

**R I C H M O N D   S E L E C T B O A R D  
R E G U L A R   M E E T I N G  
J u n e   2 ,   2 0 1 4   M I N U T E S**

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Members Present: Taylor Yeates; Chris Granda; David Sander  
 Absent: Ashley Lucht; Bard Hill  
 Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Mary Houle; Greg, Isabelle and Robin Rabideau; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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Taylor Yeates called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Mr. Yeates asked if there was any comment from the public for items not on the agenda.

Mary Houle spoke about the flower pots at Town Center, and said that she was doing them this year for the last time, and someone else would have to do them next year. Mr. Yeates said he saw her doing this and thanked her for her plantings.

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

**Recreation Commission Tennis Court Proposal**

Robin and Isabelle Rabideau were present to explain their suggestions for a tennis court. Isabelle Rabideau explained that for Richmond residents, it was a 15-mile round trip drive to Jericho to use the closest courts. Tennis would provide a life-long activity for Richmond residents and benefit schools as well. There were few locations that could hold tennis courts: spare room at the Browns Court ballfield or at Camels Hump Middle School, adjacent to the Willis Farm parcel or partially on it. Ms. Rabideau said that the courts would be low maintenance, with cleaning and the care of the net being the regular items. There were significant grants to build courts from the United States Tennis Association (\$20,000 maximum) and the NTPA which provided general assistance.

Mr. Yeates thanked Ms. Rabideau for her presentation and asked if the Selectboard had any questions.

Mr. Granda said that was a great proposal and it needs a champion. He urged Ms. Rabideau to develop the idea further into something that could be implemented. He said that we needed a group of interested citizens to further the proposal.

Mr. Yeates asked how large the MMU tennis program was, and Ms. Rabideau explained the membership.

Robin Rabideau noted that in Chittenden East only Jericho had tennis courts, and people from Huntington would have to travel 20 miles. There was some additional discussion.

Mary Houle said that this sounded like a good idea and was more than just someone else saying "take the ball" but we needed help with fundraising.

Mr. Yeates said that they had the blessing of the Selectboard to further develop the proposal.

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2 Report on Parade Committee  
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4 Linda Parent reported that preparations were underway for the July 4th celebration. The Fun Run  
5 would happen at 10:30, and then the Parade which the theme was "I love Rock n' Roll." Sign-up  
6 forms were in the Clerk's office. Odyssey of the Mind students would be the Grand Marshalls and the  
7 Richmond Community Band was scheduled to play starting at 1pm. The auction would be at 1pm  
8 also, and Pete Gosselin's band would perform as well. She also appealed for volunteers to help set up,  
9 run the auction, cook food, etc.

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11 **3. Other Business**

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13 Budget Appropriations Guidelines  
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15 The Manager explained that during the last budget cycle there was significant discussion surrounding  
16 the Appropriations section of the budget, in particular, the charitable donations. It was decided that  
17 some guidelines would be developed on how to handle these for the next budget cycle.

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19 Mr. Yeates suggested we develop an Request for Proposals system, and set criteria on who and how to  
20 award. Mr. Granda noted that organizations that provided services to our residents were preferable  
21 than other charities.

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23 Maureen Kangley asked what CUSI was, and Mr. Yeates explained that it was the Chittenden Unit on  
24 Special Investigations, and did mostly sex crimes and issues with children. It was not the same as the  
25 Williston Community Justice Board.

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27 Cell Tower Discussions  
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29 The Manager explained that they town had filed an objection for Jericho Road and also the Public  
30 Service Board filed an objection concurring that the town had raised a significant issue with respect to  
31 our zoning laws. For VTel, there was still no public hearing but all testimony was concluded. The  
32 hearing was likely to be in July at this point. No other updates were available for any other projects.

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34 Public Hearing for Richmond Zoning Regulations Section 6.8 Special Flood Hazard Area - minor  
35 amendments

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37 Mr. Sander offered a motion to open the public hearing and was seconded by Mr. Granda, and the  
38 motion carried 3-0.

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40 The Manager explained the minor amendments, which dealt with permitting for residential and non-  
41 residential structures and cleaned up language slightly in two areas. These were two amendments  
42 recommended by FEMA, outlined in a memo by Town Planner Clare Rock. These were important to  
43 be passed prior to August 4th, when the new DFIRMs were to become effective.

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45 Mr. Yeates asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. Seeing no public comments, Mr.  
46 Granda offered a motion to approve the amendments as outlined by Clare Rock and was seconded by  
47 Mr. Sander, and the motion carried 3-0.

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49 Mr. Sander offered a motion to close the public hearing, and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the  
50 motion carried 3-0.

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Selection of Audit Firm for FY2014

The Manager explained that in December, the Selectboard voted to RFP the audit for the current fiscal year. The former auditor, John Mudgett, recommended that we wait until that audit was complete before we did so. Seeing how the FY2013 audit was completed, the Manager issued the RFP and three firms responded: Sullivan Powers & Co., Fothergill, Segale and Valley, and Booth. For review purposes, only Sullivan Powers and Fothergill, Segale and Valley had the most extensive Vermont client lists, and the third respondent's estimated fee was unrealistically low. The audit team interviewed both top firms, and found Sullivan Powers & Co. to be the most responsive and they showed they had done their homework. Management's recommendation was to hire Sullivan Powers & Co.

Mary Houle asked if Fothergill was the auditor prior to Mudgett and the Manager said yes. Ms. Houle said that they should be discouraged because of their employment of a prior Richmond employee.

There was some discussion among the Selectboard about a three year or a one year contract. It was agreed that the offer would be extended to Sullivan Powers & Co. with hope for a more favorable three-year contract.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to authorize the Manager to negotiate a contract with Sullivan Powers & Co., either a one year or a three year term, and was seconded by Mr. Granda. The motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Update

The Manager noted that this was an interim update to the June 16th item. The only issue that had any progress was the O'Brien/Curley matter, and the fence had been removed. However, this was still on the DRB agenda for June 11th.

Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

Mr. Granda said he had no word on the Solar Grant for the firehouse roof, however, he hoped to hear something soon.

The Manager reported on Highway projects on Wes White Hill, the Richmond Park and Ride and the Depot Street plantings that were to be replaced.

The Manager noted that Development Review Board member Anne McLaughlin had resigned due to a relocation. Mr. Granda offered a motion to accept Ms. McLaughlin's resignation and recruit to fill the seat and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yeates noted that due to absences during the May 19th meeting and tonight, these minutes could not be approved and should be tabled to the next meeting.

Warrants

1 Mr. Granda noted that the 2013 funding request from the Richmond Community Band could not be  
2 made because that was a prior budget year. If they wanted to state a case why they need that funding,  
3 they should put it in writing. The warrants were otherwise approved and signed.

4

5 Executive Session

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7 Mr. Granda offered a motion to enter into executive session at 7:50 pm to discuss the Town  
8 Manager's performance evaluation and was seconded by Mr. Sander and the motion carried 3-0.

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10 At 8:00 PM Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn the executive session and was seconded by Mr.  
11 Granda and the motion carried 3-0.

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13 **4. Adjourn**

14 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Granda. So voted.