

Called to Order: 7:01 pm

In Attendance: Bard Hill, David Sander, Christy Witters, Roger Brown, Stephen Ackerman, Josh Arneson, Connie Bona, Jessica Draper, Mary Houle, Marie Thomas, Mike Storrs, Pete Halvorsen, Robin Katrick, Vickie Rathgeb, Linda Parent, Ted Lyman, Michael Lawler, Ayesha Raftery, Gabe Firman, Charlotte Blend, Marcy Harding, Michael Chiarella, Tamira Martell, Jon Fath, Ellen Kraft, Wright Preston, Geoff Urbanik, Judy Rosovsky, Jack Linn, Guy Roberts, Logan Hegg

Public Comment:

Mary Houle asked about the results of the executive session where employees were discussed, and asked if the nepotism concern had been addressed. Bard Hill said that personnel guidelines were discussed. Josh Arneson said that they determined the staffing in the Highway Department to be compliant due to the supervisory structure.

Mary Houle also asked how an item such as school choice and the COP program ended up on selectboard agendas. Bard Hill explained that he had received a letter requesting the selectboard make a declaration regarding school choice, and they decided not to. Josh Arneson explained that the COP program was discussed during the special budget meeting, because it was going to cost money that would be discussed at that meeting.

Mary Houle also asked if the town highway department plows the Willis Sledding Hill parking lot or the Beacon access parking lot. The audience indicated that Willis was not plowed by the town, and Josh Arneson said he would find out which areas the highway department maintains.

Gabe Firman stated that he was interested in developing the Toscano building currently owned by John Fath. He expressed that he would like to increase the residential units allowed in the building. He also stated that he had been to the planning commission with his idea, and they advised him to put together a letter outlining his ideas for the zoning regulation change. Gabe explained that he knew there were various pathways to getting the regulation changed and wanted to bring it to the selectboard's attention. Bard Hill advised that he have an offline discussion with Jessica Draper about the options.

RiseVT: Robin Katrick presented a current grant opportunity that is designated for recreational and community health purposes. She wanted to encourage the organizations asking for town appropriations to also look into the RiseVT opportunity as well.

Appropriations: Bard Hill explained that representatives from the organizations requesting appropriations from the town were welcome to come up in alphabetical order to give a 2-minute presentation of their organization and their request. Mary Houle asked to point out that she did

not see forms filled out by Lake Iroquois Association, GBIC, or the Howard Center. She also stated that she believed that organizations that did not fill out the form should not be awarded.

Age Well- Josh Arneson explained that there was no representative available from AgeWell

COTS-Tamera Martell presented information about COTS and is requesting \$1000. They served 7 Richmond families last year

CUSI- Vickie Rathgeb presented information about CUSI. They have served about 6-8 cases per year that have originated in Richmond. They are requesting \$7505.

Front Porch Forum-no representative in attendance. Bard Hill stated he believed it had become a functioning part of our notification system and the other board members agreed it was an important organization to support.

GBIC-Christy Witters stated that she didn't think there was enough information provided. Linda Parent explained that last year they were not awarded because they would not provide information for the town report.

Hale & Hearty- Mike Storrs presented information about Hale & Hearty. They serve about 60 members. They are asking for about \$4000. He also explained that there is no formal connection with the senior center.

Howard Center- no representative in attendance.

Lake Iroquois Association- No representative in attendance. Jack Linn clarified the difference between the recreation district and the association. He said he believed the increase in the request from \$400 to \$1000 was likely to support weed control.

LUND-Charlotte Blend presented information about LUND. She said they served about 13 families in Richmond last year. Roger Brown asked about their other funding sources. She explained that they received funding from private, local, state, and federal entities. They are requesting \$1000.

MMCTV-Ted Lyman presented information about MMCTV. They are requesting \$3200. This figure represents half of what it costs for them to cover our selectboard and special meetings. He proposed that Richmond have a meeting with Jericho and Underhill to discuss supporting MMCTV in the future.

OCCC-Marie Thomas presented information about OCCC. She said that they are requesting \$200, and have been operating for 10 years. She said 50% of their operating budget comes from donations. Christy Witters said she believes OCCC is a very valuable resource.

Richmond Community Band- Mike Lawler presented information about Richmond Community Band. They are mostly funded by donations and are requesting \$400.

Richmond Rescue: Michael Chiarella presented information about Richmond Rescue. He said about 25% of their funding comes from town appropriations. They are requesting \$74,984. Jack Linn asked how much money comes from subscriptions. Michael said that about \$30,000 comes from subscriptions.

Vermont Family Network- No representative in attendance. They are requesting \$500.

VNA- Now called the UVM Health Network Home Health and Hospice. Ayesha Raftery presented information about the HHH. They are requesting \$9,900.

VCIL-no representative in attendance. A statement was submitted and Josh Arneson read that to the selectboard. They support about 6 Richmond residents per year.

Bard Hill stated that it was very useful to learn about the various organizations. Christy Witters asked to discuss the GBIC. Bard Hill said they asked for \$200. David Sander moved to eliminate their request. Seconded by Christy Witters. Bard Hill abstained. Christy Witters, David Sander, Roger Brown, and Stephen Ackerman were in favor. So moved.

Roger Brown and Jack Linn further clarified the difference between the Lake Iroquois Recreation District and the Lake Iroquois Association. Stephen pointed out the lack of explanation for the increased request. Stephen Ackerman moved to reduce their request to \$400 from \$1000. Seconded by Roger Brown. More discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the funding. Stephen Ackerman voted in favor. Christy Witters, David Sander, and Roger Brown voted against the motion. Bard Hill abstained. Motion failed.

Christy Witters stated that she respects Marie's request for a small amount and her desire to maintain a grassroots funding mechanism. Marie Thomas clarified that she wasn't against an increase, but would not ask for one. Christy Witters moved to increase the amount requested to \$800. Seconded by Roger Brown. All members were in favor. So moved.

Andrews Community Forest Committee Appointments: Bard Hill referenced a memo summarizing the recommendations for the appointments and the desire for diversity among the membership. He read from the memo that the Trails Committee recommended Jim Monahan and Tyler Merritt, the Conservation Commission recommended Guy Roberts and Wright Preston, and that the subcommittee of the interim town forest committee recommended Cecilia Danks, Rob Peterson, Marcy Harding, and Geoffrey Urbanik. The subcommittee also suggested two other finalists for the remaining seat: Pete Halvorsen and Ellen Kraft. Elizabeth Wright said that it was a hard decision making process. Mary Houle stated that she felt Jack Linn was overlooked. Judy Rosovsky said that Jack Linn was considered by the conservation commission, but they wanted to maintain consistency by including conservation commission members that had been on the interim forest committee. Pete Halvorsen and Ellen Kraft introduced themselves. Jack Linn expressed that he was interested in having the ninth seat. Much discussion ensued about the size of the committee. Mary Houle reminded the board of the time approaching 9pm. Jessica Draper suggested the possibility of alternate membership. David Sander made the motion to accept the suggested members including Ellen Kraft. Seconded by Christy Witters. Bard Hill, David Sander, and Christy Witters voted in favor. Roger Brown and Stephen Ackerman abstained. So moved.

FEMA Elevation Grant Funding Request: Marie Thomas explained that the Jones Mill Road elevation has incurred some cost overruns and would like the selectboard to approve the letter of request for an increase in funding. David Sander moved to approve the request. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. So moved.

CSWD Representative: Logan Hegg requested that the selectboard vote to approve a switch to make him the town's representative and make the current representative the alternate. A short

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discussion ensued regarding the reuse zones. Roger Brown moved to approve the switch. Seconded by Christy Witters. Bard Hill, Christy Witters, Roger Brown, and Stephen Ackerman were in favor. David Sander was not present for the vote. So moved.

IT Contract: Josh Arneson provided a brief overview of the cost and direction he thought the town should go in regarding a technology support contract. Linda Parent stated that she was in favor of contracting with Dominion Tech. Josh Arneson said he preferred to go with the less expensive option and that he believed they would provide the service needed.

Bard Hill suggested that the agenda items related to town meeting be tabled until the next meeting on January 22nd.

Josh Arneson and Connie Bona presented the current draft of the budget. Connie asked the board if they were interested in restoring the \$3000 cut from stormwater and sidewalks and the \$1000 cut from Planning and Zoning legal. They agreed to restore those amounts. Josh Arneson revisited the appropriations requests to place them back in the budget or cut them from the budget if they had been changed previously. Howard Center was not funded, and GBIC was not funded. OCCC had been increased to \$800. The selectboard also agreed to use unassigned funds to help fund the pilot year of the technology contract. Roger Brown moved to accept the budget as presented. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. So moved.

Trail Grant: Guy Roberts presented briefly about the Andrews Community Forest trails grant and requested the selectboard sign the letter of support. Stephen Ackerman moved to approve the letter. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. So moved.

Warrants: David Sander moved to approve purchase order 3689. Seconded by Stephen Ackerman. All were in favor. So moved. David Sander expressed concern about paying an invoice for a carbon monoxide leak in a vehicle which should have been covered by a recall.

Police Chief Update: Josh Arneson explained that there is a committee of nine people for the hiring process including police department representatives, selectboard representatives, and community representatives. The goal date for hire is April 8th. They will be narrowing down the applicant pool to 4 or 5 candidates for interviews.

Minutes: Christy Witters moved to approve both sets of minutes from 12/17/18 and 12/19/18. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor. So moved,

Christy Witters moved to adjourn. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor. Adjourned 10:19pm.