

**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**  
**O c t o b e r   6 ,   2 0 1 4   M I N U T E S**

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Members Present: Taylor Yeates; Chris Granda; Bard Hill; David Sander  
Absent: None  
Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Maureen Kangley; Ian Bender; Harold Irish; Cara LaBounty, Bruce LaBounty; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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Taylor Yeates called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Mr. Yeates asked if there was any comment from the public for items not on the agenda, but there were none.

**2. Items for Discussion with Those Present**

Selectboard Interview: Ellen Kane

Ellen Kane had submitted her letter of interest to fill the vacancy on the Selectboard, and was invited to the meeting this evening to interview for the position. Ms. Kane began by introducing herself and explaining a little about her background. She was a nine-year resident of Richmond and active on the Economic Development Committee. She had been thinking about additional ways to serve the community.

Mr. Hill asked how she felt about the water and sewer system. Ms. Kane said she understood the issues that they were facing and how serious they were. She wanted to work towards resolving these issues.

Mr. Granda said he had known Ms. Kane personally for about nine years and was thrilled to see that she applied.

Harold Irish asked if she lived in the village, and she said she did not.

Mr. Yeates asked if she had budget experience. Ms. Kane said she was the director of a nonprofit foundation and manages her own budget.

Maureen Kangley asked if Ms. Kane would have supported a recent solar energy grant proposal. Mr. Yeates said this question was unfair to a candidate to answer, and she did not have to answer it.

The Selectboard thanked Ms. Kane for her service and said they would deliberate later in the meeting.

**Capital Budget**

Chief of Police Alan Buck was present to review his capital budget requests. Chief Buck explained his plan to replace police vehicles before they reached 90,000 since the year following this, repair costs were high for vehicles that would be replaced that year. The Chief had provided a memo that

1 outlined the current vehicle fleet. The Chief had requested an additional \$17,000 in this budget to  
2 replace two high mileage vehicles in FY2016. There was discussion of repair costs and prior vehicles,  
3 as well as the current fleet and the new Ford Explorer.

4  
5 The Chief then explained that the video systems in the cruisers were all 10 years old, obsolete and  
6 impossible to find parts for. The Chief needed to replace these units with new ones, which were  
7 several thousand dollars each but they could be purchased over a number of years. The Chief added  
8 he also needs to replace a radar unit this year for about \$2,200.

9  
10 The Selectboard thanked the Chief of Police for his time.

### 11 Highway Department

12  
13  
14 Highway Foreman Peter Gosselin was present to explain his capital requests for FY2016. First, he  
15 explained that the department had rebuilt five miles of gravel road this year, and they were in the final  
16 week of gravel work and ditching. Stage Road was the road furthest away from the gravel pit in  
17 Hinesburg, and it took considerable time to move materials to the site.

18  
19 Mr. Gosselin then reported that salt had gone up by \$13.40 per ton, which was a 23% increase over  
20 last year. He had attended a meeting about this in Addison County and the word is that the salt mines  
21 had exhausted their supplies and were only at about 60% of where they should be this time of year.  
22 Cargill, which was one of three vendors in Vermont, had the smallest increase this year. International  
23 Salt had a \$23.00 per ton increase. VTrans District 5 had awarded their bid to Cargill, and we were  
24 getting their pricing. As a result, the recommendations were to increase liquid salt applications and  
25 other alternatives, including using more sand. There was some discussion on this. Mr. Gosselin said  
26 that an average salt pile for Richmond was 1,000 tons. Last year we used over 1,200 tons and now we  
27 only have funds for 950 tons.

28  
29 Mr. Gosselin moved to the Retreatment budget line for paving of roads. This was going up by  
30 \$20,000 to cover the existing automatic increase as well as additional funds for culvert work on  
31 Jericho Road. He added that a 20 foot to thirty foot apron was needed at Valley View Road, a private  
32 road, since there were erosion problems that were impacting Jericho Road. There was some  
33 discussion on the policy of paving private road aprons.

34  
35 Mr. Gosselin noted that the Road Gravel line was not going up, and he was moving \$13,000 out of this  
36 line and into Equipment Rental to accurately reflect the trucking they typically use to repair gravel  
37 roads.

38  
39 Mr. Gosselin then explained the next dump truck purchase. The town should stick to the existing 8  
40 year cycle, which included a FY2015 truck, which has been purchased, and a FY2016 truck.  
41 Following this, there were no dump trucks until FY2019. These trucks were typically costing  
42 \$130,000 with a trade in.

43  
44 Cara LaBounty mentioned that the state did not provide any paved apron to Jones Mill Road with their  
45 recent work on Route 2, and requested that VTrans do this.

46  
47 Mr. Gosselin said that the Bridge and Culvert Fund should be restored to last year's level, increasing it  
48 by \$35,000. This had been reduced last year to increase the paving plan.

49

1 There was some additional discussion. The Manager noted that the municipal lot at Toscano's might  
2 be paved in the Spring. Peter Gosselin said that there was still some asphalt sidewalk work that  
3 needed to happen this year. The Selectboard thanked Mr. Gosselin.

#### 4 5 Administration Budget

6  
7 The Manager provided a brief overview of the Administration operating budget. Health insurance was  
8 going up across the board by about 7%, and salaries were going up by more than 2% due to some mid-  
9 year changes last year that divided financial responsibilities. Also, insurance was going up by \$16,000  
10 but an offsetting revenue was being included by way of a transfer from the Water budget. This had  
11 always been there but not shown.

12  
13 Mr. Yeates said that some items had been moved from the Appropriations budget and into department  
14 budgets. In particular, the Richmond Rescue contribution was moved to Police. He felt it should be  
15 more appropriately shown under Fire.

16  
17 After some discussion, the Manager said that at the next meeting we would review Planning, Lists, Fire and Library.

### 18 19 20 **3. Other Business**

#### 21 22 Board Vacancies

23  
24 The Manager explained that there were vacant seats on the Development Review Board, Trails  
25 Committee, Conservation Commission, Selectboard and Water Commission. The Manager said that  
26 the Development Review Board seat had been vacant for six months. There were two recent  
27 resignations on the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission, and a possible second  
28 resignation on the Conservation Commission. The Selectboard discussed this and agreed to advertise  
29 the vacancies and appoint at the October 20th meeting.

#### 30 31 Water Commission

32  
33 There was discussion about filling the vacancy on the Water Commission. Mr. Yeates said that there  
34 had been discussion earlier that a non-Selectboard member could be chosen to fill the seat vacated by a  
35 Selectboard member, however, the Charter indicates that it needs to be filled by a Selectboard  
36 member. That being said, he had earlier said that he would be interested, but he now does not have the  
37 time to commit. Mr. Granda said that if the new Selectboard member, apparently Ellen Kane, would  
38 not be interested, then he would fill the position.

#### 39 40 Selectboard Vacancy

41  
42 Mr. Yeates asked if there was a nomination to fill the vacancy. Mr. Granda nominated Ellen Kane to  
43 fill the unexpired term of Ashley Lucht on the Selectboard and was seconded by Mr. Hill. Mr. Sander  
44 said that Ms. Kane sounded enthusiastic about serving.

45  
46 Bruce LaBounty said he was disappointed that she didn't stay for the entire meeting. Mary Houle was  
47 disappointed that the Selectboard did not ask better questions of her.

48  
49 The nomination carried 4-0.

50

1 There was some additional discussion on an appointment to the Water Commission but no action was  
2 taken.

3  
4 Cell Tower Letter to Anne O'Brien

5  
6 The Manager said that at the last meeting the Selectboard had agreed to send a letter to Representative  
7 Anne O'Brien expressing their frustration at the 248a process for wireless tower approval, and he had  
8 drafted a letter using several thoughts previously expressed. There was some discussion. Mr. Yeates  
9 said he was in favor of sending this letter since the Public Service Board was not fulfilling its mission  
10 and needed to give voters and towns the right to remove these projects.

11  
12 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the draft letter and authorize signature by the Selectboard and  
13 was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 4-0.

14  
15 Diesel Fuel Policy

16  
17 The Manager explained that this was an amendment to the existing Fuel Policy, where additional  
18 procedures for securing the diesel pump and tank were put into place. The Manager added that he and  
19 Mr. Yeates had discussed moving to a card based tracking system. The option of eliminating the tank  
20 and using a private station was also raised by the Manager. Mr. Yeates said the emergency vehicles  
21 often needed fuel overnight and you shouldn't deny them that, as well as early-morning snow plowing.  
22 The electronic system would be a great improvement to tracking fuel. Mr. Granda agreed, and said  
23 that the Climate Action Committee was tracking town's building energy usage and could do the same  
24 with vehicles.

25  
26 There was some discussion about the policy. Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the Diesel  
27 Policy and was seconded by Mr. Granda, and the motion carried 4-0.

28  
29 Property Tax Resolution

30  
31 The Manager said that this was a draft resolution circulated by the City of South Burlington urging the  
32 legislature to do two things: cap the tax rate of the State Education Fund for two years and redesign  
33 the current education property tax formula.

34  
35 Mr. Granda said that this was currently a campaign platform for gubernatorial candidate Scott Milne.  
36 Maureen Kangley agreed. Mr. Yeates said that this was circulated by the City Manager of South  
37 Burlington and was way too political for that position to issue. There was discussion about this.

38  
39 Mr. Granda offered a motion to table this indefinitely and was seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion  
40 carried 4-0.

41  
42 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

43  
44 Creamery building security

45  
46 The Manager said that for some time, the Selectboard has been aware of a lack of security at the  
47 former creamery building, which has been abandoned for well over 10 years. Mr. Granda said that the  
48 interim zoning has not resulted in any developer interest. The asking price was still high and the  
49 property in its current condition presents a public nuisance.

50

1 Mr. Hill spoke about his conversations with the former economic development director of Burlington.  
2 They have ordinances and inspectors to enforce abandoned or vacant building codes. This building is  
3 abandoned and we needed an ordinance to create safety and aesthetic improvements.  
4

5 Cara LaBounty said that for Bordeaux and Mobbs had health orders against them, so do we need  
6 another ordinance? Would a tax incentive or getting rid of impact fees help developers? Or lock in a  
7 Payment in Lieu of Taxes for redevelopment.  
8

9 Mr. Yeates said we can't lead the issue since it is beyond the Selectboard's scope. We don't want to  
10 scare away anyone with additional burdens.  
11

12 Mr. Hill said he felt people are going in there, and it is a safety hazard. Mr. Granda said that the  
13 Senior Citizen Center group is involved now, and we should work with them.  
14

15 Mr. Yeates asked what the board needed to do here? What are the steps we need to take?  
16

17 Mr. Sander said that the two objectives we had were longterm viability and safety concerns. We  
18 should ask Labor and Industry to inspect the property, and get enforcement from the state. Should we  
19 get another group session with Representative Anne O'Brien to see if any changes to the interim  
20 zoning were needed? There was some additional discussion. The idea of condemnation came up and  
21 the Manager would review previous legal advice on this.  
22

### 23 Speed Limit on Kenyon Road 24

25 The Manager said that last year he was contacted by a resident on Kenyon Road requesting that the  
26 speed limit be lowered to 25 miles per hour on the upper part of Kenyon Road, which was 35 now.  
27 The Selectboard declined to act last year but she had called again and had spoken with Mr. Sander  
28 about this. The two issues were the speeding and is the speed limit too high.  
29

30 Mr. Sander explained his conversation. He said that there is a blind hill at the barn which was a  
31 hazard and the curves there were slippery. He said he would agree that a 25 mile per hour limit was in  
32 order.  
33

34 Mr. Yeates said he was not in favor and there was no evidence that it is dangerous. People will go as  
35 fast as they would go, no matter the limit. He feels that if we conducted a speed study, the speed limit  
36 might need to go up.  
37

38 Bruce LaBounty said that the blind hill was a dangerous spot. Maybe we try to solve that by  
39 reworking the hill.  
40

41 Mr. Granda said that the lower limit would not necessarily lead to lower speeds. Mr. Yeates asked if  
42 more signage would help.  
43

44 The Selectboard requested accident data and that the Police Chief and Highway Foreman confer about  
45 alterations to the road to improve safety. Mr. Yeates offered a motion in favor and was seconded by  
46 Mr. Hill. The motion carried 4-0.  
47

48 Mr. Sander offered his driveway for speed enforcement.  
49

### 50 Economic Development

1  
2 The Manager explained that the Economic Development Committee was interested in the West Main  
3 utility extension being considered by the Water Commission. There was discussion on the proposal  
4 and potential results. The Manager explained that a combination of factors were in play, including  
5 revising the zoning regulations for this area to allow for increased development, to take advantage of  
6 public water and sewer. The Manager said he didn't feel that the costs would make sense to people for  
7 existing single family homes. There was some discussion about this with Planning Commission vice-  
8 chair Bruce LaBounty. There was discussion of a town-wide vote. The Selectboard agreed that this  
9 was an issue that needed to be coordinated across various boards.

10  
11 Approval of Turkey Trot for "Never Give Up, Ever"

12  
13 The Manager explained that this was the fundraising road race held on Thanksgiving. This was  
14 previously the Jared's Run, and those organizers had merged to a new organization. Mr. Sander  
15 offered a motion to approve the race date and was seconded by Mr. Hill.

16  
17 Mary Houle asked where and when this was. The Manager said the Round Church and Cochran Road,  
18 on Thanksgiving Day.

19  
20 Approval of Minutes

21  
22 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2014 and was seconded by Mr.  
23 Hill and the motion carried 4-0.

24  
25 Purchase Orders

26  
27 The Manager presented Purchase Order 2402 for winter salt.

28  
29 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 2402 in the amount of \$65,000 to Cargill Salt  
30 for winter salt. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

31  
32 Warrants

33  
34 The warrants were approved and signed.

35  
36 **4. Adjourn**

37 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.