

Selectboard Minutes
5/17/2021

Members Present by Zoom: Christine Werneke, David Sander, Bard Hill, Cody Quattrocci,
Absent: June Heston

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Pete Gosselin, Highway; Kyle Kapitansky, Police Chief; the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15, also present: Jay Furr, Martha Nye, Jacob Royer, Amy Wardwell, Jed Rankin, Halle, Jamal C., Allen Knowles, Cody Quattrocci, Jon Kart, Logan Hegg, Lisa Miller, Lou Borie, Kathy Mulligan, Stefanie Hartsfield, Judy Rosofsky, Alise Certa, Jennifer Holiday, Hillary Holmes, Sarah Reeves (CSWD), Michele Morris, Brad Elliott

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Welcome by Christine who provided information on meeting procedures

Comments from the public: None

I. Additions or Deletions to the agenda: None

- Josh congratulated the Water and Sewer Department staff for receiving the “Green Mountain Water Environment Association Facility Excellence Award” that is given to one (1) facility out of about one hundred and fifty (150) facilities across the state.

- Josh reported that the Town Center building has opened for tax payments but appointments for land records are still necessary, masks are required.

- Jay Furr announced that the Racial Equity Committee was hosting a webinar on restorative justice at 7PM and a link would be put in the chat for anyone interested.

II. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a) Consideration of appointments to Town Committees

Planning Commission

Christine reported:

- that there were a number of seats and appointments to be made

Josh reported:

- that for the Planning Commission recommended Lisa Miller to the full four (4) year term that would start in June.

David moved to appoint Lisa Miller to a four (4) year term on the Planning Commission; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Conservation Commission

Josh reported:

- that there are four (4) seats open and there are two (2) alternate seats that can be filled

Discussion included:

- that the terms would be appointed and if changes were necessary, we would have to come back
- that all the candidates are new to the Conservation Commission

David moved to appoint the following people to the Richmond Conservation Commission: Caitlin Littlefield, to a four (4) year term as an alternate member, David Schmidt, to a four (4) year term, Kate Krieder, to fill a term expiring in 2024 and Steve Fugate, to fill a term expiring in 2022; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Trails Committee

Christine reported:

- that there are six (6) applicants for six (6) expiring terms

Discussion included:

- that some of the candidates were participating in the call
- that Kathy Mulligan said she was back in Richmond and was looking forward to the work

Bard moved to appoint the following people to the Trails Committee for three (3) year terms: Halle Harklau, Hannah Harrington, Jed Rankin, Jim Monahan, Kathryn Krieder, and Kathy Mulligan; David seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Andrew's Community Forest Committee

Josh reported:

- that there are three (3) terms and three (3) applicants that want to be reappointed but there are some guidelines that have to be followed that are complicated

Discussion included:

- that Bard asked if the recommendations were annual, Josh said they run with the seats so as they come open the commission makes a recommendation
- that Judy Rosofsky said a reason there was not a recommendation was because Caitlin needed to be recommended for the Conservation Committee, then she could be appointed to Andrew's Community Forest Committee. She said that if we follow what Josh recommended, we could get through this.
- that Josh would follow up to make certain that the commissions made the recommendations in the motion

Cody moved to appoint the following people to the Andrews Community Forest Committee: Jim Monahan to a three (3) year term, Caitlin Littlefield to a three (3) year term contingent upon receiving a recommendation from the Conservation Commission to serve as the Conservation Commission Representative, and Jesse Crary to a three (3) year term contingent upon receiving a recommendation by the Trails Committee to serve as the recommendation by the Trails Committee; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Town Center and Library Buildings Committee

Christine reported:

- that the seats are open ended

Discussion included:

- that Bard asked if there should have terms, Christine thought that would be wise and it would be addressed in the future

Cody moved to appoint Amy Wardwell to the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Recreation Committee

Christine reported:

- on expiring seats and who the candidates are
- that there would be two (2) alternate terms still open on the committee

Discussion included:

- that Bard noted there is a vacancy in Huntington, Josh said there may be a recommendation coming in the next few weeks

David moved to appoint Kathryn Kreider and Stefani Hartsfield to three (3) year terms on the Recreation Committee; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Officers Outside of Committees

Josh reported that these are not committee seats and could be done as one motion or done individually adding there are no contested seats. Josh advised that the Board could do the appointments as individual motions or as one motion to save time. Christine said she wanted to walk through each appointment out of respect for those that have volunteered for these positions. She reported:

- Assistant Town Clerk, Martha Laing, has served the Town Service Officer for the past several years and is willing to do so again,
- Andy Squires has served Animal Control Officer for quite some time and he is willing to continue,
- Josh Arneson is willing to continue as Emergency Management Director and is willing to continue,
- Jeff Forward has served as Energy Coordinator as well as serving on the Town Center and Library Committee and is willing to continue,
- Matt Leonetti has served as Tree Warden for several years and is willing to continue,
- Town Fence Viewer, Carol Furr has volunteered for a few years and is willing to continue,
- Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood, Jon Kart, has been doing this for a few years and still willing to continue,
- Weighers of Coal, maybe one of the most important positions in our town, has four (4) applicants, multiple people are allowed to fill this role with Jay Furr as the veteran of the group, Jeff Forward joined more recently, with Greg Tucker, and Noa Younse looking to join the group,

- Jack Linn has been the Lake Iroquois representative, has done a great job and is willing to continue,
- Richmond Rescue Board of Directors has Amy Wardwell volunteering,
- Chittenden Solid Waste representative Logan Hegg has served for several years and has agreed to continue in that role,
- Chittenden County Planning Commission has had Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman serving on the commission and he is willing to continue as well as Virginia Clark who will serve as the alternate.

Discussion included:

- Christine thanked everyone for their participation and support

David moved to appoint Martha Laing to a one (1) year term as the Town Service Officer. to appoint Andy Squires to a one (1) year term as Animal Control Officer, to appoint Josh Arneson to a one (1) year term as Emergency Management Director, to appoint Jeff Forward to a one (1) year term as Energy Coordinator, to appoint Matt Leonetti to a one (1) year term as Tree Warden, to appoint Carole Furr to a one (1) year term as Town Fence Viewer, to appoint Jon Kart to a one (1) year term as Inspector of Lumber, Shingles, and Wood, to appoint Greg Tucker, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, and Noa Younse to one (1) year terms as Weighers of Coal, to appoint Jack Linn to a two (2) year term as the Representative to the Lake Iroquois Recreation District, to appoint Amy Wardwell to a one (1) year term as the Richmond Representative on the Richmond Rescue Board of Directors, to appoint Logan Hegg to a two (2) year term as the Richmond Representative on the Chittenden Solid Waste District Board of Commissioners, to appoint Ravi Venkataraman to a two (2) year term as representative on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Planning Advisory Committee and to appoint Virginal Clark to a two (2) year term as the alternate representative on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Planning Advisory Committee; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

b) Consideration of approving purchase of utility vehicle for Highway Department

Pete reported:

- that there is a 2013 pick up truck that is ready to be replaced
- that there is a backlog of three to four (3-4) months if a new truck were ordered
- that this is a five (5) ton truck, not a pickup
- that this was scheduled to be paid out of this year's budget
- that this vehicle will serve the department well
- that the trade in was a great price and the truck is ready to buy now

Discussion included:

- that Bard asked what the life expectancy is of the proposed truck, Pete said the replacement is four (4) years to get a better trade in value and to stay within the warranties.

David moved to approve PO #4005 to Bokan Ford in the amount of \$33,736.20 to purchase a new utility vehicle for the Highway Department; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

c) Chittenden Solid Waste District FY22 budget presentation and consideration of approval (this item was passed over, then returned to, allowing the presenter time to appear)

Sarah Reeves, Executive Director of CSWD, reported:

- on the organization and its mission
- that the CSWD budget funding does not come directly from municipalities
- that compost sales and recyclable sales were great during covid and is anticipated them to sustain through the first three (3) quarters of this year
- that compost is being expanded in Richmond
- that the "rover" will be coming back on a modified schedule
- that the community clean up fund can be used for projects in the town related to solid waste, Richmond has \$5000 allocated, saying ideas would go to Logan Hegg and he would bring them to CSWD for approval

Discussion included:

- that Christine said the CSWD budget information is on the town's website
- that Bard said he had trouble finding the bond information, Christine said she had trouble also, Sarah Reeves said it is letter I-1 & I-2 in the packet
- that Christine asked about reserve funds, on page R1, saying there is a transfer of over 600,000 to stabilize rates, and that the amount of the reserve is huge. She asked how the amount is determined. Sarah said that it is something that has been in place for a long time to hedge against increasing fees to haulers, so the board is going to look at the reserves policy to get a better handle on the philosophy of the reserve.
- that Logan Hegg said there is some money for the Richmond drop off center, but it is a wild card based on the last item on this agenda and how it is determined that the town wants to handle their waste.

Cody moved to approve the FY22 Chittenden Solid Waste District budget; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Christine thanked Sarah for coming

d) Consideration of approving Access Permit Application for 336 Beaver Pond Hill Rd.

Christine reported:

- that this is a permit for widening the road to access a driveway

Discussion included

- that Pete said there is some work that needs to be done and that Keith has looked at this

Cody moved to approve Access Permit Application number 21-03 for Parcel ID BV-0336; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

e) Consideration of approving Access Permit Application for Parcel ID EH-180 on East Hill Rd.

Pete reported:

- that this is an agricultural access that will be upgraded to a regular access
- that Zoning has looked at this and it should work out fine adding he has signed off on his part of it

Bard moved to approve Access Permit Application number 21-07 for Parcel ID EH-180; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

f) Consideration of approval of submitting for 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

Josh reported:

- that this is two (2) grants, for sidewalks on Main Street, if VTRANS does not pay for sidewalks these could help pay for them saying Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner, put a \$1.2 million dollar budget together for sidewalks adding if both grants are received most of the \$1.2 million dollars would be covered.

Discussion included:

- that the sidewalks would go from the traffic lights toward Waterbury to the fire station and on the other side to the street to by Harrington's,
- that these are construction grants, not planning grants
- that these projects could occur in the 2022 construction season
- that Josh said we may be able to bid it with the state Route 2 construction or it could be bid by the town on its own

g) Consideration of approval of submitting for 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant (See notes above)

Bard moved to approve pursuing the 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant and 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant for the reconstruction of sidewalks along East Main Street within Richmond Village; David seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

h) Consideration of request to use \$670 in Conservation Reserve Funds for expenses related to the tree planning project at Volunteers' Green

Jon Kart reported:

- that the tree planting and other projects at Volunteer's Green is going very well
- that there is a middle school group coming to plant another fifty (50) trees this week
- that this money is for more stakes and tubes to protect the trees being planted

Discussion included:

- that the Conservation Committee has recommended the funds be spent
- that Bard asked about the fund balance, Josh said there was a typo in the notes he sent
- that Christine thanked Jon for having the kids join in

Bard moved to approve the use of \$670 from the Conservation Reserve Fund for expenses related to the tree planting project at Volunteers' Green; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

i) Consideration of request by Richmond Land Trust for a continuance of their request to use \$150,000 from the Conservation Reserve fund for the Gillett Pond Dam

Christine reported:

- that this is an extension of the request made to reserve the \$150,000 for Gillett Pond

Discussion included:

- that the conversation commission supports this

Jon Kart reported:

- that the dam needs to be replaced
- that fund raising has been challenging this past year
- that there may be federal money that could be used as a source of funding
- that the original four (4) year commitment be extended another three (3) years to July of 2024
- that the dam has been permitted and engineered already

David moved to approve the renewal of the Conservation Reserve Fund application for the Gillett Dam project, in the original amount of \$150,000, with a new sunset date of July 2024; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

j) Road closure request for Round Church Women's Run

Hillary Holmes reported:

- that this is the 41st Annual Women's Run
- that this year will be a 5k run only
- that parking will be in the lower Round Church parking lot

Discussion included:

- that the road closure would be Cochran Rd eastbound traffic only
- that Kyle said the road would be closed for only a short period of time so he did not see it as a problem
- that Kyle said that he consulted with VTRANS
- that Kathy asked that they provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the town as additionally insured
- that Bard asked that a form be reconstituted that was used in the past
- that Hillary Holmes said they would be sending out postcard to residents

Bard moved to approve the closure of Farr Rd. and Thompson Rd and the eastbound lane of Cochran Rd. on July 24 from 8:25 to 9:15am to facilitate the running of the "Round Church Women's Run" contingent on receiving the COI naming the town as additionally insured; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

k) Consideration of approval of Clean Water State Revolving Fund application for planning of the Gateway Sewer Expansion Project

Josh reported:

- that this is for the preliminary Route 2 expansion that would go out to the mobile home park
- that there is a 50% subsidy
- that because it is a loan the Selectboard has to approve it
- that the Water Sewer Commission voted to recommend that the Selectboard approve the application

Bard moved to approve the Clean Water State Revolving Fund application for planning of the Gateway Sewer Expansion Project; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

l) Consideration of amending the resolution regarding use of cloth face coverings within municipal parks

Christine reported

- that it is great that we are discussing this
- that at the time it was passed in 2019 it was overwhelming
- that this is a revision to bring us up to speed

Discussion included:

- that we will keep updating this as needed
- that Bard said that the resolution predated the Governor's guidelines and there would be continued changes, Christine agreed, so did Bard
- that Logan Hegg thought that this could be in conflict with little league and other sports leagues, that Cody thought that there should be a line about being fully vaccinated
- that Josh said unvaccinated people still had to wear masks and distance and keeping kids distanced is hard to manage and enforce.
- that Bard read from guidance that came out today adding that guidance is changing quickly.
- Christine asked if the Selectboard wanted to take another week to review new guidance and rerelease the information, Cody said he was not in any rush to make any changes. Bard said he is inclined to have it say look at the most current guidance and do that. David said he agreed with Bard.
- that Josh said that at the time the Resolutions were done it was felt that the state and governor were not moving fast enough, now the town is in agreement and maybe we should repeal the resolutions and just go with the guidelines. Bard said Josh said it more eloquently but that was what he was getting at.
- that the resolutions could be repealed and go with state guidance
- that Cody asked if stores could still require masks, Josh replied yes

David moved to adopt the amended resolution regarding use of cloth face coverings within municipal parks; Bard seconded. (Since no action was taken this did not pass)

Bard moved to rescind both cloth mask resolutions and encourage residents to follow the governor's orders; David seconded. Roll call vote: Cody, David, Bard, and Christine voted affirmatively.

m) Review of invitation to bid to operate a solid waste management / transfer facility on the town owned property currently leased by the Chittenden Solid Waste District

Christine asked the board if they wanted to continue with this agenda item since it will take a longer time.

- that Josh said Cathleen Gent provided great feedback on the RFP and thought he could provide an update, then come back for a bigger discussion.

Josh reported:

- that there were two main questions that came from the previous discussion, (1) if we change to another hauler, would we need to leave the district, the answer was no and (2) what items can be removed from the facility by CSWD if we do switch, the answer is all sheds, containers and fencing could be removed.
- that Josh wrote the RFP to include a reuse zone and asked responders to answer why they would have a reuse zone and why they would not

Discussion included:

- that Bard said the only reason to go forward with another vendor is because of the reuse zone, Christine said we would need to require it and provide information on how we would want it to be run
- that Logan Hegg said, he thought CSWD would bid, but not if it requires a reuse zone and indicated that was what the intent of the RFP, Christine agreed
- that Christine said that there are people who are upset by the loss of the reuse zone and they are looking to the Selectboard to do something and if we do the RFP and do not get anyone to bid, we could show that we have done what we could

III. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders*

Minutes:

David moved to approve the Minutes of 5/3/2021; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Cody, David, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Warrants:

Bard moved to approve the warrants and invoices as presented; David seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, David, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Josh will send the warrant out for signatures using DocuSign.

Purchase Orders:

David moved to approve PO 4116 to MMUUSD for the school education tax payment in an amount not to exceed \$1,631,816.80; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: David, Bard, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Christine moved to approve PO 4138 to Water Resources for Fire Protection fee, in an amount not to exceed \$49,641; David seconded. Roll call vote: David, Bard, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

David moved to approve PO 4141 to SD Ireland for the Dugway Road repair in an amount not to exceed \$356,345; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: David, Bard, Cody, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- that Christine asked if the work on Dugway was complete, Josh said no, the first invoice has been issued and there is a holdback that the wall is fully formed and the texture on the wall looks great.

IV. Discuss Items for Next Agenda

Library MOU

Transfer station RFP review

Art event in Sept.

How to deal with Water & Sewer infrastructure and Zoning & Planning

Excavation bill from condo stormwater leak

Trails committee

V. Executive Session if necessary- none

VI. Adjourn

Bard moved to adjourn; David seconded. Roll call vote: David, Cody, Bard and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 9:44 PM.

CHAT:

00:10:56 Jay Furr: You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
When: May 18, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Community Justice in Richmond

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9OBsCT7eSLORVkJh8HbiuQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

00:32:31 Judy Rosovsky, VT SPRO: Thank you Selectboard and Josh!!

00:37:27 Stefani Hartsfield (She/Her): Thank you everyone

01:33:37 Judy Rosovsky, VT SPRO: Thanks again, we appreciate your support!

01:34:24 Brad Elliott: Thanks so much for continuing your support of this important project.

01:49:07 Judy Rosovsky, VT SPRO: Good one!

02:18:59 Logan Hegg (he/him):

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%2016%20TO%20AMENDED%20AND%20RESTATED%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%20NO.%20001-20.pdf>

