Loan – RF3-335

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41 The Manager explained that the initial loan award for this work was for \$200,000 to cover the costs of
42 initial planning, and payable over five years. The amendment covered the full \$1.2 million authorized
43 by Richmond voters for the project, at a -3% interest rate – equating to almost \$420,000 in principal
44 forgiveness over five years.

45
46 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the amendment to loan RF3-335 for East Main Street water lines
47 for \$1,200,000 at -3% interest over thirty years, and was seconded by Mr. Bressor and the motion
48 carried 5-0.

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1 Approvals

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3 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. May,
4 and the motion carried 5-0.

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6 Purchase Orders

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8 Mr. May offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3224 to All States Asphalt for Calcium Chloride
9 in the amount not to exceed \$11,999.87 and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 5-0.

10
11 Mr. May offered a motion to approve Purchase order 3195 for a pickup truck from Cody Chevrolet in
12 the amount of \$50,480 and was seconded by Mr. Sander and the motion carried 5-0.

13
14 Approval of Warrants

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16 Warrants were approved and signed.

17
18 There was no executive session. The board agreed that Bard Hill would be the Selectboard
19 representative for contact and negotiations with the police union, along with the Town Manager and
20 legal counsel.

21
22 The Town Manager was directed to inquire about pre-buying propane for the Winter for facilities that
23 required it. Some items for the next agenda were discussed.

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25
26 **4. Adjourn**

27 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bressor. So voted.