

**Called to Order:** 7:05pm

**In Attendance:** Bard Hill, David Sander (left prior to executive session), Christy Witters, Steve Ackerman, Roger Brown, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Brendan O'Reilly, Colin Moffat, Dave Lachtrupp, Gabe Firman, Lars Whitman, Chris Conant, Mary Houle, Judy Rosovsky, Ellen Kane, Cathleen Gent

**Public Comment:**

Mary Houle made a statement of concern regarding recent political and legal actions surrounding abortion.

Gabe Firman stated that he believed Mary Houle's statement was one sided.

**Lake Iroquois:**

Chris Conant spoke regarding Lake Iroquois Association's work combating invasive species and pollution. Judy Rosovsky spoke in support of their efforts.

**Buttermilk Creamery Development:**

Brendan O'Reilly spoke to the selectboard regarding the state of the creamery redevelopment process. He said that they are intending to construct four more residential units than was originally approved and permitted and are trying to go through the motions to get those approvals amended. Bard Hill said he believed that there is a path forward and appreciated Brendan's explanation. Ellen Kane stated that she was surprised that the lack of the town adopting the proper regulations would prevent them from moving forward. Bard Hill explained that the selectboard no longer had legal authority over the project after the interim zoning expired. Jessica Draper also explained that interim zoning could not be re-done. Brendan suggested that there is the possibility that the DRB approve the amendment like they did last year for the building 2 approval. Mary Houle inquired about a waiver that had been granted to another developer in a previous meeting. Staff agreed to look into that. Gabe Firman stated that he recognized the challenges that Buttermilk is facing and that what they are trying to do is in line with the town plan. He also stated that he understood the due process, but that Richmond is like a gated community and expensive to live in. Gabe also stated that he thinks the town needs to be pliable with proposed projects. Bard Hill acknowledged Gabe's concerns, but also reminded everyone that they are restricted by law. Bard apologized on behalf of the town for the various delays and stated that the ultimate goal was continued partnership. Jessica Draper reminded the selectboard that this topic would be discussed again at the planning commission meeting on Wednesday and encouraged attendance by the selectboard and drb members.

**Town Plan Actions:**

This topic was postponed until the second March selectboard meeting.

**Update on Unassigned Funds:**

Josh Arneson explained that the auditors had found and determined that about \$688,000 of the unassigned funds was actually restricted for highway purposes. Bard Hill stated that we are past the deadline to amend the budget for the town report, and need an adjusted version prepared for town meeting and for the March 4th selectboard meeting. Roger Brown stated that he found it very frustrating to have this come up after budget decisions had been made, and wanted to know why the auditors hadn't mentioned it sooner. Josh Arneson explained that the auditor they speak with regularly had not been privy to the changes being made to that portion of the audit by another person. Bard Hill stated that from now on we will have it corrected and move forward. Roger Brown stated that he thought this was a bigger budget impact because of other budget decisions made in highway that could have gone differently with this information. Mary Houle asked what auditing company we use. Josh Arneson said that we use Sullivan and Powers. Bard Hill suggested we ask the auditor to come to the next meeting to discuss. Josh Arneson also mentioned that the staff would be reviewing records to make sure that the auditors' numbers were accurate as well.

**Bank Account Changes:**

Josh Arneson explained that TD bank has offered 2% interest on our entire account which would accrue about \$43,000 annually. He also explained that he, Roger, Connie, and the treasurer would be working on this and working that change into the budget.

**CESU Lease:**

Josh Arneson explained that the supervisory union will be vacating the third floor offices within the coming year. Discussion ensued regarding the facilities assessment and police office needs. Jessica Draper agreed to work on outreach materials for town meeting and others to gather input from the community about renovations and uses of the town center building, which would include a suggestion box as well as an online survey. The selectboard agreed to defer decision making until after the new selectboard is elected in March.

**East Main Stormwater Project:**

Josh Arneson presented Pete Gosselin's cost estimate for the east main stormwater project. Pete's estimate reflected work that could be done by the town highway department to save on costs. His estimate also reflected work to be done between two fiscal years. Christy Witters suggested the town also seek grant funding for the project as well.

**Traffic Light Issues:**

Josh Arneson explained that he had looked more into the traffic light issue and learned that the green light delay had been turned off, and that completely redoing the light system would be over \$100,000. Josh suggested that short term fixes are potentially possible and is working with VTrans and CCRPC to pursue those.

**Gas Tax:**

Bard Hill explained that the selectboard had been asked to support the creation of a gas tax to help fund highway projects in towns. The selectboard members agreed it was not a progressive tax and decided not to act on it.

**Committee Appointments:**

Josh Arneson presented the newest draft of the list of government officials and their terms. Christy Witters requested that a column be added to show how many years overall these appointees had served.

**ACFC Chair Approval:**

Geoff Urbanik gave a brief statement and explained that he was recommended by the ACF Committee to be their chair for his one year term. Roger Brown moved to approve his appointment. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. So moved.

**Police Chief Update:**

Josh Arneson explained that the final round of interviews for police chief would be held on Monday February 11th at Camels Hump Middle School. The finalists are Larry Muldoon and Mike Major. Each one will be available for a community forum at 5:30pm and 6:30pm for public questions.

**Community Resilience:**

Josh Arneson explained that the community resilience program is full and no longer looking for volunteers

**Policies:**

Josh Arneson provided an update that many policies are now posted to our website for easier access.

**Thank you notes/mail:**

Josh Arneson provided copies of thank you notes received from appropriations the selectboard had granted.

**Minutes Approval:**

Christy Witters moved to approve the minutes of the 1/22/19 selectboard meeting. Seconded by Roger Brown. Christy Witters, Bard Hill, and Roger Brown were in favor. Steve Ackerman abstained. So moved.

**Warrants Approval:**

Roger Brown asked if there was a fee for the ACH transfer to the FSA. Josh Arneson said he would look into it. Roger also asked why a windshield repair was taken to Belvidere, and how the solar invoice works with water and wastewater also being billed along with general fund budgets. Jessica Draper explained that water and wastewater reimburse the general fund for

those instances. Discussion ensued regarding a rotation of selectboard members reviewing the warrant on Fridays.

**Next Agenda:**

Mary Houle asked for clarification that the next selectboard meeting would be the Tuesday night following President's Day. The selectboard agreed that it would be moved. Christy Witters reminded everyone of the library book sale and pizza at the church. Mary Houle mentioned that there needs to be more turnover for committee members in town committees. The selectboard agreed that the audit and unassigned funds, police chief update, and town center outreach would be topics for the next agenda.

**Executive Session:**

Bard Hill moved to find that premature public knowledge about the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor. So moved.

Christy Witters moved that they enter into executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the town manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Seconded by Roger Brown. All were in favor. So moved.

The selectboard entered executive session at 9:15pm. Roger Brown moved to exit executive session at 9:45pm. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor, so moved.

Roger Brown moved to adjourn. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. Adjourned 9:46pm.