

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2012 MINUTES**

Members Present: Jon Kart; Erik Filkorn; Chris Granda; June Heston
Absent: Chris Granda
Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Administrator; Linda Parent, Town Clerk;
Maureen Kangley; Sue Pochop; Amy Lord; Theresa Gilbert; Stacey
Symanowicz; Kathryn Wysockey-Johnson; Ed Booth, Huntington
Selectboard and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for
MMCTV Channel 15.

Chair Kart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment

Chair Kart asked if there was any comment from the public.

Maureen Kangley said she wanted to comment about the police humvees and Chair Kart suggested that later on the agenda was the time for all to comment on that subject.

2. Other Business

Approval of Minutes - February 6, 2012

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2012 and was seconded by Ms. Heston and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Boyden abstaining.

Letter from Selectboard supporting certain ballot items for Town Meeting

Chair Kart passed around a letter he had drafted that expressed the support of the Selectboard for four Australian ballot items: both charter amendments; the PACE initiative and the reversal of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. Chair Kart felt that the voters should understand that the Selectboard supported these items, which was why they had been placed on the ballot by the Selectboard.

There was some discussion and the consensus of the Selectboard was that Chair Kart's letter should be mailed to the voters.

Draft Commercial Drivers License and Drug Testing Policy

The Administrator explained that the town's insurer, VLCT PACIF, had for some time asked the town to upgrade or revise its Commercial Driver's License and drug testing policy. This policy was a draft from a recommendation from the insurer. Federal requirements for Commercial Driver's License holders call for periodic random and certain pre-employment or post-accident testing. This policy would enact such procedures, and provide rights for employees under the policy.

Mr. Boyden said he was familiar with such a policy from his work in Williston, and he supported the changes. There was some other discussion and the board agreed that this was a needed change to existing policy.

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to approve the Commercial Driver's License and Drug Testing Policy effective immediately and was seconded by Ms. Heston and the motion carried 4-0.

1
2 Richmond Area Teen Center (RATC Nest) Lease
3

4 Sue Pochop was present with Theresa Gilbert and Stacy Symanowicz to discuss the RATC Nest lease
5 and future of the program. Ms. Pochop explained that the teen center was flooded and had lost almost
6 everything, but was now trying to reform with new members. Two of those new members were Ms.
7 Gilbert and Ms. Symanowicz.
8

9 Ms. Symanowicz said that the new focus was going to broaden from just teens to preteens and children
10 with developmental disabilities. She wanted to partner with the Our Community Cares Camp (with
11 Marie Thomas) and Barbara Pawlak from Richmond Elementary. She wanted to open up the center to
12 homeschoolers also. She wanted to offer bridging programs to those with disabilities, since right now
13 only the Howard Center offers those programs, maybe once per month. Also, small arts and crafts
14 classes might be held there.
15

16 The Administrator explained that the space was not currently accessible under ADA standards, and it
17 would take significant work to make it so, including asbestos removal. However, it would be possible
18 if funding could be found to perform the work. There was additional discussion and the Selectboard
19 was willing to renew the lease for the RATC Nest once it was finalized, to allow for the expansion of
20 use of the space beyond what had been previously.
21

22 Winooski River Flood Study - KAS Consulting
23

24 The Administrator explained that the KAS report on the base flood elevation of the Winooski River
25 had been received. In the report, the engineers claim that by altering the approach angle of the water
26 through certain bridges, in particular the railroad bridge in Williston and by moving the Manning drag
27 coefficient to the middle of the range, the base flood elevation of the Winooski River only increases by
28 2.0 - 2.2 feet in Richmond, instead of the 3+ feet arrived at by FEMA's engineer.
29

30 There was some discussion about the results and where that might lead, especially in terms of a formal
31 appeal of the BFE determination. Chair Kart asked if homeowners might be asked to chip in towards
32 the cost of an appeal. The Administrator said that could be proposed, however, probably few
33 homeowners were affected by this change.
34

35 Mr. Boyden asked if this recent flood had been declared a 100 year flood, and the Administrator stated
36 he did not think it had.
37

38 Chair Kart asked when the appeal period would be finished and the Administrator stated on April 15th.
39

40 Further discussion on this item would occur at later meetings.
41

42 **3. Administrator's Reports**
43

44 SSTA Budget
45

46 The Administrator reported that the Special Services Transportation Authority (SSTA) budget was
47 over 80% expended. SSTA had called to say that changes needed to be implemented or else the town
48 could lose its transportation. SSTA suggested eliminating all but medical trips. The Administrator
49 also provided some statistics on monthly use, and that the cost of a trip was almost \$57 one-way,

1 which only cost an eligible rider \$1. The Administrator also mentioned that he had approved some
2 additional medical trips early in the year, however, the budget was now almost spent.

3
4 Mr. Filkorn did not want to cut services to the elderly during this time.

5
6 Chair Kart asked if there was an alternate route for transportation and the Administrator was not aware
7 of anything.

8
9 Maureen Kangley said that in one week she had two doctors appointments and had to get approval,
10 which was granted. She didn't feel that a private transportation alternative would work for these trips.

11
12 Ruth Miller said she could run a PSA for hometown hero to provide trips.

13
14 Mr. Filkorn said he was not in favor of changing anything yet, and Chair Kart said he was willing to
15 try alternatives to keep transportation going without exhausting the budget.

16
17 Linda Parent said that people may not realize how much it costs.

18
19 The consensus of the Selectboard was to revisit this issue in March. The Administrator stated that he
20 would write SSTA and confirm that the Town would cover all costs beyond the grant through the end
21 of March.

22 23 Dugway Road Parking

24
25 The Administrator passed around a memo from Police Chief Buck where he requested an amendment
26 to the traffic ordinance to prohibit parking at all times along both sides of Dugway Road, for the entire
27 length. This is a departure from what exists now, which is admittedly confusing at times, however,
28 parking has been allowed along the sides of the road if vehicles are out of the traveled portion of the
29 road. There was some discussion and the Selectboard requested an ordinance for March 19th.

30 31 MS Society Bike Ride

32
33 The Administrator noted that the MS Society of New England had requested permission to hold one
34 leg of their charity bike ride through Richmond in August, along Hinesburg Road and East Hill Road.
35 This was not a race, and the starting and end points would be in other towns. The Selectboard had no
36 objections to the bike ride.

37 38 **4. Other Business - continued**

39 40 Richmond Rescue Budget

41
42 Chair Kart asked if Richmond Rescue was to vote to increase the budget from the floor, how would
43 the Selectboard handle this.

44
45 Ed Booth, a member of the Huntington Selectboard, said that Huntington had this as a ballot item for
46 discussion at their Town Meeting.

47
48 Ms. Heston said she had over twenty five years of experience in setting up and running nonprofit
49 organizations, and found it strange that Richmond Rescue showed a budget that didn't balance.

50

1 Chair Kart said that they were running under the budget with the idea that in a few years they would
2 break even somehow. Ms. Heston said she wasn't sure how that would happen. She said that a
3 Selectboard member should be made part of their board. She said it was tough to get people to invest
4 in you if you're showing a deficit.

5
6 Mr. Boyden said that this was brought up last year and Richmond Rescue had rejected the idea of
7 having Selectboard members serve on their board, and they developed the liaison approach.

8
9 Ms. Heston said that the Selectboard members were fiscal agents of the town, and were expected to
10 make sound decisions.

11
12 There was discussion on how to handle this, and if the Selectboard wanted demands or conditions in
13 order to support additional funding.

14
15 Mr. Booth said that conditions sounded reasonable and regardless of the increased funding Richmond
16 Rescue needed some strategic planning.

17
18 Ms. Heston said that they provided a valuable service but had to insure that it wasn't already going to
19 go under even with the increased funding.

20
21 After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Boyden and Ms. Heston would meet with Richmond
22 Rescue to come to some terms. Chair Kart would draft some terms to be reviewed by the Selectboard
23 for next week. Ms. Heston said she would be happy to help them develop a strategic plan. Bolton and
24 Huntington would also be invited.

25 26 Police Humvees

27
28 Chair Kart explained that the police had recently obtained two humvees from a military surplus
29 program, which had generated some controversy and objections from residents. The Town had at a
30 prior time had two Blazer-type pickups which were also military surplus, but the humvees were
31 different types of vehicles. The intended use was for emergency response but not patrol.

32
33 Mr. Filkorn said that he did not support the acquisition of humvees. He remembered the old "Bronco",
34 and when it was time to replace them there was some resistance to growing the fleet. It was not a
35 good policy to acquire capital vehicles without a plan. He was not in favor of a humvee but a regular
36 police SUV if needed. He said that this vehicle was not consistent with the goals of the town to use
37 less energy and it would also need lights, a radio, maintenance and other things not planned for in the
38 budget. There were also a number of residents that objected to law enforcement operating military
39 vehicles on the street. He concluded that this was not the right vehicle for the town.

40
41 Maureen Kangley read a statement that was generally against the town having a military vehicle.

42
43 Ms. Heston said that she felt some recent emails were derogatory. She had heard and could appreciate
44 personal experiences, however, it was sad that this is the reaction to a fiscal decision by Chief Buck.
45 He did what he could to solve a problem. She read from a recent email and then said that she gathered
46 that "military" was a dirty word, and she was insulted. Both of her parents and her husband were in
47 the military, and the military had sacrificed a great deal to serve the Country, as well as had police
48 officers. Shame on you to those who think this is a bad image.

49

1 Maureen Kangley stated that she was not against the military but is against the image of a police-
2 military show of force.

3
4 Linda Parent said that Chief Buck put time and energy into finding this vehicle. It would be
5 completely repainted, used by the Police, Fire and Rescue. She was in favor of keeping it.

6
7 The Administrator also was in favor of keeping the humvees, to give it a chance and see if it was a
8 viable solution and met performance expectations of an emergency vehicle.

9
10 Mr. Boyden said this was not an ideal solution to the 4x4 vehicle, but he was ok with it for now. He
11 worried that it adds an extra vehicle to the police fleet that may be absorbed, and then replaced.

12
13 The Administrator suggested a use policy for the vehicle. Ms. Heston added that one should be made
14 for each piece of equipment.

15
16 Maureen Kangley asked if there was a guarantee that it would run.

17
18 Chair Kart said there were lots of unknowns with the vehicles, and it can't take care of itself but it
19 should be no more of a burden than any other vehicle.

20
21 Mr. Filkorn said this raised process questions, and policy questions.

22
23 The Administrator was requested to obtain a cost estimate on what it would take to put the vehicle in
24 service.

25
26 Warrants were signed by the Selectboard.

27
28 Chair Kart noted the February 27th meeting on the Town Plan, and the March 5th pre-Town Meeting
29 meeting at Camel's Hump Middle School, and Town Meeting on March 6th. Linda Parent added that
30 February 29th was the last day to register to vote.

31
32 **5. Adjourn**

33 Motion by Mr. Boyden to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Heston. So voted.