

**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
M a r c h 3 , 2 0 1 4 M I N U T E S**

Members Present: June Heston, Chair; Amy Lord, Vice Chair; Chris Granda; Ashley Lucht; Taylor Yeates
 Water Commission: Bard Hill and Bruce Bailey
 Absent: None
 Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Clint Buxton, Town Moderator; a number of audience members and MMCTV Channel 15 did not tape the meeting. The meeting was held at Camels Hump Middle School gymnasium, which was set up for Town Meeting the following day.

June Heston called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

This meeting was the pre-town meeting Informational Session for Australian Ballot articles, and other Selectboard business. The first Informational Session was on Article 10, the bonding for the Water Storage Tank, and was a joint session with the Water Commission.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Heston asked if there was any comment from the public for items not on the agenda but there was none.

2. Informational Sessions on Australian Ballot Articles

Article 10: Shall the Voters of the Town of Richmond Authorize the Construction of a Water Storage Tank and chlorination improvements with the amount financed through indebtedness not to exceed \$1,500,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed forty (40) years, to be paid from Water Resources Revenue?

The Manager presented a computerized slide show outlining the reasons the tank was needed, the goals that needed to be met, a broad estimate of costs involved, examples of what might happen if the tank were not approved, and then the floor was opened to questions.

There was significant discussion on this issue, including many comments about the rate increase. The implication was that the system users might not be able to afford a new tank. The board member acknowledged the difficulties, however, the new tank was needed and said that rates would be addressed at later meetings. This concluded the informational session. The two members of the Water Commission left the dais.

Article 9: Shall the Voters of the Town of Richmond Authorize the purchase of a Fire Pumper Truck with the amount financed through indebtedness not to exceed \$282,000, to be financed over a period of five years, as reflected in the Town's approved capital plan?

The Manager again presented a computerized slide show outlining the town's capital plans, the costs of the fire truck and a financial plan explaining what would be paid for with cash and how much would be borrowed and the importance of having good equipment and vehicles for the Fire Department. The floor was opened to questions.

1 Chief Levesque was present with several members of the Fire Department to support the measure.
2 There was little discussion on the matter. This concluded the informational session.

3
4 Article 11: "Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the Office of Lister and replace it with a
5 professionally qualified assessor appointed by the Selectboard who shall have the same powers,
6 discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the
7 same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under the provisions of Title 32?"

8
9 The Manager presented a computerized slide show, prepared by the Governance Committee Chair Jon
10 Kart, explaining the rationale behind the proposal and the committee's work. This information was
11 based on the available recommendation report previously submitted to the Selectboard. The floor was
12 then open to questions.

13
14 There was significant discussion on the issue, which turned to the VYCC tax appeal. The two current
15 listers were in the audience for part of the session, which had back and forth with the Selectboard
16 regarding what might have triggered the question from the last Town Meeting to form the committee.
17 Mr. Buxton brought the meeting to order, and concluded the informational session.

18
19 Article 12: Shall the Voters of the Town of Richmond approve a budget of \$3,223,659 to meet the
20 expenses and liabilities of the Town of Richmond?

21
22 While not an Australian Ballot item, the Manager presented a computerized slide show of the
23 presentation for tomorrow's Town Meeting discussion.

24
25 There was some questions, answers, and discussion. The Selectboard then moved to other business.

26 27 **3. Other Business**

28 29 Revision to Section 125 Cafeteria Plan

30
31 The Manager explained that this was a revision to our Section 125 benefits plan, allowing pre-tax
32 deductions from employee paychecks for insurance premiums, Flexible Spending Accounts and
33 Childcare Expense accounts.

34
35 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the Section 125 Plan resolution and was seconded by Ms. Lord
36 and the motion carried 5-0.

37 38 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

39 40 Economic Development

41
42 Ms. Lord reported on the results of the previous week's Economic Development Committee meeting.
43 She noted that Jackie Washburn attended, and expressed concern that the water rates would prevent
44 some tenants from locating in her building. The committee was also preparing to participate in Interim
45 Zoning with the Selectboard, and had chosen Ann Cousins to represent them on the ad-hoc committee.

46
47 The Manager reported on the formation of the Interim Zoning committee, and said that only three
48 people besides the Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee members had
49 expressed interest. Those were, Wright Preston, Christy Witters and Marshall Paulsen.

1 The Selectboard suggested that for the website, pictures of town employees be made available.

2
3 The Manager reported that the Health Order for 90 Jericho Road was resolved through an agreement
4 with the landlord and the Town, which he signed. He said that this provides that the apartment be
5 vacated, which it is currently vacant, and no one further can rent until repairs are made according to
6 the recent Health Order and Fire Inspector report. The Manager noted that the Health Officer, Wright
7 Preston, had wanted to resolve certain financial disputes at the same time, however, the Manager felt
8 that those were not related to the Health Order and the Board of Health can't rule on rent deposits or
9 who owes what on the water bill. The Health Officer was not happy with this result, and felt that the
10 former tenants may be in a weak position regarding their rental deposit.

11 12 Approval of Minutes

13 14 Minutes of February 18, 2014

15
16 Ms. Lord offered a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2014 with minor corrections and
17 was seconded by Mr. Granda. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Yeates abstaining.

18
19 Denise Barnard asked if the loan made to Richmond Village Housing (Champlain Housing Trust) was
20 going to come back to the town? Ms. Heston said the board initially agreed to an additional deferral,
21 but reconsidered as she felt it was not the best decision for the town.

22
23 Ms. Barnard said that they have had that money for fifteen years, why not let someone else have it?

24 25 Approval of Purchase Order 3069 for Salt

26
27 The Manager explained that the salt budget was again expended, after the prior order of \$10,000. This
28 purchase order was before the Selectboard to again approve an overexpenditure, using the Sand
29 budget.

30
31 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the Purchase Order 3069 for Salt to Cargill Salt in the amount
32 of \$4,539.83 and was seconded by Mr. Yeates. The motion carried 5-0.

33
34 Ms. Heston said that the town should continue to demand that the State do what it needs to do, to
35 change the timing of the pedestrian light at four corners, and get a four-way stop.

36 37 Warrants

38
39 The warrants were approved and signed.

40 41 **4. Adjourn**

42 Motion by Ms. Lucht to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Granda. So voted.