

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
J u l y 1 8 , 2 0 1 6 M I N U T E S

Members Present: Ellen Kane; Lincoln Bressor; Bard Hill; Steve May; David Sander

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Christine Forde, CCRPC; Marcia Gardiner; Jared Katz; Alex Brosam; Rod West; Dennis Gile, Fire Chief; Gerry Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; Jill Barrett & William Lammer, VTrans; Maureen Kangley; Cara LaBounty and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Ellen Kane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Kane asked if there were any comments from the public, but there was none.

2. Items for Discussion with Those Present

Snipe Island Brook Bridge Replacement, Route 2

Jill Barrett and Bill Lammer of VTrans were present to explain the State's plans to replace a bridge on Route 2, over the Snipe Island Brook. A slide show was presented with details of the project. Mr. Lammer reported that the condition of the bridge was poor and deteriorating and would be replaced with a bridge about three feet longer and three feet wider. They expect bids to be received on October 16th, with an April or May 2017 start for construction. They anticipated a 28 day road closure for this project.

Cara LaBounty asked why they wouldn't have a temporary bridge for this project? Mr. Lammer responded that the state wanted to avoid additional costs and impact to historic and environmentally sensitive areas outside of the right of way. Ms. LaBounty disagreed with those impacts and said that there were 3,500 cars on Cochran Road under this plan, which was narrower than Route 2. She asked if in 2013 the Selectboard requested a temporary bridge?

Rod West said he remembered that meeting, and the consensus was to have no temporary bridge.

Maureen Kangley said that the town wasn't inundated with visitors but traffic, and this would cause a hardship because the town would be bypassed. She urged the use of a temporary bridge.

Mary Houle said that they had information in 2014 and from the bidding deadlines it sounds as if "that ship had sailed."

Rod West said that with a four week closure, the road bed replacement (as done in Bolton and Waterbury) should be done at the same time.

Cara LaBounty requested that a traffic plan be developed for Richmond for this project.

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2 Bob Reap asked if a box culvert wasn't a better option for this project. Mr. Lammer said that it was
3 not conducive for the size of the project they wanted.

4
5 The Selectboard thanked Ms. Barrett and Mr. Lammer for their presentation.

6 7 Public Work Spec

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9 Town Planner Clare Rock presented the revised Public Work Spec, with changes from the last
10 meeting. She reviewed the rural roads guidelines and changes also. There was a question about
11 bicycle facilities requirements and Ms. Rock said it was just for streets in the village when they were
12 reconstructed.

13
14 After some discussion, the Selectboard agreed to introduce this item at the August 1st meeting, with a
15 public hearing scheduled for September 6th.

16 17 Appointments to Boards

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19 The Manager explained that the vacancies for the DRB, Planning Commission and now Conservation
20 Commission were advertised. One person backed out of the DRB seat, and the person interested in the
21 Conservation Commission seat was not able to attend this evening. However, Alex Brosam was
22 present for the Planning Commission seat.

23
24 Mr. Brosam spoke a little about his background and recently moving back, after growing up here and
25 moving away for a short time. He spoke of his interests in the town and the Selectboard liked his
26 enthusiasm.

27
28 Mr. Sander offered a motion to appoint Alex Brosam to the Planning Commission and was seconded
29 by Mr. May, and the motion carried 5-0.

30 31 Regional Emergency Services Discussion

32
33 Steve May spoke of his ideas regarding regional provision of emergency services for Richmond and
34 nearby towns, particularly in eastern Chittenden County. Between the current topics of the emergency
35 services building, the regional dispatch being explored by the Regional Planning Commission, and the
36 unionization drive for the police department he has begun thinking about what the master plan was for
37 these services and is there an overarching document or a jumping point that helps us move towards the
38 future?

39
40 There was significant discussion by the board, concerning cost, quality and access to services as well
41 as any given town's desire to pay for those services. The discussion tried to identify how to approve a
42 path forward or what the end product would be.

43
44 Mary Houle said that she did not believe that the town would have a police department any longer if
45 unionization went through.

46
47 Clare Rock said that a great resource would be Lee Krohn of the Regional Planning Commission, who
48 did the Local Emergency Planning Committee work.

49
50 Mr. May said he wanted to understand how civilian oversight was the important factor, service by

1 service and town by town sharing ideas; and the need for a larger footprint in town for services would
2 lead to spreading costs to more users, or pulling back on services.

3
4 There was some additional discussion on the subject but the board requested that the Manager come
5 back with additional information on the challenges or issues that might be addressed by
6 regionalization.

7 8 **3. Other Business**

9 10 Historical Society Lease

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12 The Manager explained that the lease with the Historical Society was expiring this year and he had
13 been working with them to develop a new lease, a draft of which was provided to the Selectboard.
14 Several things had changed, most significantly that the original lease was a quit-claim deed but the
15 new lease was a traditional lease document. The Manager provided an overview but did not review
16 details.

17 18 Tilden Elm Tables

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20 The Manager explained that the tables would likely be finished by the end of the month. He had
21 visited the shop and there were quite a few slabs from the elm that would be used to make furniture.
22 The town was to get two tables.

23 24 Greystone Slope Repair

25
26 The Manager explained the slope repair review, and the overall FEMA claim. In July of 2015 the town
27 suffered a severe rainstorm that wrecked several roads. The largest damage was suffered at the top of
28 Greystone Drive, which washed both the road and private property down the hill. Back in October of
29 last year, KAS Consulting presented a way forward to repair the damages without knowing the final
30 disposition of our FEMA claim. Following bids on the property, SD Ireland was the low bidder at
31 \$115,600, which was above the engineer's estimate. The work is now substantially complete and is
32 about ready for final payment and release of the minimal retainage.

33
34 For the disaster, the total claim from the town was \$225,923.38. We received \$169,445.55 from
35 FEMA and \$39,536.59 from the State of Vermont, leaving \$16,941.24 to be covered by local funds.
36 Additionally, ineligible parts of the Greystone project aren't recorded on the FEMA worksheets, so
37 must be covered by the town.

38
39 The total cost of this one repair, including engineering, was \$138,158.50, which is \$70,823.64 less
40 than the total amount **reimbursed** for time, materials and contracts on the FEMA claim. Provided that
41 we used \$28,428.68 of this reimbursement cash for our match on the Greystone Project, that would
42 leave \$42,394.96 to cover the town's budget expenses for labor, gravel, asphalt and rentals for repairs
43 on the remaining highways.

44
45 In short, the outside-the-right-of-way expenses on Greystone cost the town \$28,428.68, which was
46 covered by cash from the remaining FEMA claim. The loss on the budget was tangible but resulted in
47 no net cash loss for the town from what he could tell.

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49 There was some discussion on this by the Selectboard, but as this was an explanatory item no further
50 action was required.

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Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

The Manager noted the police report and the budget status. He read the police chief's memo on the new space requirements for passing bicycles, which had some modifications for bicyclists themselves also. The recommended passing distance was four feet but there were other considerations as well. Bicyclists were still required to ride single file.

The Manager updated everyone on the East Main Street progress and difficulties with some of the road openings. Since these would have to be opened back up from time to time, they were not patch-paved and needed continual maintenance.

The Manager also noted that following the last meeting, the Opiates Task Force had decided to pilot the needle exchange program at Richmond Rescue.

The Manager explained that Buttermilk was expecting their final environmental release for the creamery remediation on July 22nd. If successful, they plan to begin bidding for asbestos removal. Final closing on the property was scheduled for September 1st but they still had a number of steps to go through, including finding the nonprofit partner to hold the property temporarily while the grant is used.

The Manager reported that a soils test was done on the buyout property on Cochran Road in anticipation of use as a community garden. This was a nutrient test and not a contamination test. It was decided that Chris Granda should come to the board soon and explain further plans.

Approvals

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. May, and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Bressor abstaining.

Tax Rate Reset

The Manager explained that the assessors had provided an updated grand list value and insisted that the tax rate be reapproved. Since the new grand list value was higher than shown at the last meeting, the tax rate would lower by approximately .6 cents. The new grand list value was \$4,522,639.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2017 at .6659, and was seconded by Mr. May. The motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Warrants

Warrants were approved and signed.

Purchase Orders

Mr. Bressor offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3277 to Green Mountain Engineering in the amount of \$2,301.94 for engineering services related to the East Main Street streetscape design. Mr. May seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

1 Mr. Bressor offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3278 to Chittenden Regional Planning
2 Commission for annual dues in the amount of \$5,537.00 and was seconded by Mr. Hill. The motion
3 carried 5-0.

4
5 Mr. Ma offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3279 to Richmond Rescue for services in the
6 amount of \$17,072.25 and was seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion carried 5-0.

7
8 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 3281 to VLCT PACIF for insurance for ½ the
9 year in the amount of \$68,288.50 and was seconded by Mr. Bressor, and the motion carried 5-0.

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11 Executive Session

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13 Ms. Kane explained that the board should enter executive session for discussion of legal services and a
14 flood damage claim.

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16 Mr. May offered a motion to find that premature public knowledge about legal services contracts and
17 flood claims would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Mr. Bressor
18 seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

19
20 Mr. Sander moved to enter an executive session to discuss legal services contracts and flood claims
21 under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(1) for contract and grievances. Mr. Bressor seconded the
22 motion and the motion carried 5-0.

23
24 Mr. Sander offered a motion to exit executive session, and reconvene the regular session, at 9:30 pm
25 and was seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion carried 5-0.

26
27 Items for the next agenda were reviewed.

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29 **4. Adjourn**

30 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.