

## Selectboard Minutes

7-15-19

Called to Order: 7:01pm

Present: Katie Mather, David Sander, Christy Witters, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Jon Kart, Jeff Forward, Greg Elias, Larry Muldoon, Mary Houle, Harland Stockwell, Scott Nickerson, Jessie Heiser, Josi Kytte, Lauck Parke, Jack Linn, Virginia Clarke

Public Comment: Mary Houle said that she felt that the Hardware Store should not have been billed for the \$0.32 and provided \$5 to prevent that in the future.

Jeff Forward made a statement about density bonuses, and he said that the current development is already required to meet Stretch Code and should not receive a bonus for that. He said it would be better used for Affordable Housing. He also said he supports Universal Design as a bonus for the purpose of aging in place. Jeff also said that part of increasing density is to aide in the reduction of energy consumption, and that it may be ideal to have developers subsidize public transportation to the park and ride or elsewhere.

Presentation for Volunteers Green Tree Planting: Jon Kart gave a presentation outlining the ad-hoc committee's ideas for tree planting at the Volunteers Green to help prevent erosion. Their ideas include tree planting along the existing buffer, which would cost about \$2700 for materials. The next idea is to do a geomorphic assessment. The third idea is to re-landscape the band shell area where the new rip-rap is. The last idea is to install steps for the canoe access area and to install signage that is educational and directional. A member of the public asked about when the river used to be dredged and the dredging material was used on roads. Jon explained that dredging is no longer an option because it creates more erosion downstream due to increased speeds of water. Mary said that the last time dredging happened in the 60's, but that meandering of rivers is now what we are supposed to allow. Christy moved to allow Josh to enter an agreement with DEC. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved. Roger moved to accept the recommendations of the committee. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so moved. Katie brought up past discussions about landscaping for the many town green spaces.

Police Department Update: Larry provided an update about reorganizing their facilities and a change in their schedule for the officers. He also provided an update about the new media posting style, and listed the department's priorities. Larry also listed the department's ancillary duties. He briefly discuss the COP program, and said that so far it has been working very well. Larry covered that he purposely avoids posting full detail of all calls, and only posts major incidents. He said that the office is more functional since the reorganization, and does not require new space, but that he will continue to work with VSP and Williston for facilities that are needed beyond ours. David asked about a cardio/fitness room that had been proposed for the public safety building specs. Larry said that it hasn't come up in his time so

far, but could be discussed in contract negotiations possibly. He did suggest keyless entry, better window security, radio upgrades, and cruiser investments. Larry mentioned the universal struggle with recruitment of officers and that other agencies are going through very steep wage increases in their own negotiations. Mary thanked Chief Muldoon for his positive attitude and approach. Roger echoed Mary's sentiments and said that he was grateful for Larry's commitment to Richmond. Larry said he was very appreciative of the support from his officers and other staff that have made the transition easier. Roger asked about seeing other agencies on patrol in Richmond. Larry said he is in communication with those agencies.

#### Fee Ordinance Hearing:

Christy moved to enter the hearing. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor. Hearing opened.

Public Comment: Mary Houle said that she sent an email to the selectboard regarding doubling fees and did not agree with certain fee changes. Josh, Jessica, and Mary discussed the draft fee schedule and the ordinance repeal process. Katie moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so closed. Roger moved to repeal the ordinance. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved.

Fee Schedule Discussion: Roger said that he supports the fines for as-built permits, and David echoed the sentiments of Roger. Christy said that it has also been discussed in Water Commission. Jessica went through her changes. Mary suggested adding a cost to repair the damages as part of the violation fee. Mary asked a clarification question about certificates of occupancy. Jessica explained how they're currently applied.

Jolina Court: Roger moved to set a August 5<sup>th</sup> hearing date, seconded by Katie. Josh asked the selectboard to set a time. Katie suggested a 7:30pm hearing time. All were in favor, so moved. Jack Linn asked about the proposed amendment. Jessica explained the major changes from the interim zoning document. Jack Linn said he felt the building was integral to the success of Richmond. Jack said he felt there was a strong need for new water users. Jack said he has a bill for a two office building on Railroad Street, with a \$3000+ quarterly bill. He feels that is far too high for businesses to pay and Richmond cannot be viable without more users. Scott said he would like to address Jeff Forward's concerns regarding accessibility and that it is covered by state law in apartments with more than 4 units and an elevator. Mary asked if part of the water commission goal setting could include discussion about increased users to decrease costs per bill. Katie asked Jess about cost of infrastructure correlation with increase in population. Jessica said that it's hard to determine, but the best way to look at it is to look at increase in budget with increase in population, locally and regionally.

Grant Policy: Christy moved to approve the revised policy. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor, so moved.

Road and Bridge Standards: Christy moved to adopt the road and bridge standards. Seconded by Katie. Roger asked about hydrological connectivity. Christy explained what that meant and explained where the concern came from regarding Class 4 road maintenance. All in favor, so moved.

Warrants and PO's: Katie has reviewed. Christy moved to approve Purchase Order #3797 \$90,184. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved.

Correspondence: Josh handed out the mail.

Minutes: Christy moved to approve the 7/8/19 minutes. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved.

David asked when other insurance companies may be reviewed. Josh said he will have information available very soon for the board to review.

Next Agenda: Early start of 6:30pm, Jolina Court hearing, development fees, Village Downtown District transmittal.

Roger moved to adjourn, seconded by Christy. All were in favor, adjourned 8:50pm.