

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
November 21, 2016 MINUTES**

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

Absent: Bard Hill

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Assistant; Mary Houle; Maureen Kangley; Harland Stockwell; Robin Rabideau; Cathleen Gent; Brad Washburn and Alan Huizenga of Green Mountain Engineering; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Ellen Kane called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

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

Mary Houle said that Pat Quinn had passed away, who she had known since 1959, and he would be missed. Ms. Houle then presented a public records request to Ms. Kane and the Town Manager regarding the recent Development Review Board hearing and decision on a notice of violation issued to Ms. Houle by former zoning administrator Niels Rinehart. She said there were numerous conflicts and procedural violations in this process and didn't like how this was handled.

Ms. Houle asked if Mr. May would be included in the executive session for the police contract. She was concerned that he would be included due to his prior involvement in unions. Ms. Kane said that he would fill his role in the negotiations in an appropriate way.

Maureen Kangley said that Mr. May had too much influence in this matter.

Ms. Kane acknowledged the passing of Pat Quinn, whom many in town knew, and offered condolences to his family.

2. Items for Discussion with Those Present

Buttermilk Public Hearing - Reschedule

Mr. Sander offered a motion to reopen the public hearing, and was seconded by Mr. May, and the motion carried 4-0.

It was explained that since Buttermilk had not yet been able to provide the traffic and storm water information, the public hearing would be carried again to December 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. May offered a motion to carry the public hearing for Buttermilk, LLC to December 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 4-0.

1 Recreation Committee Work Plan

2

3 Robin Rabideau was present to discuss the proposed work plan for the Recreation Committee.

4 Ms. Rabideau talked about the general lack of organized recreation provided by the town, since most
5 recreation was youth sports organized by private groups. She also spoke to difficulties in getting the
6 recreation committee to meet, and suggested that it was time for the town to provide seed money to get
7 a recreation director position, even if it were part time. She felt that the person could organize events
8 that could pay for department expenses. Ms. Rabideau also suggested some other ideas that could be
9 done now for recreation at Volunteers Green, such as bocci and horseshoe pits, and suggested hiring a
10 landscape architect to redesign Volunteers Green to accommodate more activity.

11 Mr. Bressor asked what a Recreation Director do, would it be new sports activities or take over
12 existing ones from the parents?

13 Mr. May said that the conversation is how little or how much should we reach out to the YMCA of
14 Greater Burlington, or a Boys and Girls Club, to find what actual costs would be for them to run
15 programs. Ms. Kane asked if there was an expectation that this position would make revenue for the
16 town to support their work?

17

18 Mary Houle asked if there was any discussion in the town plan about this. She didn't see this as a
19 destination for recreation, but the part time rec director was previously defeated. Could someone
20 volunteer first?

21 Mr. May said that the teen center was in transition as an open studio or a maker space, sharing with
22 Our Community Cares Camp. Creative RVT could present details on their first public project. There
23 was some other discussion and the Selectboard thanked Ms. Rabideau for her presentation, and this
24 would be discussed further under the budget topic.

25 East Main Streetcapes – Green Mountain Engineering

26

27 Brad Washburn and Alan Huizenga of Green Mountain Engineering were present to review the
28 preliminary design of the East Main Streetscape project, scheduled for next year. Mr. Washburn
29 talked about the ESPC report from 2006 that began outlining sidewalks and connectivity in the village.
30 He talked about their design, which included some on-street parking and green strip between the
31 sidewalk and road. The Manager asked if depressed driveways would be included, and Mr. Washburn
32 said where they could they would be included. Curbing was also included.

33 Mr. Washburn also spent some time on the storm water improvements. It seems that the previous
34 preliminary design did not correctly account for the drainage off of East Main into a 12" diameter pipe
35 down to Pleasant Street – the pipe size was incorrectly labeled. Replacement of this pipe could be
36 \$100,000. There was some discussion about storm water pollution mitigation with structures that
37 could capture solids, and how much could be treated.

38 Mary Houle mentioned a hulgelkultur type infiltration basin for the outfall, and asked if something
39 like this had been considered. Mr. Washburn said no, but the area along the railroad tracks operated in
40 a similar manner.

1 The Selectboard thanked Green Mountain Engineering and looked forward to final and bid.

2
3 **3. Other Business**

4
5 FY2018 Budget

6
7 The Manager explained that the budget had been modified from earlier request, but did not take into
8 account several outstanding requests from Water Resources (\$18,000 more for fire protection);
9 \$30,000 for a Recreation Director; or any additional funding for river shore stabilization for
10 Volunteers Green. Right now, the tax increase was projected at 2.96 cents, which was a 4.5%
11 increase. There was some discussion on the library's personnel move to increase a position to full
12 time, triggering a benefit cost.

13
14 There was also discussion about Volunteers Green, and the possibility of applying for Conservation
15 Reserve Funds to cover improvements. The Selectboard agreed that they would pursue these funds for
16 work related to stabilizing the river bank at Volunteers Green.

17
18 The Selectboard requested that the Library provide more information on their personnel changes. This
19 item would be discussed on the next agenda.

20
21 Draft Police Services Contract with Bolton

22
23 The Manager presented a draft contract to provide Bolton with part-time traffic enforcement from the
24 Richmond Police Department. The rate was \$45 per hour which the chief felt covered costs, and
25 Bolton would keep ticket revenue. The Manager said that this had been shared with Bolton, but they
26 expected implementation in mid-December. There was discussion about liability and the Selectboard
27 requested our attorney review prior to approval.

28
29 VCDP Sub-Grant Agreements with Buttermilk, LLC

30
31 The Manager explained that both the town's attorney and Buttermilk's attorney had been working on
32 the subgrant agreements between us and were about 90% complete. The Manager said that the issues
33 were minor, and requested permission to sign the agreements once our attorney was satisfied.

34
35 Mr. Sander offered a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the subgrant agreement with
36 Buttermilk, LLC for the remediation of asbestos at the former creamery, provided a positive
37 recommendation from the town's attorney was in place. Mr. Bressor seconded the motion, and the
38 motion carried 4-0.

39
40 Public Service Expansion Discussion

41
42 Mr. May explained his ideas for a quasi-public agency that could act on the town's behalf to manage
43 its assets with the goal of returning profits to the benefit of Richmond residents. He felt that
44 woodlands under the town's control could have management plans executed by this municipal
45 corporation, and even have a market for wood chips in Burlington. There were some comments from
46 the audience generally negative to this idea.

47
48 Ms. Kane said that the Selectboard should explore and learn, and Mr. May was trying to come up with
49 other ways to pay for things we have or need. She said that there shouldn't be personal attacks on
50 board members for exploring their ideas.

1
2 There was some additional discussion, and questions to be answered, but the board was willing to
3 continue exploration of the concept.
4

5 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

6
7 The Manager noted the Police Report and the budget status was reviewed. The Manager updated
8 everyone on construction projects including Pleasant Street and Huntington Road.
9

10 Approval of Minutes

11
12 Mr. Bressor offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, 2016 and was seconded by Mr.
13 Sander, and the motion carried 4-0.
14

15 Access Permits

16
17 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve access permits for a two-lot subdivision on Wes White Hill
18 and was seconded by Mr. Bressor. The motion carried 4-0.
19

20 Award of Cruiser bid

21
22 The Manager explained that the police cruiser auction was for \$3,407 to Chicago Motors. Mr. Sander
23 offered a motion to approve the sale of the police cruiser to Chicago Motors for \$3,407 and was
24 seconded by Mr. May, and the motion carried 4-0.
25

26 Approval of Warrants

27
28 Warrants were reviewed and approved.
29

30 Executive Session

31
32 Ms. Kane explained that there was a need to discuss contract negotiations regarding the police
33 bargaining unit in executive session.
34

35 Ms. Kane offered a motion to find that premature public knowledge about the Police Contract
36 Negotiations would cause the town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Mr. Bressor
37 seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.
38

39 At 9:00 PM Ms. Kane offered a motion to enter an executive session to discuss the Police Contract,
40 under section 1 VSA 313 (a)(3), and Mr. May seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.
41

42 At 9:20 PM Mr. Bressor offered a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular
43 session. Mr. Sander seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.
44

45 Items for the next agenda were reviewed.
46

47 **4. Adjourn**

48 Motion by Mr. Bressor to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Sander. So voted.