

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANURARY 20, 2015 MINUTES**

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Members Present: Taylor Yeates; Chris Granda; Bard Hill; David Sander; Ellen Kane  
 Absent: None  
 Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Marie Thomas; Gary Bressor; Glenn Glasstetler; Jeff Forward; Denise Barnard; Guy Roberts; Eric Wood; Elysse Parente; Rachel Barone; Rod West; Ann Cousins; Wright Preston; Tom Hark; Bruce Bailey; Deborah Mobbs; Trish Healy; Clare Rock, Town Planner; Bob Marquis; Robert Reap; 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**

Gateway Zoning

The Manager explained that the Planning Commission had provided the Selectboard with proposed amendments to the Gateway Zoning district in November. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard had held their public hearing and discussed the proposal again on December 15<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, the Selectboard had decided to take more time to review the proposal and not move it to a public vote at Town Meeting. The proposal was again before us to review and revise as necessary. The Manager noted that three people had submitted written suggestions to the Selectboard.

Mr. Yeates opened the discussion to the public.

Gary Bressor said we had a wide divergence of opinion on these changes, but what is the review process that works better? He said we needed to discuss this issue by issue.

Ms. Kane said she has heard from people, met with people and is on the Economic Development Committee and felt we should consider some changes now and look at “whole zoning” with the review of the Town Plan.

Mr. Bressor said a few changes now might be ok, but if water and sewer go through here it dramatically changes things, and you move immediately into a larger discussion.

Mr. Yeates said he felt we had an opportunity here and we should capitalize on that opportunity, and we did not have lots of time. We could consider certain changes, but how to outline the hot issues?

1 Ms. Kane said she was not in favor of totally scrapping the Planning Commission's proposal. Mr.  
2 Yeates said his goal was to compromise with the Planning Commission's changes and having to  
3 opportunities to open to strip development.

4  
5 Mr. Granda said we should develop a "short list" of things to achieve with rezoning.

6  
7 Mr. Hill said that planning and zoning were a means to an end. How do we hit the sweet spot of  
8 commercial development without overdevelopment or the wrong type?

9  
10 Ms. Kane said we can't capture input from the whole town, but needed to make some reasonable  
11 changes to remove barriers.

12  
13 Jeff Forward said we're trying to plan by zoning, but should be trying to zone by planning. The  
14 Planning Commission has been doing this for the past five years. There was no consensus about much  
15 in this district, but that the appearance is what people like. The village is unique and he was concerned  
16 that people felt commercial were all the same. He was most concerned about retail uses in the district.

17  
18 Peter Mumford said he was a business owner, in favor of getting the ball rolling on this rezoning. He  
19 felt it was good for the town, and made good sense. This wasn't a good location for residential, but  
20 commercial development made sense here.

21  
22 Paul Hauf, the chair of the Economic Development Committee, spoke about the changes and that they  
23 shouldn't be made wholesale, but not allow for certain "chain" stores. There was some discussion on  
24 this, and that the town could not regulate against franchises or chains.

25  
26 Denise Barnard said at some point we need to trust our neighbors, and know what we're going to get.

27  
28 Bob Reap said that the 10,000 square foot footprint, and 5,000 square foot max space on any use, was  
29 causing businesses to locate to other towns, and it is anti-growth. Guy Roberts talked about this issue  
30 as well.

31  
32 Bruce Bailey said we needed to look past the Reap property and the extended village area. Maybe  
33 there should be different zoning beyond that.

34  
35 Mr. Yeates said he felt small chain restaurants weren't good for the town. More office space or  
36 research space was better.

37  
38 Marie Thomas said that the Regional Planning Commission has a goal of a village-to-park and ride  
39 connection, and it would be good to also connect the mobile home community to our town.

40  
41 Mr. Yeates then directed the Selectboard's attention to the document. He suggested we revise the  
42 proposal, post it and take comments.

43  
44 The discussion went as follows:

- 45  
46 1) Remove the 5,000 square foot limitation on certain uses – office, light manufacturing and  
47 laboratory  
48 2) Continue the 5,000 square foot limitation on retail and restaurant uses, and others  
49 3) Keep table service a requirement for restaurants  
50 4) Keep the 17,000 square foot building footprint and associated conditions

- 1 5) Reinstate the appearance of wood or brick requirement
- 2 6) Keep the window requirements
- 3 7) Keep the option of flat roofing for the largest buildings but require rooftop equipment to be
- 4 shielded from view with roofing treatments
- 5 8) Keep the no-parking lots in front of buildings on Route 2.
- 6 9) There was discussion on the commercial/residential split, but the board decided to keep this in
- 7 the proposal as 60/40 residential/commercial.

8  
9 At 8:15 pm Mr. Sander had to leave the meeting.

10  
11 Ann Cousins felt that this res/com split was problematic and required additional discussion. There  
12 was discussion and agreement that the long term plan should address these concerns in greater detail.  
13 It was agreed to by the board to make these changes, publish them and seek comments for the next  
14 meeting.

### 15 16 **Public Hearing: Flood Hazard Overlay District Zoning Amendments**

17  
18 Mr. Hill offered a motion to open the public hearing for the Flood Hazard Overlay District  
19 amendments. Mr. Granda seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0. Clare Rock, Town  
20 Planner, explained the changes to the Selectboard. Major changes included a new prohibition on any  
21 new dwelling units in the floodplain, including accessory apartments. Also removed was the 3-year  
22 tracking of improvement costs, and instead, doing permit-by-permit assessments on the 50% value  
23 measure. She noted that FEMA had reviewed this proposal, and approved it.

24  
25 Mr. Yeates asked if there were any comments. Mary Houle spoke in favor of the proposal.

26  
27 There being no additional comments, Mr. Hill offered a motion to close the public hearing and was  
28 seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 4-0.

29  
30 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the amendments to the Flood Hazard Overlay District and was  
31 seconded by Ms. Kane. The motion carried 4-0.

### 32 33 34 **3. Other Business**

#### 35 36 **Application to Regional Planning Commission Work Program**

37  
38 The Manager explained that this was our application to the Chittenden County Regional Planning  
39 Commission for their annual work program. Clare Rock, Town Planner, explained the towns two  
40 requests, for assistance with a Municipal Transportation Plan and technical assistance for the  
41 revisioning process for the Town Plan. She said that if the Selectboard approved, a letter of support  
42 would be needed for the application.

43  
44 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the work program application and was seconded by Mr. Granda,  
45 and the motion carried 4-0.

#### 46 47 **Deborah Mobbs Well Update**

48  
49 The Manager explained that he had hired Spafford and Sons to inspect the well for Deborah Mobbs. A  
50 copy of their report was sent to Ms. Mobbs, who was present for the discussion. In the report, the

1 inspector noted some sediment in the water but no deposits of sediment on the pump or attachments,  
2 and that the sediment did clear after some flushing of the system. The inspector was not able to  
3 determine whether the sediment was from the highway or not, but the Manager felt that since the well  
4 was operational then the well had not collapsed as had been spoken of earlier.

5  
6 Ms. Mobbs restated her claim that the pump went bad and all since the road work was done. She can't  
7 use her washing machine because it was full of sand. She never had this in 30 years and said her  
8 husband was there when the test was performed.

9  
10 Mr. Yeates said that the report didn't show that construction caused the problem. He wasn't sure  
11 about what the board could do at this point but she could make a claim with our insurance company. It  
12 was agreed that the Manager would assist in Ms. Mobbs' claim to insurance.

### 13 14 West Main Utility Extension

15  
16 The Manager explained that he had spoken with bond counsel Paul Giuliani and general counsel Mark  
17 Sperry and Mr. Giuliani had provided some very good information, as well as new documentation  
18 which would need to be approved if the Selectboard chose to place a funding question on Town  
19 Meeting. This would have to be approved tonight, per Mr. Giuliani, and the Manager recommended  
20 moving forward.

21  
22 There was discussion on the project and plans. Mr. Yeates agreed that this should move forward. Mr.  
23 Hill explained that he saw an intersection of zoning, water and sewer and opportunity. He said his  
24 goals were not just to have this project no cost existing users, but to actually reduce rates across the  
25 whole system. There was additional discussion. The Manager read the question:

26  
27       Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Richmond in an amount not to exceed  
28       Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000), subject to reduction from  
29       the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid (estimated to be \$1,125,000), be  
30       issued for the purpose of financing the cost of extending municipal water and sewer  
31       lines into the Gateway Zoning District and westerly as far as the Riverview Commons  
32       Mobile Home Park, the aggregate estimated cost of all such improvements being Two  
33       Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000)?

34  
35 Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve the question for a special meeting, coincident with Town  
36 Meeting as read by the Manager. Mr. Granda seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

### 37 38 Community Resilience Organizations

39  
40 The Manager explained that he and Mr. Granda had met with consultants who explained the  
41 Community Resilience Organization. Mr. Granda further explained that the CRO was an intersection  
42 of emergency management, planning and recovery all working together. There was a grant  
43 opportunity from High Meadows Fund to develop a CRO model for several towns in Vermont, of  
44 which Richmond was eligible. The Selectboard was in favor of participating in this grant opportunity.

45  
46 Ms. Kane authorized a motion to send a letter of intent to the High Meadows Fund for a grant to  
47 develop a Community Resilience Organization for Richmond and was seconded by Mr. Hill, and the  
48 motion carried 4-0.

### 49 50 Traffic Ordinance

1  
2 Mr. Yeates explained the need to revise the Traffic Ordinance, and read the changes to stop signs,  
3 traffic signals and parking limits at the Park and Ride. He mentioned that he did not change the speed  
4 limit on Kenyon Road. There was some discussion on this, and the Selectboard agreed that the speed  
5 limit on Kenyon Road would not be changed at this time.

6  
7 Mr. Hill offered a motion to introduce Ordinance 2015-01 Amending the Traffic Ordinance and  
8 schedule a second reading for Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:30 PM in Town Center. Ms. Kane  
9 seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

#### 10 11 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

12  
13 Ms. Kane talked about the Economic Development Committee's meeting earlier that morning. Their  
14 topics were Gateway zoning and the town plan.

15  
16 The Manager mentioned the Police Report and Financial Reports. He also mentioned that one of the  
17 video cameras in a police cruiser was broken. They were ten years old, and the plan presented by  
18 Chief Buck was to replace one per year for five years, at \$6,500 per year. This was approved and in  
19 the budget. He said that Mr. Yeates and he had talked, and with the need to replace one right away,  
20 why could we not purchase five at once on borrowed funds, and pay back over five years?

21  
22 The Selectboard discussed this and agreed to bid the cameras, and if prices were favorable, they would  
23 consider this proposal.

#### 24 25 Approval of Minutes

26  
27 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2015 as amended and was seconded by  
28 Mr. Granda and the motion carried 4-0.

#### 29 30 Approval of Access Permit and Mileage Certificates

31  
32 The Manager explained that permit 14-155 was for the AT&T tower on Jericho Road at the Peet farm,  
33 and staff had only mentioned that the culvert should be 18 inches. Mr. Hill offered a motion to  
34 approve access permit 14-155 for Peet and was seconded by Ms. Kane and the motion carried 4-0.

35  
36 The Manager explained the 2015 highway mileage certificate. There were no additions or deletions  
37 this year. Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the 2015 highway mileage certificate and was  
38 seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 4-0.

#### 39 40 Approval of Merchants Bank Note for Highway Truck

41  
42 The Manager explained that this was the resolution and certificate for the 5-year note approved at the  
43 last meeting. The terms were: \$99,222 for five years, at 2.42% interest for the 2015 Highway Truck.

44  
45 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the Resolution and Certificate for the Merchants Bank Note as  
46 outlined by the Manager and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 4-0.

47  
48 Mr. Hill apologized for not being able to attend Town Meeting this year due to other commitments.

#### 49 50 Warrants

1  
2 The warrants were approved and signed.

3  
4 **4. Adjourn**

5 Motion by Mr. Granda to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kane. So voted.