

Selectboard Minutes  
1/19/2021

Members Present by Zoom: Christine Werneke, David Sander, Roger Brown, Bard Hill, Katie Mather

Absent:

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin.; Kyle Kapitansky, acting Police Chief; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15, also present Wafic Faour, John Ely, Jay Furr, Tom Sweet, Patty Brushett, Ashley Smith, Les Benoit, Kristen Mullins, Olga Cruz, Ike Patch, Cory Paradis, Rebecca Rouiller, Martha Waterman, Denise Noble, Connie van Eeghan, June Heston, Kelsey, Allen Knowles, Madeline, Jennifer Sensenich, Cody Quattrocci, Brodie O'Brien, Kira, Sau, Suzanne Parent, Migrant Justice, Bonny Steuer, Eveline Killian, Jana Brown, Emily Mitchell, Rebecca Starks, Laura Mistretta, Rod West, Ann Neumann, Alexandra Rocheleau, Scott Silverman, unidentified persons at: Guest, and iPad

**Called to Order:** 7:00PM

**Welcome by** David

**Comments from the public:** None

**I. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

Josh requested an update on a grant that could be put at J, David agreed.

**II. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

a) Consideration of approval of Town Meeting Warning

Josh reported:

- that at the last meeting all items were moved to Australian Ballot
- that informational meetings were added Feb 8 and Mar 1, 2021
- that the proposed Articles were reviewed
- that Linda will mail out postcards and residents can request a ballot

Discussion included:

- that Linda said that she already has over 300 absentee ballot requests and the postcards will go out Friday

Bard moved to approve the Warning as presented; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Christine, Bard, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

b) Consideration of adopting a resolution endorsing an updated Fair and Impartial Policing Policy

Christine reported:

- that this Resolution is to show the Selectboard's desire to have the Fair and Impartial

Policing Policy and that Kyle Kapitansky has agreed to follow and implement the policy adding that if in the future there was a change to the law or the Selectboards understanding that it could change and become a policy directly from the Selectboard.

- that Christine read portions of the Resolution (available on the Town's website)
- that the Richmond Racial Equity Group was consulted for wording

Bard moved to adopt the resolution on Fair and Impartial Policing; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- that David thanked Christine, Bard and Migrant Justice for getting the Resolution together,
- that Ann Naumann thanked everyone for the hard work and said she is proud of the Town,
- that Kyle was asked if he intended to follow the Resolution, he replied that he would be following the will of the Selectboard,
- that Ann asked him to publicly pledge to not change the policy in the future, Kyle said he was in the process of drafting a letter but that his pledge was to follow the will of the Board barring anything unforeseen, he said his intention is to follow the policy.
- that Gretchen asked if a new chief comes in is there something that can be put in that says that the Selectboard would have to be notified. Christine replied that her understanding is that there would be a search committee, who would have people that would be similar to the ones the Town had, should the Town be looking for a new chief, just as we have now and have had in the past, to ensure that a new chief would have the qualities we are looking for. Christine said that asking Kyle for a pledge that if the policy needs to be changed that there would be notice to the Selectboard would be better. Kyle responded that he would notify the Board if the policy changed in the future.

### **c) Consideration of approval of Better Places Grant**

Katie reported:

- that she had introduced this to the board 2 meetings ago
- that this would allow for two (2) sections of lawn on to go from lawn to perennial garden. She said there is a MOU getting signed with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to allow the garden and public access to the garden. She would like to empower Josh to sign the MOU when it comes back next week.

Bard moved to allow Josh Arneson to sign the MOU between the Town and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) for the use, maintenance and access to a perennial garden; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, and David voted affirmatively. Katie abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- that there needs to be another motion that the town is granting access to the library lawn for a perennial garden.

Bard moved to allow Josh Arneson to submit the grant, approve the use of about 200' of lawn in front of the Library, and the permanent installation of a sculpture with a plant climbing structure component; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, and David voted affirmatively. Katie abstained. Motion passed.

Discussion continued:

- that Kendall asked if the lawn was in the Water/ Sewer easement, Katie said she would make certain there was not a problem,
- that Christine asked where the garden would be located, Katie said where the library access is closed and is the sunniest,
- that there is a letter of support from the library
- that Bard asked, if you are standing in front of the library where would it be, Katie said she would be calling dig safe, but where the old stairs that are not in use, to the left. She said it would not go in front of the stairs. David asked if there were a sidewalk there would it be where the sidewalk is, Katie said it would be back and allow for any future sidewalk adding that the plan is very flexible, and she would be looking for feedback from the public before finalizing anything.

**d) Consideration of approval of access permit application**

David reported:

- that there are no problems with approving this permit

Bard moved to approve the access permit for 1030 Jericho Rd.; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Christine, Bard and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**e) Discussion of appointing a Selectboard member to aid in negotiations regarding police union contract**

David reported:

- that he and Roger, who is moving on, were to negotiate the contract. Bard said he would participate. David said Bard's experience with state contracts would be helpful.

Katie moved to appoint Bard Hill as representative for negotiating the police contract; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Christine, Katie and David voted affirmatively. Bard abstained. Motion passed.

**f) Discussion of projects in which departing Selectboard members are currently involved**

David reported:

- that Roger was doing wage analysis, police negotiating, Josh said he would like to sit down with a breakout group in the next month to go over what has been done. The Board agreed.

- that Katie was on the Water Commission and would be continuing to work on the garden and website design. Katie agreed.

**g) Budget status report for first half of FY21**

**Josh reported:**

- that the report is posted online
- that he had reviewed the report
- that 65% of the taxes have been collected and we are halfway through the year
- that compared to last year we are doing a little better with tax collections
- that fund balances were reviewed

**h) Richmond Rescue quarterly update**

**Josh reported:**

- that the Richmond Rescue provides us a quarterly report and if there are any questions, he can get answers.

**i) Update on Dugway Rd. repair**

**Josh reported:**

- that we went out to bid on this project a few weeks ago
- that there were about twenty (20) contractors that attended the pre-bid meeting
- that of the twenty (20) there will probably be six to ten (6-10) bids submitted
- that the bids are due Jan. 26, 2021
- that FEMA will cover some of the expenses
- that the hope is to have the road open by fall

**J) Richmond Transportation grant update**

**Josh reported:**

- that \$1500 between the Rise Vt and this grant the previously approved grant match of \$8000 would be reduced by \$3000 if awarded
- that this would be back for the next meeting for Board approval

**III. III. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**

Bard moved to approve the Minutes of 1/4/2021; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Christine, Bard, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Bard moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on 1/11/2021; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Christine, Bard, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**Warrants:**

Bard moved to approve the warrants and invoices as presented; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Christine, Bard, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Josh will send the warrant out for signatures using DocuSign.

**Purchase Orders:** none

#### **IV. Discuss Items for Next Agenda**

Dugway Road

RFQ for engineering update

#### **V. Executive Session – Personnel Issue**

Bard moved find that premature general public knowledge about a personnel issue would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Bard moved to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the Town Manager, Josh Arneson, into the executive session; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Executive session began at 8:07pm

Katie moved to exit executive session; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Executive session ended at 8:42pm

#### **VI. Adjourn**

Katie moved to adjourn; Christine seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Christine, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.