

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
September 18, 2017 MINUTES**

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Jerry Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; Mark Klonick, Fire Captian; Mary Houle; Marta and Rob Richardson; Judy Rosovsky; Fran Thomas; Harriet Riggs; Gail; and Erin Wagg was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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, but there was none.

2. Public Information Session: Fire Truck Bond Vote

The Manager ran through a brief presentation explaining a little history behind Engine #3 and the request from the voters to approve debt to replace it. In August, 2001, the Town acquired an Emergency One pumper with 1,500 gallon tank. This truck was expected to last 20 years, with replacement authorized in 2020 and acquired in 2021. This truck is commonly known as Engine #3, and was heavily relied upon until early this year. When its annual vehicle inspection came due, severe frame rust was identified and Vermont Department of Transportation was brought in to inspect. While the vehicle passed inspection, concern was expressed by the inspectors over the condition of the frame. Since then, the frame has been reinforced with welded supports, however, this is a temporary fix. The engine has also undergone engine and water tank repairs in the past six months. The determination of the fire department is that this vehicle has little life left for Richmond as its problems will continue to worsen. While it is roadworthy today and capable of fighting fires, the decision was made to request a replacement ahead of its intended cycle by about 2.5 years.

The lead time in bidding, awarding and delivering a fire truck is 12-15 months. The Selectboard has decided that this issue cannot wait, and has scheduled a bond vote for September 26, 2017. The Selectboard is asking the voters to consider replacing the fire engine, at approximately \$395,000, using indebtedness to cover most of the costs. The value of the old engine is estimated to be less than \$15,000. Being early in the cycle, there are little reserve funds available for this replacement.

Over a proposed seven-year repayment cycle, the principal amount would be \$57,142 per year and interest is estimated to be \$6,281 in the first year at 3%. This would add approximately 1.4 cents to the tax rate in Fiscal Year 2020 – we would not incur the debt until delivery of the engine in FY2019, and not begin to pay the debt until FY2020. Our two previous bond approvals have been for lesser amounts over a shorter term, costing about \$55,000 per year over five years, and the last payment on the current bonded engine will be November 16, 2020 – meaning a one-year overlap of debt payments for fire engines will occur.

1 The vote is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM in the Town
2 Clerk's Office at 203 Bridge Street, but early voting and absentee voting are happening now.

3
4 Mr. Hill asked if there was a cost difference between Engine 2 and Engine 3. Jerry Levesque replied
5 that Engine 2 was a custom pumper, and cost about \$50,000 more than the proposed replacement for
6 Engine 3 which would be a more standard chassis and truck but with a larger engine than was typical
7 because of the need to get up steep hills. He had three preliminary price quotes and they were all
8 about \$400,000. He noted that the fire department may not recommend the lowest bid if it did not
9 meet all the specification. Mark Klonick mentioned that the cab on the new Engine 3 would be a two
10 seater, not a four seater.

11
12 There was some discussion on the details of the truck. Asst. Chief Levesque said that a review
13 committee would go through the specifications.

14
15 Mr. Ackerman asked why the engine didn't last as long as expected. Asst. Chief Levesque stated that
16 it used an interlocking "c" channel frame that didn't allow for cleaning inside it. It was also not
17 undercoated.

18
19 After some additional discussion, and no further comments, the Selectboard thanked the Fire
20 Department representatives for their time and information.

21 22 **3. Items for Discussion with those Present**

23 24 **Andrews Forest Management Plan and Committee**

25
26 Conservation Commission Chair Judy Rosovsky was present to explain the progress on the Andrews
27 Forest Management Plan, and the need for a management committee to develop and implement the
28 plan. Ms. Rosovsky explained the \$10,000 grant for planning assistance from the SE Group. Now
29 they were beginning the public engagement phase to initiate the plan. She suggested several names for
30 the committee but the Selectboard requested that she develop a full list of committed individuals for
31 them to approve.

32 33 **Winooski River Bank – Volunteers Green**

34
35 Ms. Rosovsky spoke a little about Volunteers Green and the stabilization project that the Selectboard
36 was considering, but that most of the Conservation Commission did not like. She said that the
37 Conservation Commission wanted to determine a line along the green near the river where plantings
38 could be installed. This line would be sort of a limit on how much riverbank loss the town was willing
39 to accept, and build a riparian buffer at that point. She understood that the riprap project may still go
40 forward.

41
42 The Selectboard considered this and believed it might be something to consider, and thanked Ms.
43 Rosovsky for her time and effort.

44 45 **4. Public Hearing: Ordinance 2017-03 Amending the Traffic Ordinance to Prohibit Parking at** 46 **Certain Times on Round Church Road**

47
48 Mr. May offered a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2017-03 and was seconded by Mr.
49 Hill and the motion carried 5-0.

50

1 Mr. Bressor explained that this would prohibit parking on Round Church Road between the hours of
2 8pm to 8am, from April 1 through September 30, and from 6pm to 6am from October 1 through
3 March 31. This was a result of previous discussions over the Summer, based on complaints from
4 residents on Round Church Road of noisy early morning gatherings as well as sometime cars parked
5 late at night on the road.

6
7 Fran Thomas and Harriet Riggs represented the Richmond Historical Society, and had written some
8 objections to the ordinance. Ms. Thomas asked if there was a larger problem than just the cyclists, and
9 Mr. Bressor said he felt it was mostly the cyclists. Ms. Thomas read the letter the Historical Society
10 had prepared and felt that this ordinance was an overreaction since the same parking issues happened
11 on most streets in town – was the Selectboard prepared to limit parking on all of them? The Round
12 Church hosted weddings, concerts and other activities that often required people past nightfall and
13 their concern was that this ordinance would limit attendance. She suggested better outreach to calm
14 the noise and didn't want negative activities to affect the Round Church. She suggested no parking
15 from 11pm to 6am.

16
17 Harriet Riggs, Town Historian, agreed with what Ms. Thomas had said. The Historical Society owned
18 the lower grass lot but people like her would find it difficult to climb the hill.

19
20 Rob Richardson, a resident of Round Church Road, said there could be an exception for events. The
21 issue was the bikers. He had asked for help from the Historical Society with weddings – keeping the
22 road clear for people to go through, but he hasn't received help in a while. He was also in favor of
23 signs, but now people from the Stone Corral were there, and he suggested that if the town wanted to
24 keep parking spaces then move them to the other side of the green.

25
26 Mr. May asked if the Historical Society and the neighbors could have a mediation. Marta Richardson
27 said she didn't have a problem with the Historical Society, but who else could she talk to? Rob
28 Richardson agreed that the problem was with the bikers. There was some discussion on this, and noise
29 ordinance applicability.

30
31 There was also discussion on the general nature of difficult parking in the village, with the park and
32 ride being full and folks seeking other areas to park and carpool from. The Historical Society lot was
33 historically green for aesthetics and they didn't want to alter that, and controlling who could park there
34 was a problem even though they mostly allow casual parking.

35
36 Mr. Bressor agreed with Ms. Thomas that outreach should be the first step, and an ordinance
37 restricting parking should be towards the end.

38
39 Mr. May asked who were we protecting – patrons of the Stone Corral?

40
41 Ms. Thomas said that restricting parking was saying we were unwelcome. There was some discussion
42 on this, then Mr. Sander offered a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Mr. Hill
43 and the motion carried unanimously.

44
45 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adopt the ordinance as written, seconded by Mr. Hill.

46
47 Mr. Hill said he was sensitive to the quality of life issues, but a graduate response was needed and
48 parking regulations should be the final step. He wasn't sure if it would work or not but encouraging
49 parking by noting them on trails maps. Regarding moving the spaces to the other side of the green, he
50 felt that Bridge Street was far too busy now to accommodate parking in that location.

1
2 Mr. May said we have to deal with parking issues anyway – we have a decade old parking study but
3 we need an organic approach that takes into effect all parking issues. Starting with the intersection of
4 Cochran Road/Bridge Street/Huntington Road.

5
6 Mr. Ackerman said that there was an issue with a quiet zone – would that mean that in other
7 neighborhoods it was ok to be loud? Every parking area should have this? He saw no problem with
8 the parking restrictions.

9
10 Mr. Bressor called the vote, and the ordinance failed 1 in favor (Mr. Ackerman), 3 opposed (Mr. Hill,
11 Mr. Bressor and Mr. May) and one abstention (Mr. Sander).

12
13 Mr. Sander said that we may end up eventually going towards parking restrictions but that wasn't the
14 corrective action we should take at this time.

15
16 Ms. Thomas mentioned that on the green, some trees were dying and grass wouldn't grow in many
17 spots and asked if the town could take a look at removing some of the trees. She suggested looking at
18 a plan that includes parking, condition of the green and lighting changes.

19
20 The board asked for signage to be installed along the road at the green, and for an update in six
21 months.

22 23 **5. Other Business**

24 25 FY2019 Budget – First Draft

26
27 The Manager explained that the first draft of the budget was prepared, however, Fire had just handed
28 in their request today and it was not in the draft, and Highway and Recreation were not included.

29
30 Mr. May asked where we were with fire gear replacements. The Manager said that the Chief expected
31 to replace 6 or 7 sets this year, leaving only a few more for the next year. The Fire Chief's big request
32 was for station improvements.

33
34 Mr. May asked for input from the Richmond Climate Action Committee for efficiency savings. There
35 was brief discussion but the budget sessions would continue.

36 37 Personnel and Wage Policy Discussions

38
39 Mr. Bressor explained that this material was not ready, and would be deferred to the next agenda.

40 41 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

42
43 The Manager noted the police report and the budget status.

44
45 Mr. Bressor noted that we had received a late request to close Baker Street for an annual Block Party
46 on October 14th from 3-7pm, with a rain date of October 15th from 2:30 – 5:30 pm. Mr. Hill offered a
47 motion to approve the request for a road closure at Baker Street on the dates noted above and was
48 seconded by Mr. May, and the motion carried 5-0.
49

1 The Manager updated the board on construction, including paving of Greystone Drive, Church Street
2 and other areas happening hopefully this week, and the Collins Mountain Road culvert replacement
3 work happening soon also.

4
5 The Manager reported that exploration of a possible electric car charging station at a public parking
6 area was explored. Mary Houle strongly objected to this, on the basis that there wasn't enough
7 parking already and we'd tie up parking with this and it would cost the taxpayers money. The
8 Selectboard was interested in how this might work.

9
10 The Manager reported that the town was backing out of the Vactor consortium that began many years
11 ago. The vactor ended up being complicated to retrieve and utilize, discouraging its use. It required a
12 higher class CDL to pull behind a dump truck and we only had one employee who could move it – it
13 was stored in Johnson. Also, it required the full highway crew to utilize, including flagging.

14
15 The Manager also said he reached out to the Regional Planning Commission regarding Route 2 issues,
16 hopefully the first week of October. He had spoken to the town's state representative, Marcia
17 Gardner, on these issue also.

18
19 The Manager reported that the town was finished with utility installations for Buttermilk, however,
20 they still had electrical to worry about, and the building should break ground in October.

21 22 Approval Items

23 24 Minutes of September 5, 2017

25
26 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2017 and was seconded by Mr.
27 May and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Ackerman abstaining.

28 29 Amending Schedule A of the Road Naming Ordinance – Barred Owl Lane

30
31 The Manager explained that the Selectboard had approved this many years ago, however, the
32 paperwork was never completed. This was for a subdivision with a private road, off of Dugway Road
33 that was now being built.

34
35 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Barred Owl Lane as a private road by amending Schedule A
36 of the Road Naming Ordinance. Mr. May seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

37 38 Approval of Warrants

39
40 Warrants were reviewed and approved.

41
42 Next Agenda: Volunteer Recognition at the Round Church
43 Riverbank Erosion Control – Front and rear of Volunteers Green; personnel policies; budget; East
44 Main/Route 2 continued.

45 46 **6. Adjourn**

47 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. May. So voted.