

Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes
7/8/19

Called to Order at 7pm

Present: David Sander, Bard Hill, Christy Witters, Roger Brown, Josh Arneson, Mary Houle, Cara LaBounty, Bruce LaBounty, Mark Fausel.

David thanked volunteers who helped with the 4th of July festivities.

Welcome and Public Comment

Mary Houle thanked Katie Mather for volunteering at the 4th of July. Thanked Chief Muldoon for his communication on Front Porch Forum and engagement in person in the community.

Cara LaBounty would like to make a request regarding changing stations. Saw adults change cloths in the park on the 4th of July to put on bathing suits. She has heard that some people change in the Round Church parking area too. She is requesting that the Selectboard look into cost of a changing station by the river on Volunteers Green. She feels this may help solve the problem and be a good test of if people would use changing stations.

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: Moved item II j to the top of the agenda

Vote on proposed private road name for the new road off of LaBounty Lane

Josh Arneson updated that the LaBounty subdivision has a proposed driveway that will serve three residences. Per e911 it needs to be named. The request is to name the driveway East Meadow Way. This has been approved by e911.

Motion to name the new road East Meadow Way was made by Roger Brown. Seconded by Bard Hill. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Set FY20 tax rate

Christy Witters asked if we could consider raising the amount in the budget to keep the tax increase at 2% over last year's rate.

Bard Hill, stated that the rate is a function of the approved budget so we can't change it. Roger asked what drove the what drove the increase in property values

Josh Arneson stated the increase is in assessed value of properties now vs. what was estimated in January.

Mary Houle stated that the taxable amount of a home is what it is by April 1.

Motion made by Christy Witters to set the tax rate at 0.6943. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Vote on approval of paying for physicals for respirator wearing firefighters

Josh Arneson explained Chief Dennis Gile is starting to work on policies for the fire department. We are starting with a respirator policy. We met with the Williston Fire Chief Morton and he has shared their policy with us and we have a sample policy from VLCT. We will be working on a policy to present to the Board. In the meantime we have reached out to VLCT for advice and they advise that VOSHA requires health screening to verify adequate health to wear a respirator. We are planning to move ahead with health screenings for the six fire fighters who wear respirators immediately. We looked into the three local companies that VLCT recommended that provide this service (Concentra, Champlain Medical, and Clear Choice) and Concentra came in as the lowest priced. The cost varies depending on if more testing is needed for certain fire fighters but the cost will be about \$500 per firefighter. Since this is not a budgeted line item we need Board approval to spend this from unassigned funds.

Bard Hill question if this would this be an annual expense.

Josh Arneson replied yes, it will be annual.

Motion made by Christy Witters to approve spending \$3000 for physicals for respirator firefighters out of unassigned funds. Bard Hill Seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Update on VTrans Bike-Pedestrian Program's grant

Josh Arneson stated that this grant was submitted on Friday, June 28. The full grant application is posted online. The grant is a request to fund the first section of the Rt. 2 Pedestrian/Bike path which would go from Baker St. to the Willis Hill area.

Christy Witters, thanked Jon Kart and Cathleen Gent for putting the grant together.

Mary Houle asked if this would interfere with the water and sewer lines extension in the same area.

Josh Arneson, no it will not, the water and sewer lines will come down from the school and not along the road.

Vote on approval of loan application for water line bridge crossing project

Josh Arneson updated that this is the loan paperwork for the Bridge Crossing Project. Even though this is a Water & Sewer Project, and this will be paid by the Water and Sewer users, the Town needs to be the entity to officially back the loan and signatures of

the SB are required on the application. This is through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Roger Brown asked what the rate would be.

Josh Arneson explained that the Town may be eligible for forgiveness on the principal, thus we would pay back less than we borrow.

Motion by Roger Brown to sign the loan application. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Update on new email service for Selectboard members

Josh Arneson stated: After speaking in more detail with Tech Group it became clear that we could not move only the five Selectboard emails to Exchange, we would have to move all 25 richmondvt.org addresses that we currently have on Round Cube. I called Go Daddy, which hosts the richmondvt.org emails on Round Cube. They offered a deal where they would migrate the emails for free to Exchange and only charge \$1.99 per email, per month. At this point it seems only Selectboard members are using the emails. It would be good to get Planning Commission, DRB and Water & Sewer Commission using these emails as well. This is a total of 21 emails at \$1.99/month each for \$41.79 monthly or \$501.48 per year. The total discussed last meeting was \$240 per year for the SB emails. This is a one year promotion at this pricing, or we could lock in two or three years at this price. The retail pricing on this is \$4.99 per email per month or \$1,257.48 per year.

Should we sign up for a term (one, two, or three years) at the \$1.99 pricing we would be allowed to add emails for \$1.99/month each, but we would not be allowed to remove emails.

Another option would be to set the SB up with this service alone for \$119.40 and then add other board later if we saw fit. We could also set up other boards with generic gmail addresses (such at richmondwater1@gmail.com) and those email addresses would be assigned to members and then re-assigned as one member leaves and another takes their place.

Christy Witters, likes doing this for SB and test for a year.

Mary Houle, would like to include Planning Commission and Development Review Board in the new email service.

Bard Hill, feels all committee members should use a Town email.

Roger Brown, would like to try to make it so there is one email box for board members. Josh will check on this.

Motion by Roger Brown to proceed with signing the Selectboard up for Exchange email service for \$1.99 per email address per month. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Update from rip rap tour

David Sander, updated that we met with engineer Tyler Billingsley on June 24 to review the rip rap at Volunteers Green and by the well head. In general Tyler said the rip rap has held up well. There has been some damage to the netting at the top of the rip rap and he will ask the contractor to come and repair that. However, vegetation is already growing in that area. David showed photographs of how the river moved since the 1927 flood to create a more acute angle by the bridge. The rip rap by the bridge is holding up well to the river.

Reminder of upcoming Planning Commission Hearing for the Village Downtown District on July 17

David Sander gave the update that the Planning Commission has a public hearing coming up for the Village Downtown District on July 17.

Mark Fausel gave an update on the July 3 Planning Commission hearing for Jolina Court. They approved the amendment and he feels they were under direction by the Selectboard to push it through.

Christy Witters, concurred that there was frustration by public and Selectboard wanted them to keep moving.

Roger Brown, did not feel he was instructing the Planning Commission to rush it along, but just to give Gabe an answer on the Village Downtown District.

Mark Fausel gave a brief update on the Jolina Ct. zoning amendment which will be brought to the Selectboard on July 15. Mark voted no on the Jolina Ct. zoning amendment because he feels there could have been more work done on the amendment by the Planning Commission.

Roger Brown clarified that he wanted Village Downtown to be addressed and not push that to the back of the queue, but did not want to rush through Jolina Ct.

Mark Fausel felt the Planning Commission significantly increased the density of the upper block to give the Toscano's building four apartment buildings. He did not feel that this density is warranted for all buildings in the Village Downtown District.

Mark Fausel felt that he owed a quick result to Jolina Ct. due to the history of their project.

There was discussion of the cost of cleanup and cost of the land for the Creamery project.

Mark Fausel felt that the Selectboard wanted the Jolina Ct. zoning amendment to just come to them for changes.

There was discussion on the percentage of residential and commercial at Jolina Ct.

Roger Brown stressed it is important to have industries with jobs paying a decent wage in Richmond.

There was discussion on commercial development in surrounding towns.

Bard Hill requested a large zoning map be used in the meeting when the zoning amendments are discussed.

Reminder of Fee Ordinance repeal hearing on July 15

David Sander gave the reminder that there is a hearing to repeal the development fee ordinance which will be held at 7:30pm on July 15th.

Review budget actuals for FY19

Josh Arneson explained a detail of all expenses and revenues as we stand now for FY19 are posted on the website. All department heads are doing a final review of their detailed budget to ensure items hit where they were supposed to and there will still be some expenses for FY19 as we roll into the new fiscal year and receive invoices for work that was completed in FY19. But, this should give us a decent overview as to where we stand right now. He made a few notes on the sheet on items that are significantly under or over budget.

Motion by Christy Witters to approve the Minutes of the 6/17/19 Selectboard Meeting. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Motion by Christy Witters to approve the Minutes of the 6/24/19 Special Meeting of the Selectboard. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Motion by Bard Hill to approve PO #3666 for \$11892.86 for police cruiser outfitting. Christy Witters seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Christy Witters stated she is interested in hearing more details on police activity. We will invite Chief Muldoon to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss this and give a general update.

Motion by Christy Witters 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. Bard Hill seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Motion by Christy Witters to 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. Roger Seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

The Selectboard entered executive session at 8:04pm. Motion by Bard Hill to exit executive session. Christy Witters seconded. Vote 3-0 to approve. Executive session ended at 8:42.

Items for the next agenda:

Discussion about inviting Green Mountain Transit to attend a future meeting to discuss bussing in Richmond.

Motion by Christy Witters to adjourn. Roger Brown seconded. Vote 3-0 to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:57.