

**Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of January 3, 2023**

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, June Heston

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Allen Knowles, Cara LaBounty, Celcia Danks, Chuck Gilroy, Connie Van Eeghen, Diane Mariano, Erin Farr, Ian Bender, John Cohn, John Rankin, Kevin McAleer, Lauck Parke, Lisa Kory, Lisa Miller, Martha Nye, Pennie Rand, Susan Wells, Warren Myers

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by:

Heston: I am in a hotel room in D.C. and saw the swearing in of our new Senator Welch today. I attempted to see Becca Balint sworn into the House, but they are still trying to figure out their Speaker.

Public Comment:

Sander: Senator Welch is only the second Democratic Senator elected from Vermont. I also wanted to mention that as I was driving tonight I almost hit a pedestrian by the crosswalk between Big Spruce and Hatchet. The people did not use the crosswalk lights. I was driving slowly but I still almost hit them because it was dark, rainy and the lighting is horrible. I am reminding pedestrians to please use the crosswalk lights for everyone's safety.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of approving bond vote for waterline replacement project

Arneson: This is a waterline replacement project for Tilden Ave., parts of Bridge St. and parts of Cochran Rd. The bonding authority rests with the Selectboard, while only the water and sewer customers would be repaying this bond. We will have documents that explain this as we get closer to the vote. This was discussed at the Water & Sewer meeting tonight. We had one edit on the Necessity Resolution in the 3rd paragraph to add "estimated" aggregate cost. We wanted to keep it consistent with the rest of the documentation. The Commission recommends that the Selectboard approve the water bond vote. This project would be funded by the Drinking Water Stater Revolving Fund at a 50% discount. This project would not be bid until at least next Fall or Winter.

Forward: How do we make it clear that we do not intend to pay more than half the amount.

Arneson: I will put together a Frequently Asked Questions document and we will also have a public information hearing before Town Meeting. I agree the resolutions are dense to read and not clear. We will put it in Front Porch Forum and other meetings. We will be more clear about it.

Hill: The Water & Sewer Commission has a different budget cycle so preparation for the next fiscal year is to look at reserve funds and their purposes.

Forward: The amount we bond for will be less any reserves we might spend.

Hill: That is a T.B.D.

Sander: It will not be before Town Meeting. The budget for Water & Sewer is shortly after Town Meeting. We put it before the users in May.

LaBounty: Is it clearly understood that this bond vote is being done by the Town of Richmond on behalf of Water & Sewer. The Town will not own these new lines. Be really clear on that. It is on behalf of Water & Sewer.

Heston: Because it is a bond vote it goes to all voters. The repayment is on the Water & Sewer users. I think we need to educate everyone on this vote so that they know where the money is coming from and who is going to be paying back this bond.

LaBounty: An easy explanation is that the bond vote means the Town is co-signing. The Town is responsible if Water & Sewer defaults.

Furr moved to adopt the Necessity Resolution and the Declaration of Official Intent for the waterline replacement project on Tilden Avenue, and portions of Cochran Road and Bridge Street. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of finalizing FY24 budget to be considered for approval by the voters at Town Meeting

Heston: We have been talking about this since October. It looked good to me. We have made a lot of changes and went from ~19% to 3.67% increase in taxes.

Furr: The expected raise in taxes is less than inflation. That was not easy to do.

Heston: We did a lot of sharpening of the pencils the last three months.

Forward: It is about half of inflation.

Furr: The Town staff, the Selectboard, and the Department Heads did a good job of prioritizing.

Hill moved to approve the FY24 budget as presented to be included for consideration of approval by the voters at Town Meeting. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Presentation from Parking Advisory Committee on Dugway Rd. parking suggestions

Heston: The Parking Advisory Committee has given us a lot of good information. They are looking for feedback on this plan.

McAleer: I am the Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee. I am here for a discussion or any questions about the recommendation for Dugway Rd. Over the last year, we had a lot of Committee discussions, feedback, a survey of residents on Dugway road and engaged stakeholders. We have some recommendations about how to improve the parking situation. This summer we were able to observe first-hand the challenges of that road. There is no easy solution. One of the benefits of our outreach was Chuck Gilroy, a Dugway Rd. resident to join our committee. We are recommending an ordinance change that prohibits parking on the uphill side (opposite of river) from mile marker ~0.5 to 1.8. This is the windiest part of the road. The problem is parked cars on either side of the road where motorists are deciding the traveled lane. By removing the option on the uphill side, where most residents are, we always maintain two lanes of traffic. That is the busiest, windiest section of the corridor. Diane Mariano was nice enough to put some pink ribbon on those locations so you drive to see that area. We walked this corridor many times and counted viable parking spots. We concluded that most of the safe off-street parking is on the downhill side of the road. We maintain the majority of off-road parking.

Gilroy: The first half of mile of Dugway Rd from Cochran Rd is flat and straight down to the river. As the road rises, it becomes windy, it is the best access to the river, it is most densely populated, and with the worst lines of sight. At around Aldrich's Tree Farm, the road flattens out on a straight run to Huntington Rd. Where Dugway Rd. starts the uphill and runs up to Aldrich's, we propose that on the right-hand side it will be a no-parking zone. We want to call it an emergency lane or something like that. At the worst this summer, we had 161 cars parked on Dugway Rd. Most of them were in that stretch in the middle. The Police ran out of tickets and handed out photocopies. In our survey, 81% of the residents said the number one concern was emergency vehicle access. This is a public safety issue. Three months out of the year the residents cannot rely that Police, Fire, and Rescue can get to their houses. By doing the emergency lane on the uphill side for 1.8 miles, both Pete and the Police agree that we are giving up 5 viable parking spaces. We are not gutting the parking. This is a small price to pay for a large safety return.

Furr: The tricky thing is enforcement but that doesn't mean you give up. People will leave the bare minimum of what a car can get through. What a car can get through and what a fire truck can get through is not the same thing.

Gilroy: We have support from Richmond Police, Rescue, Fire, Town Constable, Pete has approved this. Richmond Rescue is terrified to go to Dugway Rd. in the summer.

McAleer: We do not have the regulatory type of sign now. If we adopt the ordinance, then we work with Pete for a regulatory sign with details like you will be towed. We are thinking of the sign placement, frequency, and another message about no parking, you will be towed.

Hill: Dugway Rd. is essentially stuck on the side of a hillside by definition. That causes our problems with it being small in that steep terrain. I think it is a really good solution. How quickly can we move this to ordinance language? There is a process to an approval and signage of an ordinance. Summer 2023 will get here fast.

Arneson: It probably takes 2-months. I can catch up with Kevin and we can draft something for an ordinance at next meeting in January or the first in February.

Heston: We had some feedback about the homes on the downhill side and having some restrictions around the driveways. There is concern that people do not understand what traveled portion of the road means.

Hill: We can put these together in a proposed ordinance language. If we need to we can refine or tweak the language at that meeting.

Forward: You might consider help from VLCT in drafting an ordinance.

LaBounty: We have ordinances that have no parking enforcement issues. I am asking you to confirm with Police and VLCT that the created ordinance is enforceable. We can clean up our other ordinances for no-parking areas at the same time.

Rankin: The Committee has done a quantitative analysis to determine 41 spots on the downhill side. I think it would be beneficial to figure out the number of off traveled portion of the road spots rather than say do not park 30 feet from a driveway.

Gilroy: Presently our parking tickets are \$25 when I spend \$25 in Burlington to park for the day. That is not a great detriment. We should consider raising our parking fines. The State parking ordinance fine runs between \$47-\$259. We think it will make enforcement easier because that traveled portion of the road thing needs to be explained to me.

Sander: It is subjective. No parking is no parking.

Hill: Let's also tell people where we want them to park. I am thinking in cities where there are signs saying parking to the left and right of this arrow.

Heston: This is a great first step and we have a lot of work to do. We will look into all those details once we get to the ordinance. Thank you for all the work you have done.

Discussion of placement of radar speed feedback signs

Heston: The pole mounted radar speed feedback signs have arrived. We need to have some conversation on where they will be setup. We have talked of a number of locations including Rt. 2. I will ask Josh to review the process.

Arneson: We have four new pole mounted radar feedback signs. They are ready to be mounted. We currently have two Cochran Rd. signs. One is on the Jonesville end facing traffic as it comes into the 25-mph zone. We have one on the Round Church end facing traffic as it comes into the 25-mph zone in the Village area. We have one on Jericho Rd coming down towards the school from the north. Chief Herrick confirmed that the Jonesville and Jericho Rd signs are having the batteries tested or replaced. We are getting a new battery for the west end Cochran Rd sign. It is a challenge to get to the battery. We can place the four signs on any Town road as the Selectboard sees fit. In order to put signs on Rt. 2, the process follows a couple of steps. We have to gather speed data on where we want to put the signs. We can use the radar feedback cart which is also out for repair. We have to show that the 85th percentile speed is 3-mph over the posted speed limit. It needs to be at a speed transition like Rt. 2 coming into the Village and where the posted speed is 35-mph or less. If interested, then we obtain a permit with VTrans, collect data from speed cart, then follow the process with VTrans to review the data before putting up mounted signs. We need to follow all of these conditions, but it should not be a problem. We only need to do a speed study if it is on the State road. We can put two on Cochran Rd. as soon as we get them mounted.

Herrick: The two signs currently on Cochran Rd. do collect data. I have not opened up the box on the Jericho Rd. sign so I am not sure. The hurdle is these boxes are 12-feet in the air and I cannot get to them. As the new signs are being put up, I am asking for the display panel to be placed lower to the ground so I have easier access. I also want to look at swapping out the panels on the existing signs so it is easier to access. To obtain the data, there is a small module that plugs into the speed sign about the size of a deck of cards. You remove the module and connect it to a computer program to read the data which is just date, time, speed for each car that goes by up to ~10,000. There is an option to get the data automatically sent but that is the difference between \$200 and \$2,000.

Heston: We should put a plan in place on how often to collect and evaluate the data.

Furr: I would love to see that data on a regular basis. On Cochran Rd, we currently do not have a sign past the Round Church going east. The people from Huntington Rd. just go barreling through Cochran Rd. I think it would protect the people who live between the Round Church and the Cemetery. I think that is the number one place I would put one.

LaBounty: I think you would put up a sign on Huntington Rd. before the curve and that crosswalk after the business plaza.

Wells: I agree with Jay, it is coming off of Huntington Rd and something needs to be there.

Furr: The signs do flash the speed and they do blue flashing lights like Police cars.

Heston: The issue is we are trying to gather data. If we collect data before the corner then we do not know if they are going on Cochran Rd. Are we getting the accurate data of the speed on Cochran Rd.? People smarter than me can figure out where that should be placed.

LaBounty: I hope all the signs are not for Cochran Rd.

Furr: We do not have signs on Cochran Rd. collecting data coming from Huntington Rd.

Kory: We are collecting data and it is better to put the sign on Cochran Rd. a little bit in. Even cars turning onto Cochran Rd. from Bridge St. tend to think they can just let out because it is a straightaway and not in downtown. It should catch the people coming from Huntington Rd. and Bridge St.

Forward: The 25-mph stretch from Huntington Rd. begins by the manure pit and after that it is all residential. That is an additional place to put a sign. Also be careful, do you really want a sign in front of your house that flashes blue lights. I suggest we come up with a plan and a map and have a public meeting about it. We should notify the people on Cochran Rd. for specific feedback.

Knowles: I would advocate for starting the process for having a sign in the vicinity of the Fire Department so west bound traffic entering the Village where the speed limit drops to 30-mph. I think that would be a useful place for one.

Hill: If we go to the other end of Rt. 2 where you come into Town up the hill, that would be another place to slow people down with the active signs.

Furr: I would also like to see one after you go over the Jonesville Bridge going south before turning west. I would put a sign before the residential neighborhood almost after you come off the bridge so the lights are not flashing at anyone's house.

Heston: Although the signs are moveable, it takes some work to get them in place. In order to gather data then we need to identify a time-frame of 6-months to a year. There is going to be construction down by the Fire Department so that will slow things down significantly. We have a lot of great ideas but we need to have a plan so people can provide feedback on specific locations. Our goal is to collect data so we can decide how to change behavior.

Forward: At a future meeting, we should have a map with some proposed locations. The CCRPC might be helpful for the standards on these type of things.

Rand: This is a good idea and you will come up with a great plan. I have an idea for later. We also want to tell people what we want them to do. I like the idea of self-policing which means putting up signs as they enter into our Village area that would say something about being a pedestrian friendly community that encourages recreation. That will help provide awareness when drivers see others using the road.

LaBounty: You should check with the property owners before you put it on the map. Maybe reach out to Front Porch Forum to see if people are willing to volunteer their property. Is it required for Police to collect the data? Could someone else be able to download the data?

Herrick: These signs are not cameras as that is not lawful in Vermont. They only store date, time, and speed. I have no issue with someone else collecting data but you need to block a lane of the road and putting up a 12-foot ladder. That is why the Police are involved. Once these signs are mounted lower, I am happy to hand over the keys to the

box to collect the data. When Highway has time, we can make those changes to the current signs.

Heston: There is work to be done. We might get a small group together with Chief Herrick to help get a plan in place.

Discussion of requesting a No Parking zone on West Main St. near the intersection with Bridge St. and Jericho Rd.

Heston: There have been a couple of community members, including the doctors at Richmond Family Medicine, expressing concern about vehicles parked on the north side of West Main St. between the intersection with Bridge St. and the Holy Rosary Church. The concerns are people pulling out from the shared exit between the church and the doctor's office. A letter from Richmond Family Medicine is included in the packet. A couple of people have given us feedback on how dangerous it is there.

Arneson: In addition to the doctor's office, we have also heard from a few community members. There were also concerns about trucks turning off of Bridge St. and clearing parking spots. The process to get this changed is the Selectboard makes a specific request to VTrans. Any details about no parking so-many-feet from an intersection is helpful. VTrans likes to see public outreach for feedback from residents and businesses. We can also add a map for more detail. Then we send it to Ian Degutis a VTrans engineer who would review. He might come back to the Selectboard to come up with an idea he could support. It would then go to the Traffic Committee from VTrans. If they decided to enforce no-parking, then VTrans would put up the signs and we would have to change our ordinance to make it enforceable. The next meeting from VTrans is in May so we have a little bit of time to put together a recommendation.

Forward: We get a lot of comments about parking in the commercial block. That is parking currently available. We can ask how much that parking is currently available, used, needed, or wanted.

Hill: I walk through that area a lot and the challenging times are during heavy traffic. There are times where that whole corner is a cluster of activity of people going every way. The sightlines are challenging. A few people have talked to me about going from the corner past the Ski & Snowboard Express and past apartment building and maybe past the medical building. It is a handful of parking spots. It is in front of the apartment building and the medical building with about 3-4 spots in each location. I think it falls to us, the Chief, and Highway.

Heston: It is busy during certain times of the day with kids often crossing as well. I think we have to figure out how we do it. We cannot make a decision tonight.

LaBounty: You might consider parking time-periods and painted lines on the road. Since they are re-doing Rt. 2 anyhow, they can paint the parking and no-parking spaces. It is a pattern, so you are going to have to break the cycle of what people are used to and sign isn't going to do it. Through the years, the Selectboard has created their own parking problems in the Village. You did away with the number of sites required per on-site business parking. We created a need for public parking and not creating spaces to

meet that need. You should use engineers from VTrans, CCRPC, and other experts to solve the issue in the Village.

Sander: There was a conversation with VTrans that there shouldn't be parking in front of the apartment due to the space.

Rabin: I am one of the doctors at Richmond Family Medicine. We do have a one-way entrance on the east side of our building and the exit is through the shared parking lot with the Holy Rosary Church. The issue is our patients are leaving and cannot see on-coming traffic going west. People who park in front of our building are often going across the street. They are blocking sightlines and it is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Arneson: I thought there might need to be a study but we follow the process I outlined earlier with the VTrans Traffic Committee.

Hill: Accident data for this area is probably worth looking at coming in and out. It is due diligence looking at where are the actual accidents.

Discussion of police governance

Heston: At the last meeting we discussed possibly hiring an Interim Director of Police Services, or temporary Chief similar to when we had Paco Aumand.

Arneson: I have included the posting and job description.

Heston: We have a couple of options. We can continue with Ben as Interim. We can begin a hiring process for a Chief which might not be a permanent position depending on possible merger. We could hire an Interim Director of Police Services which could help with administrative duties and a potential strategic planning process. We have a possible conversation with Hinesburg. I feel like right now as a Town we are very limited in our Police services because we are not able to get people hired, Ben is burning the candle on both ends. Ben is trying to do day-to-day Police work with administrative work. This conversation is important to have if we really want to focus on the strategic planning. We need someone to lead the path. We are not making a decision on this. We need to take a step in one of these directions.

Hill: I think the 2nd and 3rd bullet in this document are the same bullet. I don't think there is a big difference. We might say we are looking for somebody, we prefer a Chief but we would consider an interim director.

Heston: We can look for a temporary Chief. We can entertain applicants who are qualified without a certification because then we can change the title.

Forward: I like Bard's suggestion. It is either-or depending on who applies. The ideal is to have a Chief who can do the strategic planning. The strategic planning comes after we figure out the position.

Heston: We have a question in the chat:

"If you are in talks with Hinesburg, would the Hinesburg Chief be able to help, it would

be a good trial to see if the merger would even work. If it is temporary and it doesn't work with them, then you could just hire a full time chief.”

I don't know what that help is as we have already talked about the municipal district. Hinesburg is doing their own strategic planning process that asks about a potential merger. We need to make some decisions now as we are not operating at full capacity and not giving the people of Richmond what they are paying for. Ben has been overburdened because we are short-staffed and on medical leave. We need to do something to help build this department back.

The chat asks:

“Would he be able to be a chief in Richmond too since it doesn't seem likely you would get someone that only wants a chief job for 6 months.”

That is a good question which came up with our conversations with Hinesburg and VLCT. That is not the best direction with two jobs, two bosses and two sets of responsibility. That's why we started the conversation on the Union Municipal District. Police organizations are saying regionalization is the future which would serve communities and officers well. No one has done that yet in Vermont so it would be a lot to take on. It is highly unlikely that in 6 months that someone would be done. We are looking at years-long process.

The chat asks:

“It would only be a temporary situation in the meantime, and it would be good to see if Richmond and Hinesburg worked as a municipality.”

Yes and we have been meeting with them but we are not there, it hasn't happened. We haven't explored contract services.

Hill: My opinion is that none of our work with Hinesburg is fast. There is nothing that will take place in 6-months. People in this county have been working on regional dispatch for over 30-years. Most of that is about governance, control, power, and funding.

LaBounty: I want to understand the goals. Goal #1 is to allow Chief Herrick to stop doing Chief duties and go back to a full time officer.

Heston: We could also apply for the position.

LaBounty: The other part is to take on the administrative duty. They only need to be certified if they are going to out to work as an officer. One of your goals is to have the Chief do administration, strategic planning, and allow an officer to be an officer.

Hill: We have talked about contracting with support for the strategic plan. You don't have to be a strategic planning expert. There might be some contractual strategic planning support.

Heston: We are looking for a Police Department that is serving the Town of Richmond. We need another person if not two more in Richmond. What is it we want? Without a

strategic planning process, we do not know what the Town wants. We need to rebuild our staff.

Hill: What does the Town want for Police services like shift coverage, what days, how many. Most people do not know what the State statute says about Police department governance. The Town Manager manages the Police Chief, not the Selectboard. The services we want like parking enforcement on Dugway Rd. and speed enforcement on Cochran Rd. Some people want someone to show up in a reasonable amount of time if their garage is broken into. Those are the kinds of conversations we want from Police services.

Heston: In the chat it states not just what do we want but what do we expect from our Police Department. We cannot expect a lot when we are down 2 full time officers and we have an interim Chief who is doing a lot of extra stuff. How do we help get to the next level?

Forward: Tonight, we should give Josh some direction for what we hope he would do. I am hearing that we are drafting a solicitation or hiring as the first step. A job description could be a certified Chief or an administrative position. Then we can see the pool of applicants.

Arneson: I think the only way this would be interim would be if Hinesburg came back from their study and said they really wanted to do a Union Municipal District. It will take 2-3 years to explore that. Then there might only be one for Richmond and Hinesburg. I don't know of a scenario within a year where we say we are not going to have a Police Department or Chief. Maybe we just hire a full-time Chief and say that in 6-8 months we might consider a Union Municipal District that is 2-3 years away.

Rand: As a person who lives in Town and feels good about our community, I feel like our Town is big enough to have a Police presence. Regardless of the future, the people of the Town need to know what we have now. What are we supposed to do? It feels very inaccessible to the public. Where do we learn about break-ins at the Park-n-Ride or good things the Police have taken care of? I do not know what we have. We should know what exists and wanted to put that word out there.

LaBounty: It sounds like you need more administrative support and those are the type of people you can hire.

Heston: We are discussing increasing the administrative support for the Police Department. When we had a three-quarter time position that main door was always open. We are missing that personal connection. I think we are looking for a full-time Chief and these are the qualifications with preferred certification. Then we can figure out what the title is. I can work with Josh to draft something for our next meeting.

Summary of response to winter storm

Heston: We had a lot of phone calls over that weekend.

Arneson: I will give a summary of what happened and some ways we can do a better response. The winter storm that hit on December 23rd the State started to call some

Emergency Management meetings that Thursday. They suggested setting up warming centers due to high winds, power outages, and cold weather coming in. We looked into our Emergency Management Plan with the school as our shelter. The school does not have a generator to run heat. We talked to Highway and Fire who do have generators to keep their buildings warm. By Friday there was another Emergency Management meeting to set up State-wide warming shelter for overnight purposes. The Towns are not expected to do overnight but to provide something during the day. By Friday noon, we had power at the Town Center and we decided to open it for day warming until 4 pm on Friday and from 8 am to 4 pm on Saturday. We did not go to Highway and Fire to avoid getting in the way as we were fortunate to have power at the Town Center. About four showed up to the Town Center. We need to look at what is at the school for hook-ups for generators as I hear that the Red Cross or National Guard could bring in generator, cots, blankets for overnight. That turn-around time is fairly slow. The overnight shelter was in Barre which is not local for Richmond. If we want to be prepared for day-use then we need to have a generator on-site so we can hook up the school for heat. For overnight-use, we need to look into purchasing cots, blankets and a checklist of other things. Or how do we source those quickly.

Forward: I am quite certain they have a hook-up for a generator. At that time, we decided not to get a generator due to the routine maintenance. Just buying a generator does not solve that problem. We need to have a conversation with the school district. We should also look at places in this region including Huntington, Bolton, Williston. We should think regionally or just for our Town.

Furr: Has CCRPC every looked into a regional plan? The State will do it but you have to hold your breath as you are without power and it dips below zero. We are left to our own devices. I would like to make sure we are prepared.

Hill: In rural Maine there are houses with generators in weather-proof pads and propane tanks. They turn themselves on due to self-maintenance. If there is a problem, they call for maintenance. The technology has emerged for generators.

Heston: For a 2,500 square-foot home, it is probably a \$10,000 generator. It is security. The climate fluctuations are more and more common. It is not just about heat, we need a cooling station. Many people in Vermont do not have air conditioning. We need to look at what we are going to do in a weather situation either way.

Forward: The school is a good facility with a commercial kitchen for 500. It has water and sewer. It was setup for the boiler and for emergency services like pumps and kitchen. We are a good step along the way. If it is on their property, they need to maintain it. It is complicated for us to maintain equipment on their property when we do not have any facilities. The CCRPC and Public Safety at the State would be a good place to start.

Heston: If it is a State-wide event the National Guard is responding State-wide so you may be waiting days for a generator. That is concerning.

Farr: I think this conversation goes well with our conversation for ARPA money. There might be the opportunity to have a generator in other ways in the Town. Maybe it could

be brought to Camel's Hump if needed for a warming shelter. People should not have been driving far to a warming shelter that night.

Furr: I would really like to see us to get a generator that can maintain itself. I don't like the idea of facing the Town without power for seven days. I would like this far forward on the burner.

Heston: If we reach out to Emergency Management then we can get some good advice.

Forward: If we had Community Policing then we could know the people in Town with medical needs for Police and Fire to check on them. Fire, Rescue, and Police can part of that puzzle.

Hill: The lists typically implode because they need to be maintained in real-time. In Barre, they did a self-declare list. It gets challenging with details.

Heston: Police will do wellness checks if a family member calls to ask about parents without power.

LaBounty: Years ago, an Emergency Plan was already created. The shelter was established as Camels Hump which is regional. It was in the plan we were supposed to get cots. We need to invest now and not wait for the next emergency. The Selectboard has the full power of the ARPA money down the road. The Town can enter into a lease agreement with the school to have a generator ready to go. I totally support this and think this is a good investment. You have some issues you need to work out in the Emergency Plan.

Heston: This issue came up last summer with the heat emergency. Now we need to make sure Camels Hump is our emergency shelter. Now we need to put it on the agenda to address it.

Furr: We need to go through the plan like a checklist to see if it is true in reality.

Heston: All things considered, it went fairly well.

Farr: If we needed to use the generator for the school then a lot of other people would also be looking for shelter.

Forward: I question spending that amount of money for something we might use once a decade.

Furr: We could have a heat emergency every year. There are 100-year storms happening every 10-years now.

Forward: Does the school need air conditioning? I doubt they would put that much money into it. The Town Center building should be insulated well for heat and cold. I think it is a larger discussion. How much do we want to invest? We need to put some dollar values on it. I don't think the generator solves the problem.

LaBounty: What is the plan for the clean up of trees by the side of the road? There is no snow on the ground now.

Arneson: I will follow up with Pete. I was thinking the same thing this morning. Pete knows they are out there so we have a plan to get them out of there.

Forward: I appreciate how Pete and his crew cleared the roads of snow and debris. The response for this storm was excellent.

Review of warning for 2023 Town Meeting

Heston: Any questions on that?

Arneson: The only update is we include information about the school budget. We will just put in some information about the budget annual meeting as far as the date and time. They will have a whole other warning. We can bring it back next meeting for a final vote. We have the Saturday information meeting with physical location that can also be attended virtually. We have the physical location for the Monday night meeting and time. We removed the cannabis question, we have the budget, bond, and Conservation Fund question. There is still time for a petition for the cannabis question until the 19th.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes

*Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 12/19/22 as presented. Hill seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

Purchase Orders

Arneson: The amended Purchase Order is for the Water & Sewer laptop that was not covered so we added that on. This is a shared P.O. between Water & Sewer and Admin.

*Sander moved to amend PO#4447 to a new amount of \$21,780, an increase of \$650.
Furr seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

Warrants

Forward: The WEX fuel card, we were paying \$4.49 a gallon for the equipment to plow sidewalks.

Sander: The mower probably needs premium.

Heston: Didn't we talk about looking at other options other than Quadient? The Wal-Mart is not legible.

Arneson: The hard copy packet shows it is \$32.98.

Heston: We have multiple Cargill bills.

Arneson: I can double check with Pete. I think he is wise to get stock. This is the one provider.

Sander moved to approve the general warrants as presented from 1/3/2023. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Discuss Items for Next Agenda

*February agenda items for Emergency Plan and Radar Sign Placement?

*Update purchase order and receipt system to go paperless

*Tesla Police Car

Adjournment

Furr moved to adjourn. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

01:04:08 Lisa Kory: I volunteer my property.

01:29:18 Warren Myers: If you are in talks with Hinesburg, would the Hinesburg Chief be able to help, it would be a good trial to see if the merger would even work. If it is temporary and it doesn't work with them, then you could just hire a full time chief.

01:31:57 Warren Myers: Would he be able to be a chief in Richmond too since it doesn't seem likely you would get someone that only wants a chief job for 6 months.

01:33:50 Warren Myers: It would only be a temporary situation in the meantime and it would be good to see if Richmond and Hinesburg worked as a municipality.

01:39:14 Ian Bender: If regionalization is the destination then there needs to be a conversation about what we can expect for public safety services. Those expectations will likely have to be reduced. Response times? Who do we call in which situations? etc.

01:41:24 Warren Myers: Isn't Ben just performing the same duties a real working Chief would do in any other department? It seems like many other departments have working Chiefs.

01:42:35 iPhone: Is there still a police advisory committee? Erin Farr

01:44:11 Warren Myers: What hours and coverage do we have now?

01:47:23 Warren Myers: If you hire someone not qualified, who are the officers going to look to for direction? I would think the officers need an actual Chief

01:50:35 iPhone: An interim chief seems like something that would be appealing to someone retiring from another department that might have a skill set that would lend itself to our situation. Erin Farr

02:02:02 iPhone: This feels like a great use of ARPA money!!!! Erin Farr

02:03:55 June: Erin, sorry we missed your comment. We no longer have a Police Advisory Committee

02:09:05 Anthony Cambridge: Perhaps the town can maintain a voluntary list of people that have medical needs that in case of a long term power outage they could be checked on by police and or fire.