

R I C H M O N D S E L E C T B O A R D
R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
D e c e m b e r 3 , 2 0 1 2 M I N U T E S

Members Present: Chris Granda, Chair; Neil Boyden; Amy Lord; Ashley Lucht
Absent: June Heston
Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Wright Preston, Health Officer; Lisa Eriksson; Margo Austin; Mary Houle; Michelle Ron; Eric Muttillainer; Bob Gagliardi; Abby O'Neil; Mark Fausel, Planning Commission; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Chair Granda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment

Chair Granda opened the floor for public comment but there was none.

Discussion of Recreation Director – Margo Austin and Lisa Eriksson

Margo Austin and Lisa Eriksson, two residents involved with youth sports, were present to explain the need for a paid recreation director. Ms. Eriksson, the president of Richmond Little League, said that a coordinator is needed to take control of facilities maintenance, repair, and field scheduling. Ms. Austin, who has been involved in baseball and soccer, felt that there was a breakdown in communication between programs, the town, and other towns. She said that if there was one contact that everyone could call then scheduling and coordination would improve. This position could expand to manage race days, additional sports programs, and other events.

Ms. Eriksson added that this position would not run the programs, but would coordinate schedules, facilities and other needs. Ms. Austin said that with no active recreation committee, this position was sorely needed. Ms. Austin provided an example of Hinesburg's recreation director, and what that person does and the \$95,000 budget, and \$55,000 in revenue. It may be possible to offset a position in Richmond with additional fees.

Mary Houle said that in the past, Duncan Wardwell was good at coordination. The Farmer's Market needs to be considered in this, since they do not pick up their own garbage and only pay a tiny amount for field reservations.

Ms. Lord said that other towns have well developed spots on their websites, devoted to recreation, and Richmond needed to have a space on the town's new website to not only coordinate programs, but pull people together.

Chair Granda said that there was obvious support for this but with the budget almost finished, this would likely be a question to modify the proposed budget. To get to that point would require additional development of the idea, and a question.

There was additional discussion. Ms. Lucht asked if any current employees might be able to be shifted to accommodate this and the Manager said no one had twenty hours to spare, but some things might be able to be taken up by existing staff.

1 The Manager also noted that this discussion was for the FY2014 budget, which would start in July. If
2 things were to be changed for this Spring, resources were still limited.

3
4 After additional discussion, it was agreed that a committee would be formed of Ms. Austin, Ms.
5 Eriksson, Amy Lord, The Manager and Pete Gosselin to discuss needs and develop something for the
6 Selectboard to consider.

7 Zoning Related Items

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9
10 Chair Granda said that while there wasn't a full Selectboard present this evening, there were still some
11 things that needed to be mentioned and discussed regarding the vote on the zoning document and some
12 of the things that had been said at that time. First, the zoning issue was defeated by over 400 votes so
13 neither the subdivision regulations nor the zoning regulations were changed. Moving forward, he and
14 the new Planning Commission chair Mark Fausel had met to discuss what would happen over the short
15 term, and they would like to proceed with bite-sized changes. Some changes are inter-related and
16 can't be taken separately so they should follow a comprehensive review.

17
18 Some people had a philosophical issue against the changes, and that is a genuine reason for concern.
19 Reasonable people can have reasonable disagreements, and he gave credit to Lauk Parke and Jack
20 Linn for asking questions and putting forth their positions.

21
22 He felt that the Western Slopes Business Association should have been allowed more time to review
23 and comment on the proposals, and to build support for changes.

24
25 Finally, the malicious mischief in the run-up to the vote was uncalled for. Until he and the Manager
26 objected, the discussions on Front Porch Forum were character assassination on the Planning
27 Commission chair and the Town Planner. This was trying to jeopardize the outcome of the vote by
28 damaging the reputations of those involved in working on the proposal. We need to take a stand for
29 civility. Political arguments on the merits of the proposal should be acceptable, but not attacking those
30 involved in the work of creating the proposal.

31
32 Mary Houle wondered where the civility was when she was personally attacked.

33
34 Mr. Boyden asked if there were vacancies on the Planning Commission, and the Manager said that
35 there were now two vacancies. After some additional brief discussion, the Selectboard moved to the
36 next item.

37 **2. OTHER BUSINESS**

38 Property Assessed Clean Energy – PACE

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40
41
42 The Manager explained that at the last meeting the town's Energy Coordinator, Jeff Forward,
43 requested that PACE be placed on the ballot for Town Meeting, as an article to be discussed and voted
44 on by those present at the meeting. The question had been prepared for tonight's meeting to be
45 approved for placement by the Selectboard.

46
47 Chair Granda added that there had been some delay at the State level of implementation, and that the
48 town is in a good position to take part in PACE next year when the program is activated.

49
50 The Manager read the question:

1
2 *"Shall the Town of Richmond establish a town wide PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy)*
3 *District"*

4
5 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the PACE question as read by the Manager on the 2013 Town
6 Meeting ballot as an article, and was seconded by Ms. Lord. The motion carried 4-0.

7
8 FY2014 Budget and Capital Plan

9
10 The Manager explained that the budget had been modified and now was within the 3% spending cap.
11 The tax rate was proposed to increase just over 2%, at 1.57 cents.

12
13 Highway Foreman Pete Gosselin was present to explain his capital requests, especially the annual
14 increases to the gravel and paving plans. He said that it has taken fifteen years to get the road plans
15 where they are, and the department is making great progress in implementing them. He would want
16 to keep the plans on schedule, but taking one year off would mean an \$80,000 increase in the next year
17 which would then be impossible to make up. He said that the monies should be left in the budget, and
18 ask the voters to cut if they choose.

19
20 In 2004 there was a problem with the gravel. It was decided to spend more money and use a better
21 quality road gravel. Since then, many roads were being rebuilt and have held up better. Kenyon Road
22 used to be closed every year, but has been open for the past three. He and Pete Parent sat down and
23 worked out a schedule for an eight-year gravel plan and a twelve-year paving plan and we are now
24 half way through that cycle. It was important to keep the schedule going.

25
26 Ms. Lucht asked if there was any way to push any other capital items off by one year? Mr. Gosselin
27 replied that they chose to push off one truck to next year, and keep the loader in. If they cut the road
28 plans there was no way to get back on the current plan.

29
30 Mr. Boyden agreed that the plans were money well spent but it may come a time where the plans need
31 to be extended by a year.

32
33 Ms. Houle said that when she was on the Selectboard she took a "circuit ride" to see how other towns
34 did with their road plans. She was impressed with their approach, and that our gravel roads need to be
35 kept up to a high standard.

36
37 Chair Granda agreed, and said that they wanted Department Heads to make a case as to why things
38 were necessary to fund above the 3% cap.

39
40 Mark Fausel said that the plans have made an improvement, but some parts were still pretty rough.

41
42 Lauke Parke said that during Irene Kenyon Road was still open, which was a testament to the work
43 that was put into it. The easiest way to save money is to defer maintenance but it will come back to
44 bite you.

45
46 Chair Granda said that the town was coming out of a tough economic time and he didn't want to
47 impact the residents too harshly.

48
49 Ms. Lucht pointed out that there were three years left on the gravel plan, and then the costs were
50 projected to drop.

1
2 Ms. Lord and Ms. Lucht expressed support to stick with the funding plans, and restore \$20,000 each to
3 gravel and retreatment. Chair Granda acknowledged this support and directed the change to be made.

4
5 Ms. Houle thanked the Manager for efforts to reach the 3% spending cap.

6
7 For the remainder of the budget, discussion was limited to changes from the previous draft.

8
9 Chair Granda requested that the Listers come in on the 17th to discuss their suggestions for the FY2014
10 budget. He wished to defer final approval on the budget until the Listers presented their requests.

11
12 The Manager said he expected the hearing on the budget to be on January 7th.

13 14 Capital Plan

15
16 The Manager explained the final changes. There was some discussion on Depot Street and how to
17 approach the item on the budget. Ms. Lucht suggested having the water line funded by the General
18 Fund, and Mr. Boyden said that was a bad precedent to set.

19
20 The Manager explained that the public hearing on this should be on January 7th also. After some
21 additional discussion, Ms. Lord offered a motion to set the public hearing for the Capital Plan for
22 January 7th and was seconded by Ms. Lucht and the motion carried 4-0.

23 24 Transition to Town Manager

25
26 Mr. Boyden discussed the final version of the proposed employment agreement. Chair Granda said
27 this should be scheduled for consideration for approval for December 17th. There was also a request
28 for a revised schedule for public outreach and employee education.

29 30 Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2012

31
32 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2012 with minor corrections and
33 was seconded by Ms. Lord and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Boyden abstaining.

34 35 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

36
37 Ms. Lucht reported that she spoke with who had worked on a grant for the Snelling Center, and
38 developed a web template for them. That person would be coming to our January 21st meeting to talk
39 about options for our site. We could have our own free domain and email.

40
41 The Manager reported that the town's village center designation was up for renewal, and the Planning
42 Commission would take up this matter soon with an expected recommendation to the Selectboard to
43 apply for renewal, sometime in February.

44
45 The Manager also noted that there were two vacancies on the Planning Commission and one on the
46 Development Review Board and if anyone was interested, please contact the town offices.

47
48 The Manager said that there was a request to dedicate this year's town report to the Old Round
49 Church, which was celebrating its 200th anniversary next year. This would be a good way to advertise

1 the celebration in August. The Selectboard agreed to dedicate the town report to the Old Round
2 Church.

3
4 Mary Houle suggested the town find ways to increase fund raising with this event.

5
6 Consent Agenda

7
8 The Manager explained that there was only one item on the Consent Agenda, which was the approval
9 of the closeout documentation for the grant and loans that funded the Wastewater Treatment Facility
10 upgrades. The state still owed us \$20,000 but we were currently repaying the loan.

11
12 Mr. Boyden offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Ms. Lucht and the
13 motion carried 4-0.

14
15 Warrants

16
17 There was one minor correction to the Staples billing. The Manager asked if the Selectboard wanted
18 to pay the full \$16,000 on the Richmond Rescue bill or withhold back to the previous \$12,025. There
19 had not been a complete resolution to the Selectboard's requests on that matter. The Selectboard
20 agreed to only pay the \$12,025 until all items were complete.

21
22 Purchase Order for Highway Radios

23
24 The Manager explained that the Highway Foreman had received a grant to replace the current radios
25 with digital narrow-band radios, as required by federal law. These radios were difficult to price, since
26 there were few Motorola dealers in Vermont. The Manager attempted to obtain additional quotes, one
27 from Motorola Direct (no location in Vermont) and from another company in central Vermont, which
28 declined to respond. Therefore, Radio North was the only real price, with Motorola Direct's response
29 coming in slightly higher.

30
31 Mr. Gosselin explained that these were replacing all radios in Highway, Water Resources and the base
32 station in the Clerk's office. Installation was not covered under the grant, and would be a separate
33 purchase.

34
35 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3041 for Motorola Radios for Highway, in an
36 amount not to exceed \$16,634 and was seconded by Ms. Lord. The motion carried 4-0.

37
38 **Adjourn**

39 Motion by Ms. Lucht to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Boyden. So voted.