

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
N o v e m b e r 1 9 , 2 0 1 2 M I N U T E S

Members Present: Chris Granda, Chair; Amy Lord; Ashley Lucht
Absent: June Heston; Neil Boyden
Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Jon Kart; Bob Pasco, Lake Iroquois Association; Catherine Collins, CVAA; Steven Bordeaux; Roger Crouse, Lake Iroquois Association; Wright Preston, Health Officer; Brad Elliott; Jared Katz; Jean Bressor; Fran Huntoon; Jeff Forward; Rebecca Mueller; Kristen Hayden-West; Rod West; Scott Cole; Mark Fausel; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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

1. Public Comment

Chair Granda opened the floor for public comment. He said that the zoning regulations would be discussed at the next meeting and if anyone had complaints about the process or any other issues to please put them in writing and he did not want to address accusations at this meeting.

Mary Houle said that it had been fifteen months since Hurricane Irene and she had no insurance settlement yet. She said that the town government, state and FEMA were impotent to take her claim seriously. She said that contrary to what some believed, FEMA did not buy her a trailer. This was separate from the buyout issue, it was the insurance settlement, and the local agent was not at fault, rather the National Flood Insurance Program.

Hearing on Emergency Health Order for 43 Bordeaux Lane, Issued by Health Officer on November 13, 2012

The hearing then commenced on the emergency health order. Present were Wright Preston, Health Officer, Steve Bordeaux, owner of 43 Bordeaux Lane, and several neighbors of Mr. Bordeaux.

Wright Preston, Health Officer, had been familiar with this property since about 2004 or 2005 and the conditions had been deteriorating since then. He noted the conditions of the property, as set forth in his emergency health order. The property has been cleaned before, but has always gone back to the poor conditions that exist now. However, the threats to public health that exist now are warranting an emergency health order. The resident at 43 Bordeaux Lane, Steve Bordeaux, is living in a recreational trailer since the mobile home was in such poor condition that it was no longer habitable. There was no sanitation in the trailer, no running water and no electricity. Therefore, there was no source of heat. Litter and garbage are strewn across the property and the resident feeds cats and wild animals which then further add to the mess with feces. Neighbors have complained about the stench of the refuse and lack of sanitation.

Chair Granda asked Mr. Bordeaux if he would like to respond. Mr. Bordeaux asked where were the feces that Mr. Preston spoke of. He had started to clean up, but couldn't get it done. Someone should have taken some pictures.

Ms. Lucht said she was concerned about the coming Winter with no heat for Mr. Bordeaux. With no sanitation and no water, his personal well being was at risk.

1 There were several questions and answers about the condition of the property between the Selectboard
2 and Mr. Preston. The Manager read the health order for consideration by the Selectboard.

3
4 Mr. Bordeaux responded that he had too much stuff there, and he would stay at the property.

5
6 Mr. Preston said he had reached out to a support system, which was the Champlain Valley Agency on
7 Aging to assist Mr. Bordeaux with making improvements to the property and his situation. Mr.
8 Bordeaux had limitations but had to be held accountable for the situation.

9
10 Catherine Collins of the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging said that she has provided some support
11 to Mr. Bordeaux, and offered some temporary places to stay. He has to be willing to allow them to
12 help him.

13
14 Jane Davis, a neighbor on Bordeaux Lane, said that someone has helped Mr. Bordeaux clean up
15 recently and he has moved the vehicles off the road. The neighbors need to help, but Mr. Bordeaux
16 has to accept their help. It was like living in a dump, with smells. Otherwise, he should be allowed to
17 live there. She said that his well has a constant leak.

18
19 Chair Granda suggested a committee or a support group to help Mr. Bordeaux improve the situation.
20 Mr. Bordeaux disagreed with this approach.

21
22 A resident at 17 Bordeaux Lane agreed that Mr. Bordeaux needed a group to support him. She
23 respected the fact that he was a disabled veteran and his desire to remain on the property but the
24 conditions are unbearable and she worries about well contamination from his property, and the smells.
25 She said that there were bottles of urine exploding in the heat last Summer. She asked if the property
26 was cleaned up, was there a guarantee that it would not go back to the way it is now.

27
28 Chair Granda said that this is a difficult situation and the town could not guarantee a permanent
29 solution.

30
31 Ms. Lord asked how Mr. Preston would follow up on this, and Mr. Preston said that he would monitor
32 and report to the Selectboard.

33
34 Ms. Lord moved that the Selectboard affirm the emergency health order issued by the health officer on
35 November 13, 2012 incorporated by reference as the health order of the Selectboard, seconded by Ms.
36 Lucht and the motion carried 3-0.

37 38 Lake Iroquois Association

39
40 Bob Pascoe, President of the Lake Iroquois Association, and Roger Crouse of the same, were present
41 to report on their activities and mission and request budgetary assistance for the coming fiscal year.

42
43 Mr. Pascoe noted that Lake Iroquois had the third highest phosphorus concentration of any inland lake
44 in Vermont. There were a number of invasive species they were battling as well as algae blooms and
45 other hazards. He gave a presentation on how the association improves the water quality of the lake,
46 and how the four members towns contribute to the effort.

47
48 There was some discussion about the recreational activities available. The Selectboard took the
49 budget request under advisement. There was currently a \$400 contribution earmarked for the lake.

PACE - Jeff Forward

Chair Granda disclosed his energy business that may be related to work done under PACE, however, there was no apparent conflict with this discussion.

Ms. Lord disclosed that her husband works for the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation which was set to administer PACE programs, but would not implement it.

Mr. Forward explained that the program was approved at last Town Meeting by a two to one margin and the Energy Committee wanted to see this on the ballot again, but not Australian Ballot but for a floor discussion and vote at the next Town Meeting.

Chair Granda asked when PACE would begin to be implemented in Vermont and Mr. Forward replied that hopefully early next year. It has an established loss reserve to buy down interest rates for lower income residents and should provide some assistance to people looking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The Selectboard agreed that this should come back at the next meeting in form of a question to be placed on the ballot for Town Meeting.

2. Other Business

Budget Discussions - FY2014 Capital Plan and FY2014 Budget

The Manager explained that more changes had been done to the budget. First, however, the Library board would like to present their amended request, where the most significant change was the shift of the money formerly used to pay the bond into the capital reserve.

Ms. Lord asked if the hire of the technical assistant was permanent. Kristin Hayden West explained the need for the technical assistant, and said it was a part time position that would be permanent.

Ms. Lucht asked if the benefits line would increase and Ms. Hayden West said this was not eligible for benefits. Ms. Lucht said that with some planning, not all of the \$10,500 increase to the reserve would be necessary.

Rebecca Mueller, the Library Director, suggested tying the library's fee revenue to the budget to show how much they return to the town.

Chair Granda asked if there would be a savings with the heat conversion to Natural Gas, and Ms. Hayden West said that would occur later on.

Chair Granda asked what the salary increase was proposed to be, and Ms. Mueller said 3%. There was discussion on the Selectboard, and the Selectboard agreed that the town's cost of living increase for the coming year would be 2.5%

General Fund and Highway Budgets

The Manager explained the changes, and they were now about \$24,000 over the 3% spending cap. There were discussions on cost of living, gasoline and diesel prices and healthcare. These were largely unpredictable, however, it was not prudent to cut below what was spent last year.

1
2 Jon Kart asked about the sidewalk on Bridge Street at the market. The Manager said he was still
3 hopeful of completing that before the end of June this year.

4
5 The Selectboard advised the Manager to take the revisions back to Department Heads to come up with
6 the remaining funds to meet the 3% spending cap.

7
8 Capital Plan

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10 The Manager explained that the plan was modified and consistent with the budget except for the open
11 question of Depot Street, which he suggested be a separate question for discussion and approval at
12 Town Meeting.

13
14 There was some discussion, but Chair Granda wanted input from the full board before scheduling a
15 public hearing.

16
17 Financial Reports

18
19 The Manager explained the budget status report and budget to actual report for the fourth month.

20
21 Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2012

22
23 Ms. Lord offered a motion to approve the minutes of October 29, 2012 and was seconded by Ms.
24 Lucht and the motion carried 3-0.

25
26 Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2012

27
28 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2012, as amended with minor
29 edits, and was seconded by Ms. Lord and the motion carried 3-0.

30
31 **3. Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager**

32
33 Ms. Lord reported that the Economic Development Committee was still pushing the parking lot plan,
34 and was planning a February breakfast for businesses, and would like to be more involved in the
35 zoning regulations.

36
37 Ms. Lucht reported that she was still working on research related to websites for the town, which
38 would continue for some time.

39
40 The Manager reported that the Flood Hazard Overlay District regulations, otherwise known as the
41 floodplain regulations, were a priority for the Planning Commission, as evidenced by the memo from
42 the Town Planner. Contrary to what some had said, the zoning regulations were not coming back to
43 the voters at Town Meeting, rather, the Planning Commission needed to make an assessment of the
44 proposal and make revisions and solicit more public input. The flood regulations, however, were seen
45 by many who lived in the Special Flood Hazard Area as an improvement and they wished to push
46 these forward sooner.

47
48 The ECOS grant was partially awarded. The town had sought \$62,000 and was awarded \$40,000 for
49 the project. The project team would have to revise the scope of work to fit the budget, and the

1 partnering Municipal Planning Grant had not yet been decided. Jon Kart reported additional details on
2 this, and said that he would report to the Selectboard once the grants had been worked out.

3
4 The Manager reported that the Turkey Trot race was going to be held on Thanksgiving, by a new
5 organization. There was discussion on notification policies for future races.

6
7 The Manager reported that Richmond Rescue had offered a free defibrillator (AED) device. The
8 Selectboard agreed that this would be a valued piece of equipment for Town Center.

9
10 The Manager reported that Dan Renaud had resigned his seat on the Planning Commission and the
11 Selectboard should accept and authorize recruitment for a replacement. This left two vacancies on the
12 Planning Commission.

13
14 Ms. Lord offered a motion to accept the resignation of Dan Renaud and was seconded by Ms. Lucht
15 and the motion carried 3-0.

16
17 The Manager presented a late arriving Right of Way work permit by Stone Underground for a cable
18 installation for Greystone Drive. Ms. Lord offered a motion to approve Right of Way permit 12-1186
19 and was seconded by Ms. Lucht, and the motion carried 3-0.

20 21 **4. Consent Agenda**

22
23 The Manager explained that the only item on the Consent Agenda was the resolution terminating the
24 employment of Chris Brimmer, Zoning Administrative Officer, effective today.

25
26 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Ms. Lord and the
27 motion carried 3-0.

28
29 The Selectboard noted that one bill on the warrant was incorrect, and not due to be paid and the
30 Manager said it would be removed.

31
32 Ms. Lucht said that the Manager should create a policy on sales tax, or paying of tax, for use by the
33 departments while purchasing goods and services.

34 35 **Adjourn**

36 Motion by Ms. Lucht to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lord. So voted.