

Selectboard Minutes 3-18-19 DRAFT

Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Katie Mather, Christy Witters, Roger Brown, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Mary Houle, Earl Weston, Brad Worthem, Linda Parent, Steve Bower, Fran Thomas, Lauck Parke

Called to Order: 7:07pm

Bard Hill welcomed Katie Mather and thanked Steve Ackerman for his service to the selectboard.

Selectboard Orientation Plan: Bard gave Katie some tips about how to learn about being a selectman. He encouraged her to meet with department heads and Josh as well as attend trainings. Roger encouraged her to also review the warrant and invoices with Connie.

Reorganization: Bard Hill explain the tradition of changing seats every year. he explained that the intention was to avoid dynasties on the board. He asked for a motion to nominate a new chair. Bard Hill moved to nominate David sander as chair with the provision that his term would begin at midnight. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

Roger Brown moved to nominate Bard as vice-chair with the provision that his term would begin at midnight. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

David Sander stated that it was a privilege to serve on a committee in Richmond.

Bard Hill introduced the topic of board secretary. Josh explained that Jessica's presence was helpful. They asked Jessica if she would like to continue being board secretary. She said that she would like to continue. David Sander moved to make Jessica the board secretary. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved. Roger Brown said that it was helpful to have Jessica here for discussions.

Official Newspaper: There was brief discussion about why we use Burlington Free Press as one of the town's official newspapers. Bard Hill moved to continue using Burlington Free Press and the Times link as the town official newspapers. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor so moved.

Water and Sewer Commission: Christy Witters, Bard Hill, and David Sander were nominated. David Sander moved to approve all three nominations. Seconded by Katie Mather. All were in favor, so moved.

CCRPC Representative: Roger Brown was nominated as representative, and Katie Mather was nominated as alternate. Bard Hill moved to approve the nominations. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

Department Liaisons: Bard Hill explained that the board liaisons had been a holdover from when the town had a town administrator instead of a town manager. Fran Thomas that Liaisons had started when she was on the board. She still thinks that it is a good idea to have them. Rodger Brown said that he feels that he has spent time with most of the Departments and feels like assigning himself to one would be limiting. David Sander mentioned past instances where the selectboard had to step in in the absence of a town manager. The board decided to table it until the next meeting.

Town Meeting: The board discussed possible date and time changes for town meeting, and everyone agreed that having the department has presents was a good idea. Roger said that he would like to explore availability for a night meeting. Mary Houlie indicated that a night meeting could present potential problems with darkness and inclement weather. Fran Thomas explained that nighttime meetings for the school with a much larger budget is still not well attended. Linda Parent explained that they did try to move it in the early 2000s but they did not have more attendance. Josh was encouraged to look into other towns' experiences.

Liquor licenses: Linda Parent presented liquor license applications for selectboard approval. It was noted that the Stone Corral application may be the improper paperwork. David sander moved to accept and approve all of the liquor licenses except for Stone Corral. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, So moved. Linda said she would return with Stone Corral paperwork at the next meeting.

EVSE Grant: Steve Bower explained that a new round of the grant would be due April 30th. The Richmond climate action committee would be reapplying. He is currently waiting for a new draft of the application. He briefly discussed the feedback on the first round grant application. It was noted that the main concerns are time enforcement and the fee structure.

Town Center Survey: Jessica reviewed the survey results that she had compiled. The board discussed the structure of a committee that would be charged with determining which renovations would be done and when. Fran Thomas read a letter from the Historical Society. Earl Weston gave a statement about the senior center. There was brief discussion about bias on a committee. There was consensus that specific charges needed to be given to said committee. It was also decided to include the library. Roger moved to form a committee to examine future uses and requirements for the Town Center including the library that would consist of two selectmen, four community members, the town manager, and a Planning representative. Roger moved to make Christy and Katie the board representatives. Seconded by Bard Hill. All were in favor, so moved. David said we need to start with town functions, police facility, and existing needs. Jessica also explained why the basement may no longer be a habitable space due to the floodplain regulations.

Parking: Current parking issues in the village were discussed. There was debate about whether it was a parking issue or a priority parking issue. Mary suggested resurrecting the

economic development committee. It was decided that Roger, Bard, and Jessica would discuss parking as a subcommittee.

Rip Rap: Josh explained that he had talked to the Conservation Commission and they recommended \$20,000 and would be submitting a letter of explanation after their next meeting.

Police chief update: Josh announced that they had hired Larry Muldoon as the next police chief with a start date of April 8th. Christy recognize Paco's efforts steering the ship to where we are now. Josh explained that he would make the formal announcement in the coming days.

West Main Extension: Bard Hill discussed the letter of intent for the utility extension grant that had been previously discussed at the Water Commission meeting. Roger moved to submit the letter with the modification recommended by the Water Commission. Seconded by Katie Mather. All were in favor. So moved.

Jolina Court: Jessica explained that the planning commission was discussing Buttermilk's request for more residential density. Discussion ensued about their first building, and inability to find commercial tenants. Traffic and parking was discussed, and Jessica explained that the planning commission was looking into both of those issues. Jessica wanted to know if the selectboard was interested in having public parking in the undevelopable floodplain areas.

Videotaping Planning Commission Meetings: The selectboard suggested that they approve taping the meetings for 10 meetings and monitor viewership. Lauck Parke said that he is on the planning commission but was speaking as a taxpayer. He thought that \$120 a month for 12 people to watch the video was a waste of money. Ruth Miller of MMCTV explained that their viewership is about 12-15 people online per video, but cannot track the views on tv. Lauck asked if this was based on fear that Jessica was not doing a sufficient job with the minutes. Christy Witters said that she thought it would be helpful and be more evidence that the planning commission was making effort to have public awareness about decisions. Katie said that it should help with transparency. Bard Hill explained that it is not required to tape meetings, but that minutes don't capture all of what happens in a meeting. He said this was not to be critical of the planning commission, but wants to make the option available for those interested in the zoning process. Lauck said that they would have multiple public hearings, and they can't just arbitrarily change the zoning. Christy Witters moved to create an expense line in the Planning and Zoning budget with no budgeted amount for Videotaping and Broadcasting which would be used to expense for the videotaping and broadcasting of planning commission meetings at a maximum of \$60 per meeting, for 10 meetings, and the entire length of the meeting. Bard Hill said that he was sorry to Lauck for the offense. Roger Brown said that he hasn't stopped hearing about the stretch code issue from last September and didn't believe that the public hearings were sufficient. Lauck clarified that he was only speaking for himself and not the commission as a whole, and that he wasn't offended by the taping but the lack of communication with the commission about it. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, so moved.

Local Motion Survey: Jessica explained that Allegra from Local Motion had approached her about traffic and bike/ped issues in Richmond. She had drafted a survey about a few different items such as reviving discussion about the village to park and ride path and rerouting village traffic via Johnnie Brook Road. These were just ideas and only meant to gain feedback from the public. Jessica explained that Allegra was also working with the Trails Committee and was waiting to review with them as well.

DRB Decision: Josh explained that the DRB had approved Buttermilk's application for 4 more residential units in building one, and that the conditions and formal decision were still being drafted.

East Main Project: Josh explained that he, Pete, Jessica, and Chris Dubin had met to discuss the East Main project possibly for Grant-In-Aid funding. It has been determined that the funding was better suited for Stage Road so Jessica proceeded with the ERP program grant application which was done in partnership with CCRPC.

Capital Plan: Josh explained that the department heads were working on updating the capital plan although it was late for this years financial discussions, but will be ready and updated for next year.

Warrants: Christy moved to approve purchase order 3706 for the Millet Street loan. Seconded by Katie Mather. All were in favor, David Sander was absent, so moved. Discussion ensued regarding the police cruiser purchase order for a lease. The interest rate was not known in time for the meeting, so was not included in the purchase order amount. Roger asked if we could pay for the vehicle outright. Roger moved to authorize the purchase order with interest not to exceed 2% and pursue paying for the cruiser with police department vacancy savings. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved. Purchase order 3622 was presented for a highway truck. Roger Brown moved to approve the purchase order with the option to use highway reserve or unassigned funds. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, David was absent, so moved.

Minutes: Roger moved to approve the March 4th and February 19th minutes. Both seconded by Katie. All were in favor, David was absent, so moved.

Executive Session:

Christy Witters moved to find that premature public knowledge about the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, David Sander was absent. So moved.

Christy Witters moved that they enter into executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the town manager Josh Arneson into the

executive session. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor, David Sander was absent. So moved.

The selectboard entered executive session at 10:22pm. Roger Brown moved to exit executive session at 10:43pm. Seconded by Katie Mather. All were in favor, so moved.

Roger Brown moved to adjourn. Seconded by Katie Mather All were in favor. Adjourned 10:44pm.