

Selectboard Minutes 1/06/2020

Members Present: Bard Hill, Christy Witters, David Sander, Katie Mather, Roger Brown
Absent:

Others Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Larry Muldoon, Police Chief; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Cathleen Gent, co-chair Transportation Committee; Chris Cole, co-Chair Transportation Committee and Chair Planning Commission; Bob Lowe, Conservation Commission; Judy Rosovsky, Chair Conservation Commission; Mary Houle, Greg Elias, Alan Hyzinga, Jon Kart, Brad Elliot, and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15

Called to Order: 7:10 PM

1. Welcome by David.

Public Comments:

Mary Houle asked if the tree meeting was taking place during the Selectboard meeting. The answer is yes. She also stated that she is disappointed that appropriations are on a ballot to be voted on and wondered about the executive session. Josh responded that the issue involves the police collective bargaining agreement. The meeting continued.

2. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

I. Additions or Deletions to Agenda- none

II. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Vote on approval of Step III Agreement for Bridge St. Infrastructure Project

Josh reported that the Town's attorney made a few recommendations that would require changes. Alan H. came to discuss the contract. Josh recommended that the contract be approved with the changes. Dave motioned to approve the contract as revised, Katie seconded. All agreed.

b. Discussion of goals and priorities for the Richmond Transportation Committee

Cathleen & Chris came to discuss goals and priorities. The committee has developed a priority list based on the town plan and discussion within the committee. The committee is looking for input from the Selectboard, then stakeholders in the community.

c. Vote on approval to submit a Unified Planning Work Program grant application

After discussion that included information about projects that could be applied for including: Bridge St. by upgrading the 2010 plans, development of a master plan for pedestrian and bicycle paths, and EV charging stations in public places. The Selectboard decided to approve the submission of the grant application. Christy moved to have \$16,000 in matching funds for the grant approved, Roger seconded. All were in favor. Roger moved to have Ravi Venkataraman the Town Planner, be grant program manager, Katie seconded. All were in favor.

III. Other Business

a. Review of FY21 Budget

Josh reported the budget was basically unchanged except for the technology line. There is a need to replace some older computers so that number was updated.

Linda commented that taking funds from Town Center Fund for utilities is not what the money is for, that “Friends of the Library” is really copy fee income and should be changed as well as “Window Shades” should reflect the “Window Shades on the 3rd floor.”

After discussion regarding the Town Center Fund and acknowledgement that the fund was established some 26 years ago, it was decided that a records check will need to be done to see what can be found regarding uses of the fund. It is possible that in the future leases will designate money for utilities to solve the problem.

b. Town Meeting Items:

1) Follow up on Conservation Reserve Fund ballot item

Josh reported that VLCT and the Town lawyer both advise that funding for the Conservation Fund has to be one year at a time and the wording has to be limited so that there isn't any influence on the voters. Information can be disseminated by FPF, Town Report and other methods.

Members of the Conservation Committee would like clarification of the decision to have only 1 year renewal asking for the statutory basis for annual renewal since it is only advise VLCT and the attorney have offered with no evidence to back up the advise.

It was decided to have the Town lawyer do the Supreme Court case research with the results sent to the Selectboard and members of the committee prior to the next Selectboard meeting.

2) Follow up on voting on appropriations from the floor at Town Meeting

Katie reported that in speaking to people voting from the floor will not turn into a good faith discussion where people feel they can speak their minds and that the people she has spoken to feel the Selectboard should make those decisions. She asked, should we put appropriations back in the budget and let the voters take it out if that is what they want? Linda agreed stating that the Board could also set the amount to be voted on which may not necessarily be the amount that was requested.

After discussion the Board decided to put appropriations back in the budget reducing the OCCC requested amount to \$2000.

3) Discussion of report from the Selectboard for the Town Report

The Selectboard discussed items for their report. Suggestions included looking at the past agendas, the Bridge Street project, zoning for Jolina Court, Dugway Road closure, new committees, the Round Church trees and light, and the Buttermilk project ribbon cutting.

4) Review and vote on approval of Town Meeting Warning
Needs updating, moved to the next meeting.

5) Review of financial information to include in the Town Report

Josh reviewed the information for Town Report. The Board accepted the information with the changes already discussed regarding appropriations.

c. Consideration of setting a hearing to adopt changes to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance

A review and discussion of the proposed changes related to parking regulations included Josh reading the proposed language changes. A hearing was set for the next Selectboard meeting on January 21, 2020 to allow time to have the ordinance change in affect by March.

Bard moved to set a hearing for changes to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance for 1/21/20, Christy second. All were in favor.

d. Update on process to close Dugway Rd to through truck traffic and vote on adoption of a resolution to temporarily close Dugway Rd. due to the damage from the rainstorm
Roger moved to have a resolution to close traffic to Dugway Rd., Bard seconded. All were in favor.

e. Update on petition of AT&T requesting a Certificate of Public Good for a de minimis modification to a wireless telecommunications facility located at 1760 Jericho Rd.
It was decided to do nothing after discussion that included information that the project fell within the guidelines originally set.

f. Announcement of a tree removal hearing scheduled for January 21, 2020
It was decided to have a hearing 1/21/20 to discuss the removal of a tree that is growing on the municipal lot at 27 Bridge St. but is leaning into the adjacent private property.

IV. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

- a) Katie moved to approve the minutes of the 12/16/19 meeting, Bard seconded. All were in favor.
- b) Katie moved to accept Purchase Order 3856 to Community Bank for the 2015 Dump truck loan not to exceed \$20,315.35, Roger seconded. All were in favor.

V. Discuss Items for Next Agenda

Newspaper of record. Parking permitting process – examples from other towns.

VI. Executive Session: Police Personnel Matters

Katie move to enter executive session to consider three related subjects: One, labor relations with Police Department employees, two, confidential attorney-client communications received from the Town attorney, because premature general public knowledge of the Selectboard's review of these two subjects will clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, and three, to consider appointing new public employees, Roger seconded. All were in favor.

Katie moved to enter into executive session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a legal matter under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(1) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the Town Manager, Josh Arneson and Police Chief Larry Muldoon into the executive session, Bard seconded. All were in favor.

Katie moved to exit executive session at 10:40 p.m.. Bard seconded. All were in favor.

VII. Adjourn

Roger moved to adjourn. Bard seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

