

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 17, 2017 MINUTES**

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Members Present: Lincoln Bressor; Steve May; David Sander; Steve Ackerman

Absent: Bard Hill

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Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Ian Bender; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Mark Aridgides, Town Treasurer; Dolores Carter; Eric Wood; Wright Preston; Marta Richardson; Robert Richardson; Brian Carpenter; Dennis Gile, Fire Chief; Jerry Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; Alan Buck, Police Chief; Jacob Kilpeck; Mark Klonicke; Mike Parent; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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Lincoln Bressor called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Mr. Bressor asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mike Parent, of Main Street, asked about the street scape project and restoration from the water line. He noted that the soil in lawns was very gravelly and the side of the road was muddy. The Manager explained that the restoration from the water line was having residual issues and the town would continue to work on it. The sidewalk project was delayed by VTrans for a couple of related issues but primarily due to the need to remove the concrete panels beneath Route 2 (East Main) to achieve proper road profile for drainage purposes. There would be an upcoming residents’ meeting to discuss these developments.

Dolores Carter noted that the Bridge Street Bridge needs a yellow centerline.

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

Round Church Road Parking Discussion

Mr. Bressor opened the discussion and explained that the Richardsons did not get notice of the last meeting in time to attend. Marta Richardson, a resident of Round Church Road, read a statement about the effects of parking on the residents there. The Richardsons wanted some restrictions or other changes to mitigate the parking spots on Round Church Road which were used by mostly recreationers who were sometimes loud and came and went at odd hours.

Mr. Bressor said he did not want to get rid of parking entirely. This stimulated more conversation and the suggestion that parking be developed on the Bridge Street side of the green, and removing the resident-side parking.

Jerry Levesque suggested moving the handi-cap parking further up the street, while Dolores Carter suggested making it all handicap parking.

Robert Richardson said they weren’t against using the area but the parking at all hours in front of their house was the issue.

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2 Mr. Bressor said he'd like to explore moving the parking to the other side of the green, and this would  
3 be formulated in the next capital plan. There were other issues discussed such as the health of the  
4 trees there, late-night idling, and wrong way drivers.

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6 The board agreed to limit parking there from April 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> the hours for no-parking  
7 would be 8pm to 8am and between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> there would be no parking from 6pm to  
8 6am. This ordinance amendment would be ready for first reading at the next board meeting.

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10 The board thanked the Richardsons for their time.

### 11 12 Public Safety Building Discussion

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14 This discussion was a continuation of the prior meetings' deliberations. The Selectboard had the  
15 proposal and cost estimate and the decision making process continued through gathering input and  
16 development of concepts of what is necessary, prudent, and realistic.

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18 There had been a question of opposition from the Fire Department membership to the construction of a  
19 new fire department building. The board and committee had heard differing opinions over the past  
20 year, and the Manager had asked all of the leadership – Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Captains and  
21 Lieutenants, to be present at this meeting to express their final opinion on the matter. The Manager  
22 had written the Selectboard and expressed his own opinion that the unified opposition of the Fire  
23 Department would likely be a deciding factor in the failure of a bond vote for the building as it  
24 currently stood. The board asked for comments from the Fire Department.

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26 Mike Parent, a Captain on the department, said he was a lifelong resident and 38 year member of the  
27 department. He read a statement explaining how he felt about the proposed building and the existing  
28 building. He was opposed to a new fire department but recognized the need to do something about the  
29 police.

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31 Mr. Bressor asked Mr. Parent what he felt it would take to make improvements to the Fire station, and  
32 Mr. Parent replied perhaps \$80,000 to \$100,000.

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34 Mike Carter, another Captain, was a lifelong resident as well and with the department for 24 years.  
35 Mr. Carter also read a statement and included that he felt that the town was at a stable and consistent  
36 level of calls for service and the current building was adequate for providing that level of service.  
37 With some improvement the current building should be able to meet the town's needs and a new fire  
38 station was not needed. He felt that the fire station was included in the new building design to try and  
39 add to its appeal. He listed some needs of the existing building.

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41 Jerry Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief, a lifelong resident and longtime member of the department felt  
42 that the department didn't need the large building and should just fix up the current station and focus  
43 on improvements for the police department.

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45 There was additional discussion on this topic but the opinion of the fire department was clear that they  
46 should keep the current station and improve upon it, while exploring options for the police.

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48 Mr. Bressor asked the board if they should proceed with the building as proposed, or split the project.  
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1 Wright Preston suggested putting that decision back to the committee. Chief of Police Alan Buck  
2 asked if the site for a new building should include room to expand or if that was necessary. Mr.  
3 Bressor said that fewer sites had such room to expand and that would also add to the cost, which were  
4 important to consider.

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6 Mr. Ackerman was in favor of a new building for only the police and the location would be important.

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8 Town Treasurer Mark Aridgides explained that with a \$3.5 million town budget a \$7 million building,  
9 which after interest payments would cost over \$12 million, was too much for the town to carry.

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11 Wright Preston also asked if the town should evaluate essential services and how they are delivered,  
12 and what our needs would be over 20 years. Would the town need a new building over that period of  
13 time?

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15 Mr. Ackerman said the immediate need was for a new space for police. There was significant  
16 discussion about how to approach this. There was discussion about other stations and how they were  
17 built. The Selectboard agreed that the current proposal was not right for the town at this time and the  
18 committee should go back and focus on a police-station only proposal to be located somewhere in the  
19 village – and report back in 90 days. The board thanked everyone for their comments and work on the  
20 project so far.

### 21 **3. Other Business**

#### 22 Prevailing Wage Discussion

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26 Mr. May said he wasn't prepared for this discussion tonight and requested this be tabled until August  
27 21<sup>st</sup> and the Selectboard agreed.

#### 28 Affordable Housing Discussion

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31 Mr. Bressor explained that this discussion was generally about how to provide affordable housing in  
32 town. It had been many years since the last development on Borden Street and the board should  
33 consider how to facilitate additional options.

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35 The Manager suggested that the board could ask for input from landowners in town through a sort of  
36 RFP process. People could make their own suggestions on what they felt they could do and what  
37 would be needed to make that work. There was discussion on this suggestion.

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39 Mary Houle suggested putting this out on Front Porch Forum, in the Times Ink, and look at diverse  
40 opportunities.

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42 The board agreed to develop this idea further.

#### 43 Credit Card Policy

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46 The Manager explained that this is the policy presented by Finance Assistant Connie Bona at the prior  
47 meeting.

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49 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the Credit Card policy and was seconded by Mr. May and the  
50 motion carried 4-0.

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## Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

The Manager noted the Police Report and explained that Buttermilk was planning utility work on Bridge Street with the town sometime in late August. The Manager also reminded everyone that the bridge replacement on Route 2 would begin this week, with the road expected to close for one month.

Mr. May spoke about an annual meeting with volunteers at the Round Church. The board discussed this and would like to do this on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2017 and was seconded by Mr. Ackerman. The motion carried 4-0.

## Approval of Purchase Orders

The Manager explained there were several purchase orders for the Highway Department.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #3393 to Pike Industries for retreatment (asphalt paving) in the amount of \$292,000 (\$64.39/ton). Mr. May seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #3402 to Lane Enterprises for the Collins Mountain culvert in the amount of \$16,962.20 and was seconded by Mr. May and the motion carried 4-0.

Mr. May offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #3389 to Hinesburg Sand & Gravel for road gravel in the amount of \$145,000 (\$9.45/ton and \$10.25/ton) and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 4-0.

## Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Sander offered a motion appointing Bard Hill to the Clean Water Advisory Committee and Clare Rock to the Planning Advisory Committee and was seconded by Mr. May and the motion carried 4-0.

## Ron Bryan Jr. – Roofing Payment

The Manager explained that the work had been completed except for final lawn restoration. Mr. Bryan had attempted to repair but more detailed work was required by a landscaper which the Manager would handle. The final payment should be \$12,360. There were still outstanding claims by Mr. Bryan for over \$11,000 for the ice belt and snow bars, which were in the original scope of work. The Manager said that Mr. Bryan should make a written claim on additional costs, and the Selectboard agreed that he should do this by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ackerman offered a motion to approve a payment to Ron Bryan Jr. in the amount of \$12,300 on Purchase Order #3356 for the town center building roof, and was seconded by Mr. May. The motion carried 4-0.

1 Town Clerk Salary

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3 The Manager explained that at Town Meeting the voters approved an amendment to the budget for  
4 \$6,000 to provide a salary increase for the Town Clerk. While this was approved, the voters could  
5 really only amend the aggregate appropriations and not the salary itself. The Selectboard needed to  
6 approve the change. The Manager had explained in a memo how this should be applied, and the Clerk  
7 was in agreement with the application of cost of living and increase.

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9 Mr. Ackerman offered a motion to approve the Clerk's salary and was seconded by Mr. Sander and the  
10 motion carried 4-0.

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12 Approval of Warrants

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14 Warrants were reviewed. There was not appropriate documentation for a statement from Champlain  
15 Valley Equipment, which was pulled from the warrant and the amended warrant was approved.

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18 **4. Adjourn**

19 Motion by Mr. Ackerman to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. May. So voted.