

**Town of Richmond
Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of April 3, 2023**

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, Lisa Miller

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Keith Osborne, Town Planner; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Superintendent; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Allen Knowles, Andy Bessette, Angela Cote, Betsy Hardy, Cara LaBounty, Cathleen Gent, Christopher Cole, Christy Witters, Dan Mullen, Hillary Holmes, Jean Bressor, John H, John Linn, Keith Jennings, Kyle Montgomery, Lauck Parke, LiLing Young, Lisa Kory, Martha Nye, Mary Houle, Matthew Parisi, Melissa Wolaver, Morgan Wolaver, Nik Ponzio, Stefani Hartsfield, Susan Wells

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Furr

Public Comment:

Houle: I just wanted you to know the bulbs that I planted are coming up in good shape. I spent three hours Saturday raking out all the flower beds out front, cutting everything down. I took away five garbage bags of raking.

Sander: Thank you Mary, that was beautiful.

Furr: Our New Town Planning and Zoning Administrator, Keith Osborne is with us.

Osborne: I am happy to have returned and really appreciate the opportunity.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Discussion of public outreach on Bridge St. sidewalk project

Cole: This is a quick presentation on the Bridge Street projects, of which there were two. One is the Bridge Street Complete Streets. We completed a study funded by the CCRPC with a local match by the Town of Richmond. The second project was three projects. It was a sidewalk on East Bridge St. It was a Jericho Rd sidewalk. It was also an intersection analysis at Thompson Rd, Bridge St and Cochran Rd. We will be talking about the sidewalk project from Jolina Ct to Esplanade.

Public outreach for the Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study was December 10, 2020, and April 8, 2021. The Sidewalk Scoping Study, there were two public sessions on

November 2, 2021, and March 17, 2022. The Stantec Final Report recommended Alternative #1 which was what the Transportation Committee recommended to the Selectboard. We went with the five-foot sidewalk and five-foot green strip unless conditions require a narrow green strip. There would need to be enhanced protection at the cemetery and for the mature maple trees, both of which we do not want to disturb with this project. You can see there would be a new crosswalk going across to make the sidewalk at Esplanade. We do not carry the sidewalk further because it goes into the bridge. There will not be another sidewalk on the other side of the bridge, so it made sense to funnel all pedestrian traffic. The Transportation Committee is only an advisory committee. We presented the Bridge Street Corridor Study, and the consultant team presented the final report to the Selectboard on June 21, 2021. The Selectboard unanimously accepted the report during that meeting.

We do not have any recommendations for funding to the State. We have not submitted a grant application for this particular project. The Transportation Committee's perspective is that this could be an ARPA project. Stantec presented their final report to the Selectboard on June 6, 2022, for the New Sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. The Selectboard approved the report. The application was presented for a VTrans Sidewalk Construction Grant for both of the sidewalks. It was Main St all the way down the east side of Bridge Street to Esplanade. The Selectboard approved that grant application in the Town match for that complete sidewalk was \$115,400. This application did not receive funding from VTrans. The November 7, 2022, Selectboard meeting, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant might have a better chance at the State. The Selectboard unanimously approved the submittal of the TAP Town Match of \$65,000. I do understand from the Town Manager, Josh, that the application has been approved and the Town has been awarded the funds.

The considerations for a new sidewalk on the east side Bridge St. Need has been identified as early as 2010. Walking down the current sidewalk from the east side of Main St, you have to cross the street twice to get to public buildings. I do understand from the Cemetery Committee that headstones were removed in that area next to Jolina Ct. There would be a non-invasive review of what lies under there. There are specific procedures for any work using State or Federal funding that impacts any cultural artifacts or graves.

Forward: This project was also included in the bike and pedestrian plan, was it not?

Cole: I believe it was. We discussed these projects for six months to a year. There was plenty of opportunity for folks to join one of our meetings or participate in the public hearings.

Forward: You also brought this to the ARPA committee as well.

Cole: One was introductory and the second one was providing additional fiscal information on both sidewalk projects.

Furr: As Chair of the ARPA Committee, transportation and safety improvements are one of the stated essential uses for the ARPA money. A very large number of survey comments from people would like to see pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements,

including the sidewalks so this would seem to be an appropriate use of some but not all ARPA money.

Wolaver: We don't have funding to do both sidewalk sections. I think one of the big safety issues is a walk to the Post Office or walk down to the Church or to the Park. Walking past the Cumberland Farms is a safety hazard. It would make sense if individuals from West Main St could cross over Jericho Road, and then cross again and just come down that sidewalk all the way down to the Town Center. It also significantly increases the walkability. Having a sidewalk down that side improves the safety and walkability of the Town.

Knowles: I am Allen Knowles, 112 East Main Street. The crossing at Railroad Street on the west side is also very difficult. This would provide a much safer option for that as well. People walking dogs from Volunteers Green and heading back to the Village would have an option in the summer besides traversing the tables where people are trying to eat. That would be advantageous also for children who are riding bicycles on sidewalks, not having to try to zip through those tables.

Furr: I do a lot of walking. I completely agree about the safety going from the intersection of Bridge and Main to the Town Center and beyond. Elderly people who would like to go to the Town Center or Library don't feel they have a safe option for getting there. We do have a comment from Betsy Hardy in the chat that I just like to read. She wants to express her strong support for the sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. She lives in Jericho Road near the schools and frequently walks to the Post Office, Library and Town Center. The east side sidewalks will greatly improve safety.

Witters: I participated in scoping studies over the years. I'm a resident in the Village and walk around a lot. I've had mixed feelings about two sidewalks over the years. I do support the sidewalk. I am excited to get a sidewalk in front of the Library and the Town Center.

LaBounty: Are you talking about if there are remains in the ground that we could cover it with a sidewalk?

Cole: There's a special consideration. They have to follow State regulations for that and I'm not intimately aware of those.

LaBounty: Is there any lighting proposed at all for the project?

Furr: I believe we are scheduled to put in a pole down at Jolina Ct to help illuminate that sidewalk. We could be exploring additional lighting as the situation develops.

LaBounty: I know that some of the existing sidewalks are in need of repair. I'm just trying to make sure we understand all of our sidewalk inventory and where we're at as we add new sidewalks.

Cole: I know from conversations with Road Foreman, Pete Gosselin, that he's planning on doing the East Main Street sidewalks this summer in conjunction with the Rt 2 paving project. If they're safety recommendations with existing infrastructure, we would welcome hearing from the community as to what those are. Members of the

Transportation Committee and volunteers from the community did a walkability study that looked at Bridge St, the upper Bridge St intersection with Rt 2, Jonesville, and the Round Church area. We have scheduled to do a presentation about that walkability report to the Selectboard sometime in May. One of the things that we're working on is a matrix that identifies all those deficiencies and points to other projects for inclusion. They really need to be addressed by the Town because there are no grant progress and programs at the State level for repair and maintenance of sidewalks.

Parisi: I'm excited to hear about these improvements on Bridge St. Since it's not currently feasible to do the north side of the project essentially is there an idea of when that would be completed? The second busiest kind of area is south of the red light and then kind of north of the grocery store and Jolina Ct. There is that long stretch on the west side of Bridge St below the dentist office is not really a sidewalk, it's just pavement. There's no crosswalk at Pleasant Street because there's a blind corner right there.

Cole: We did receive the TAP grant which funds the lower Bridge St sidewalk. I don't know what decisions the ARPA Committee has made regarding its priorities for spending on infrastructure in the Town. That is a potential source of funding for the upper sidewalk and some of the Bridge St improvements.

Furr: The Transportation Committee did indeed come to the ARPA Committee requesting funding in two chunks. They requested \$219,509 for the remaining Bridge St Complete Streets project work. They requested \$64,000 on the assumption that we would get the TAP grant. The ARPA committee, at our next meeting, can vote to recommend the Selectboard go ahead. We just won't be doing that tonight.

Consideration of acceptance of the Transportation Alternative Program grant for construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. from Jolina Ct. to Esplanade St.

Furr: The Selection Committee has voted to award us \$256,000 in federal funds, which will require \$64,000 in matching funds. There are requirements for what it's spent on and how we spend it.

Arneson: The next step is to sign the letter of intent to accept the grant. Once we accept the grant, we follow the grant guidelines, proceed with procurement into engineering then proceed to construction bidding.

Forward moved to accept the Transportation Alternative Program grant for construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. from Jolina Ct. to Esplanade St. and to approve the Project Commitment Form. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote follows discussion

LaBounty: Is it required that you determine where the matching funds come from with accepting the grant?

Arneson: It is in the Capital Plan. There's also consideration by ARPA to cover that with ARPA funds instead of the Capital Plan.

Hill: Where is the \$64,000 coming from?

Furr: We've got \$25,000 already in the budget. If the Selectboard would like to amend the motion to say we will spend up to \$64,000 of ARPA money on this project, a motion to that amendment to that effect could be accepted.

Forward moved to amend the motion to accept the Transportation Alternative Program grant for construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St from Jolina Ct to Esplanade St and to approve the Project Commitment Form with the matching funds coming from the Sidewalk Reserve Fund in the Capital Plan and ARPA money. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Discussion of recommendations from Transportation Committee related to Cochran Rd.

Cole: We were approached by Francis Churchill and visited by Mr. Bissette about Cochran Rd. In our research to reduce the speed limit on Cochran Rd and State statutes it requires any paved road to undergo an engineering and traffic study. We are reminded at CCRPC that municipalities do reduce their speed limits without the engineering study, but those speed limits would not be enforceable by law. We still felt as a Transportation Committee that if the speed limit were reduced to 35, even if it wasn't enforceable, it was a good thing to do given the increase in traffic. Not everybody who drives through our Town or lives in our Town is aware of their responsibilities. Local Motion has reached out to us and offered support and resources for an educational campaign.

Furr: The obvious question is what does it mean to have an unforeseeable speed limit? It's basically just a serving suggestion.

Arneson: If we posted a speed under 35, and somebody is doing 40, we can't pull them over and give them the ticket. It's not the actual law, it's not the actual speed limit.

Hill: If it's officially 45, and we posted 35, can we pull over somebody for going 46?

Sander: Technically, yes,

Herrick: Whatever the number is, is the law. People have a constitutionally protected right to not be pulled over by the police, when they're not breaking the law. If the town Ordinance says that the speed limit is 45 and you post up a 35 sign, I believe would nullify the 45. It would default to the basic real speed limit, which in the state of Vermont is 50.

Furr: We basically have three options. One, do nothing. Two, go with a 35-mph speed limit, which would be unenforceable, but hope it would have some traffic calming. Three, we could go through the legal route, do a speed study and actually do the Ordinance to make it an enforceable speed limit. I guess the fourth option is do nothing but start militantly enforcing the existing speed limit with the officers that we don't have. Pete suggested we could ask the Vermont State Police to do additional speed patrolling on Cochran Rd due to the impact on the Rt 2 paving project.

Montgomery: My name is Kyle Montgomery. I live on Cochran Rd on the 25-mph side near the Village. Kudos to Richmond Police Department as they do a good job down here. It seems like people passing through like company trucks from outside of the area, out of State license plates, or people recreating are speeding through here. I think posting a 35-mph speed limit would help mitigate that.

Furr: If it does result in an incremental increase in safety, it might be worth doing.

Forward: We've heard the most comments not on the 45-mph stretch but on the 25-mph stretch at either end. We do hear conflict with users of the road in the 45-mph zone. One of our highest priorities would be patrolling Cochran Rd.

Miller: Just park a couple of cruisers out there.

LaBounty: I fear if you don't have an enforceable speed limit, you're tying the hands of your Police Officers. If word gets out, we're talking drag racing on Cochran Rd.

Knowles: The way to control vehicle speed on roadways is to engineer a roadway. Unless we're going to go out and blow potholes in Cochran Rd or put railroad tracks across it, the answer is speed bumps, speed tables. You can have a very shallow speed table that can be traversed comfortably at 35-mph. That would be my recommendation. I don't think you need a speed study.

Arneson: We're waiting for a study from CCRPC which should be here this spring. Then they'll have recommendations on where to put those speed tables in the 25-mph zone.

Houle: We've seen a Police car park here or there and you automatically slow down. I think it would be a visual deterrent.

Furr: The other half the Transportation Committees report out had to do with the share of the road educational campaign. I think that's an excellent idea.

Hill: I think the issue of sharing the road is heavily biased towards vehicular behavior. They're going to cause a lot more damage than anybody else. We then encourage sort of sharing like behavior from all users, including but not limited to vehicles.

Miller: There's no reason you couldn't ticket three bikes riding together.

Furr: It's actually illegal to do more than two.

Forward: I thought that the resolution that Nick Ponzio presented to us last meeting was really good.

Furr: Nick does have a resolution and we will be discussing whether or not to amend or adopt it later in the agenda.

Review of Highway Department Summer Work Plan

Gosselin: I'll just go down through the months kind of briefly
(https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/03/d_PROPO_HIG)

HWAY_DEPARTMENT_SUMMER_2023_WORK_PLAN.pdf). We're going to switch to a (4) 10-hour work schedule beginning April 20th. We're starting to grade all the dirt roads right now. Sidewalks and pavement sweepers should be coming at either the end of this week or next week. We have scheduled April 14 to clean all the storm drain sumps out. We have a Better Roads Grant on Snipe Ireland Rd that has to be completed by June 30. In May, we do line striping for all our crosswalks and parking lots and stalls. We're prepping the gravel lot at the Volunteers Green for paving. The first week of May, we replace the asphalt sidewalks on the west side of Bridge St and go from Railroad St to the Iron Truss Bridge. There will be a greenbelt installed between the sidewalk and the curb. We're going to mill about two inches of the surface off Bridge St starting from the railroad tracks all the way up to the Bridge and repave that whole surface. That's all FY23 projects that we didn't finish last summer. Moving into June, Jonnie Brook Rd is going to get resurfaced with about three inches of gravel. Two miles of Snipe Ireland Rd will also be resurfaced. We have one big culvert on Hidden Pines Circle that's failed, it's collapsing. Roadside mowing also starts in the month of June and continues to September. On rainy days, we haul in winter sand. Our budget starts in July, so we'll have that money to spend starting after July 1. In July we start the sidewalk and curb replacement on East Main Street, north and south side. This has to go in conjunction with VTrans. In August, hopefully we can start and finish that work. We have to replace a failed culvert at Southview Drive. If we have the time, there's three sections of Stage Rd that have springs in the roadbed that need underdrains installed. October is kind of miscellaneous. We prepare the grounds for winter. The fact that we're not moving properties anymore, we can be so productive in construction.

Furr: I noticed the purchases of those three large stencils for the Volunteers Green parking lot. I very much look forward to seeing those put to use.

Gosselin: There's actual arrows that direct the traffic correctly into the Green and out of the Green and also into and out of the Stone's Throw.

Consideration of approval of applying for the Class 2 Roadway Grant and Structures Grant

Furr: There are two State grants that we apply for every year. The Structures Grant is to replace a failing and undersized culvert on Stage Rd. The paving grant is for 2 miles of paving on Huntington Rd. from Farr Rd. to Grandview Dr. There is a 20% Town match for both of these grants. If awarded the paving match would come out of the Highway Retreatment budget line, and the structures match would come out of the Bridge and Culvert Reserve Fund. Both grant applications are included in the packet. Along with these grants the Selectboard needs to sign off on a TA60 form which certifies that the Town raises at least \$300 per mile of roads in Town, and the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards. Both documents are provided in the packet.

*Hill moved to approve form TA60, the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards, and to apply for the Structures and Highway grants and to name Pete Gosselin as the Grant Program Manager. Sander seconded.
Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

Hill: I only hope that someday the Agency of Transportation would comply with their State Road and Bridge Standards.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of approval of grounds maintenance contractor

Furr: We have received bids this year for doing this work. Our previous contract is just more expensive compared to the other two bidders. The one that we're recommending is Mow N Maintain, who bid \$450 more dollars but have a larger staff and are located closer to Richmond.

Hill: My question is how will we know if we do or do not get more reliable service?

Arneson: We felt that they will be better suited to accomplish that scope of work and adjust if issues arise. We won't have a direct comparison.

Wardwell: We have a lot of competitive bids. I would be confident with hiring most of them. There were travel and crew concerns with one of them. Mow N Maintain gave us the most competitive offer.

Houle: Stromme started out a little rough in the beginning, but they came up to the quality. They were very conscientious about not knocking down the flowers that I had planted in any area. What was Stromme's bid compared to the others?

Wardwell: Stromme was about \$10,000 difference.

Forward: I think midway through the season we should get an update.

Hill moved to approve entering into an agreement with Mow N Maintain at an amount not to exceed \$30,915 for 2023 grounds maintenance. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Discussion of process to consider moving voting on annual Town budget to Australian ballot

Furr: We have scheduled a Special Town Meeting in response to a petition from Town voters to consider moving Town Meeting entirely to Tuesday and eliminating the Monday night meeting. When this was discussed, people kind of lumped together the idea of moving the budget vote back to Australian Ballot. Could we have a vote on that to take place at the same meeting? The Vermont League of Cities and Towns saying we can warn an article to switch to Australian Ballot voting for a number of items, including approving the budget on the Australian Ballot. We would just have to warn it as a Town Meeting. Do you think it would be worth exploring a second Town Meeting specifically to get the budget in front of the entire electorate and not just the people who can come on Tuesday morning?

Forward: I find that when it's on Tuesday we have much more going on. I get to talk to people that I don't get a chance throughout the year. I felt our Monday night experiment was not satisfactory. If it's on Australian Ballot, nobody will come.

Miller: It seems if the budget is on a ballot, it's either yes or no. That seems dangerous. If it's able to be passed, piecemeal, then that's a win, I think for everybody.

Hill: I appreciate the comments that we receive at Town Meeting. I share the concern that Australian Ballot is binary, it loses the subtlety of the conversations that we have in person at Town Meeting.

Follow up on necessary attendance of public officials at special meeting to consider moving date of Town Meeting

Furr: The question was does a quorum of the Selectboard have to be present? The answer is essentially, no. The Town Clerk is the presiding officer, the Board of Civil Authority are the JPs. The moderator runs the meeting so there is no requirement that the Selectboard attend.

Consideration of approval of Round Church Women's Run

Furr: We have people in the audience who have been patient. We do have a request to authorize that run.

Holmes: I am Hillary Holmes and I represent the Green Mountain Athletic Association. We are requesting permission to hold a formal group event on Cochran Rd. We have agreed to shift the date to July 23rd. We would like to reintroduce the 10-K. One turnaround happens just east of Cochran's. The second turnaround will be just before Dugway Rd. The 5-K turnaround happens just west of a blind hill, so we have moved that turnaround. We will request police presence to help us close the road, eastbound only. We will request support from a different town. We had 128 registered runners last year and 105 actually competed. We're going to start earlier this year at 7:30. We can't close Cochran Rd in both directions.

Hill moved to approve the Round Church Women's Run to be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023 and authorize the closer of Farr Rd, Thompson Rd. and the eastbound lane of Cochran Rd. from 7:25am to 9:15am on the date of the event. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of adopting a non-binding resolution on safe sharing of the road

Furr: This relates to a proposed non-binding resolution sent to us by town resident Nick Ponzio (https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/03/j1_Richmond_Select_Board_-_Safe_Sharing_of_Roadways.pdf). I'll summarize it. Pedestrians and cyclists should wear high visibility clothing. Personal lights should be used one hour before sunset to sunrise. Pedestrians should travel on the left side of the roadway facing traffic. Cyclists should travel on the right side with vehicle traffic. It's been included to encourage drivers to yield to vulnerable users with a minimum of eight feet of clearance. Crossing a double yellow line is permitted in the presence of a vulnerable user provided the other side of the road is not occupied by a vulnerable user or an oncoming vehicle. The only way to safely pass a vulnerable user and an oncoming car or a vulnerable user in the oncoming lane is to stop until one of the parties is passed. The duty to yield rests entirely with the operator of the motorized vehicle. Vulnerable users have equal rights to use public roads. The responsibility is not on the vulnerable user to remove themselves from the road. It is the duty of the motor vehicle operator to yield to the vulnerable user per State law. That's the resolution that has proposed Nick.

Ponzio: The intent here is to seek leadership from the Selectboard to set some guidelines about how our roads should be used by both vulnerable users and motorists.

Hill: As I understand it, pedestrians and bike users have an obligation not to be in the middle of the lane arbitrarily or four bicycles across. I don't see that addressed here.

Furr: I would foresee an amendment to the resolution that bicyclists should not ride more than two abreast. I would encourage us to add a reminder that pedestrians and bicyclists have a responsibility to follow State law and to safely use the road.

Forward: There are times when it's important for the cyclist to claim the lane. It's difficult to maintain the shoulders after heavy rainfall.

Hill: I've seen behavior which does not seem driven by safety, but more a declaration that I don't have to share the road with you, you have to share the road with me. I do believe in terms of responsible pedestrians, ridership, horses, dogs, that there is a way to be safe. We want people to be safe to each other.

Furr: I think it is core that we remind people if you cannot give the bicyclist a safe amount of room, you should hold off until you can. I think that's an education issue as it goes against their instinct.

Knowles: Passing one or two bicycles is much easier than passing eight or 10 bicycles in a paceline. I had the experience of driving my car when one of the tour groups was leaving Round Church area and heading east on Cochran Rd. They were just strung out in a line of two or three dozen. Where do you get enough sight distance to pass that many people? When I was riding around in Quebec, I noticed that they had a rule that you could not have more than six bicycles in line.

Kory: A pedestrian can't yield, there's a lot of places on Cochran Rd where there's a guardrail or drop off. I understand the idea that there are rules around how many people abreast you should be walking and riding and that you should stay on the side of the road.

Furr: There is some education to be done on the part of the cyclists and walkers who decide to be confrontational.

Wells: Did you have a thought about how this was going to be shared and presented to the public and how people would be educated to these list of things?

Ponzio: The nature of this proposal was just asking for a non-binding resolution from the Selectboard to get this exact kind of discussion started.

LaBounty: If we're reminding everybody to share the road, then we should remind them of the law as well, which is no more than two bicyclists abreast. I think hindering traffic intentionally is what you're talking about. I fear the younger and the older drivers that might not have quick reaction times when they come around them on that curve.

Forward: I would support using this resolution and encouraging the Transportation Committee to start their discussions with the share the road campaign.

Linn: I drive a standard half ton truck, it's eight and a half feet wide. A lot of our roads are 22 feet wide. If there's someone beyond the midpoint of one lane, I can't pass them. If there's two bicyclists side by side, I'm going to follow them indefinitely.

Arneson: The law would still be 4-feet. We can't change that law. Eight is rather wide.

Furr: I think we should change it to 4-feet to avoid confusing people.

Young: My name is LiLing Young and I live on Cochran Rd. I just want to reinforce the value of asking the Selectboard to make a stand on this because it's a little bit different from an educational campaign. Leadership is not just repeating the State law, but saying here is a good way for us all to coexist on the road. I feel like reminding the vulnerable user their responsibilities invites harassment from motor vehicle drivers who feel entitled to the use of the road. Sometimes users need to protect their position on the road in order to ensure their safety. We expect deference and kindness or civility from all of our neighbors and visitors to our Town.

Hill: I don't think we are ready to vote on this. We're going so many different directions and we just spent half an hour wordsmithing this. I think we should delegate this to another group. I would like this to be balanced across everybody's responsibility recognizing the unique risk and responsibility of vehicle operators due to their risk to vulnerable users.

Furr: Do we want to vote to have a Share the Roads education campaign coordinated by the Transportation Committee in concert with Local Motion and CCRPC?

Forward moved to approve a Share the Roads educational campaign coordinated by the Transportation Committee in concert with Local Motion and CCRPC. Sander seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Furr: I don't think there's a person in Richmond who doesn't have a deep personal feeling about it. We want to make this an inclusive community where everybody feels they have as much right to enjoy it as anybody else. We must remember to act with politeness, kindness, and civility.

Hill: There are passed resolutions like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that would offer a template.

Consideration of acting as the Fiscal Sponsor for United Way Funding of the All Together now project

Furr: The motion in the memo is to serve as a fiscal sponsor for All Together Now in receipt of funding from United Way of Northwest Vermont.

Hartsfield: All Together Now is a community health and well-being project. The project moves forward by stipends for youth within the community to help support mental health and well-being which includes substance abuse prevention. It does serve all five towns and we're working with the other Selectboards. The school district is on board to figure

out the best arrangement. The United Way had some funds that have to be spent by June 30. They approached us knowing that we're always under resourced and creative. This funding has been approved by United Way and all the Town needs to do is approve it. The money would be given to the Town. My company is the one who's able to stipend the kids or hire contractors because I don't have the restrictions of a municipality. I invoice the Town for any services if they approve the expenses. I have liability insurance and workers comp. This is \$10,000 to hire a contractor to get us kind of over the hump to finally form that Prevention Coalition. It'll be a subcontractor, Hartsfield Health Systems. They have to be an independent contractor; we're not hiring them. My company is responsible for all hiring and grant reporting.

Hill: Essentially, the Town is the fiscal agent, but all the work is done outside.

Forward: You basically need to spend this \$10,000 within three months,

Hartsfield: The job description is attached in your materials and word has already been spread amongst the Prevention Center of Excellence Network. The application deadline is this coming Friday.

LaBounty: I 100% support this, but it needs to be clear about who the money's going to and how it flows.

Sander moved to enter into a Funding Memorandum of Agreement with United Way of Northwest Vermont which will allow for the Town of Richmond to serve as the fiscal sponsor for \$10,000 in United Way funds paid to and to be used by Hartsfield Health Systems Consulting for the purpose of hiring a consultant to support All Together Now in its prevention activities in the community. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of request to use \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as a match for Bruhn Grant

Furr: The Library has requested \$150,000. They have put in for the Bruhn Grant for the exterior of the Library renovations and repairs. The presence of matching funds can significantly strengthen the application. The ARPA committee voted to recommend the Selectboard earmark the \$150,000 of ARPA money. If we don't get the grant, we wouldn't put the money in. If they don't get the grant, I don't think they want the money.

Hill: We might state the motion to approve the commitment of use of funds up to this depending on approval of the Bruhn Grant.

Hill moved to support the use of up to \$150,000 in ARPA funds in the Bruhn Grant application for repairs to the exterior of the Library. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of requesting that VTrans establish a no parking area on Rt. 2 in front of the Richmond Family Medicine Office

Furr: This topic has been discussed at multiple Selectboard meetings. The next step is to make a formal request to the VTrans Traffic Committee. That request is included in the packet.

Hill moved to submit a request to the VTrans Traffic Committee to implement a no parking zone on the north side of Rt. 2 (West Main St.) in Richmond between the driveway to Richmond Family Medicine at 30 West Main St. and the driveway to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church at 64 West Main St. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of approving Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan application for waterline replacement on Tilden Ave. and portions of Bridge St. and Cochran Rd.

Furr: The bond vote for the project passed on Town Meeting Day. This is the application to DWSRF for the final construction phase of the project. The bond would be paid back by Water customers. The binding and borrowing authority does rest with the Selectboard. The Water and Sewer Commission endorsed it tonight.

Sander moved to approve the DWSRF application for waterline replacement on Tilden Ave. and portions of Bridge St. and Cochran Rd. Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of participating in the National Opioid Settlements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart

Furr: The State of Vermont has signed on as participant in the suit. The towns in Vermont have the option of signing onto it themselves. We can direct the money to be paid to the Town or to the State's overall effort. The theoretical goal is that recipients of the money should use this for opioid abatement, for education and for treatment.

Sander: I have been on the Selectboard for over nine years now. I've been struck with the cost to the taxpayers due to police time, resources being spent, and cost to society with crimes driven due to opioid addictions. I'm glad to see some potential retribution coming back to the citizens of Richmond.

Forward: Will it cost us anything to participate? No, then I hope we get lots of money from them as it is a cost to everybody in the country. We should reiterate that the defendants of the suit are Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart.

Hill moved to approve entering into the National Opioid Settlements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart and to appoint Town Manger Josh Arneson as the duly authorized representative. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of approval of liquor licenses

Hill moved to approve first and second class liquor licenses for Pine Martin LLC, doing business as Stones Throw Pizza. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to approve first and third class liquor licenses for Vermont Fine LLC. Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to approve a second class liquor license and a tobacco license for RMM Enterprises doing business as Richmond Mobil Mart. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Update on and review of Local Emergency Operations Plan

Arneson: The NIMS resource sheet is updated thoroughly based on the guidance from CCRPC on how we classify each of our resources. I'm still waiting on feedback from the Red Cross on the updates for the schools. They currently have the original elementary school as a larger capacity than Camels Hump Middle School. We really need to get updated square footage and updated capacity so we can update our local emergency management plan with accurate data. Hopefully, we'll have that by our next meeting because this needs to be in and approved by the end of April.

Update from Town Center and Library Building Committee

Forward: We hired an architect to go through the building, interview all of the tenants and users of the building. They discovered that the Police Department actually drives a lot of the design. If they were to get everything they wanted, it's complicated. There's a lot of issues around that. The Police Department is somewhere around 3500 to 4000 square feet. The Hinesburg Police Department is less than 2500 square feet. We concluded at our meeting last week, we want to look at the footprint of this building. The future of our police department is in flux right now. For this footprint, we may need to do an enclosed staircase for our fire escape. We might need to find a place for mechanicals. The architects are going to present us with a number of different options. We want to bring back to you two or three most appropriate. I would make that as a future agenda item.

Hill: Do we know how many small police departments in Vermont have sally ports? I knew a large number of departments function without them, even though it would be better.

Forward: The Town Center Committee doesn't want to be the body that makes that decision. We want to deal with this footprint and whatever we do here can be modified in the future. The cool thing about this is the campus between Town Center and Library. They figured out how to do a green space, a driveway with a crosswalk, a parking lot in behind.

Discussion of strategic items to add to the Selectboard Calendar

Hill: One comment brings up the conversation of regionalization including a reengagement with Hinesburg, about partnerships around policing.

Forward: The Town Center Committee can give you an overview in May and then we're hoping for a bond vote in November.

Hill: We talked about the future of fire in the context of workforce, the building, like where we want it to be 20 years from now.

Furr: Do we go and start employing some professional firefighters?

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes:

Miller moved to approve the Minutes of 3/20/23 as presented. Sander seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Purchase Orders:

Hill moved to approve PO# 4396 to U.S. Bank for the Selectboard share of Firetruck interest \$679.50 and Jericho Rd interest at \$8,295.86. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to approve PO# 4427 to Ricks Towing and Repair to replace failed transmission in truck #2 not to exceed \$10,165.95. Sander seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to approve PO# 4560 to Life Safety Systems, Inc for fire alarm replacement upgrades not to exceed \$12,228.00. Forward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Warrants:

Sander moved to approve the general warrants as presented from 3/20/2023. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Discuss Items for Next Agenda

- *Resolution follow-up
- *Purchase Order Interest follow up
- *Emergency Plan
- *Strategic Planning options
- *Town Wide Re-appraisal

Executive Session

Hill moved to find that premature public knowledge about a personnel issue would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved that we enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Forward moved to exit executive session. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Adjourn

Hill moved to adjourn. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:50 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

00:24:46 Betsy: Sorry - my microphone isn't working. I want to express my strong support for the sidewalk(s) on the east side of Bridge Street. I live on Jericho Rd. near the schools and very frequently walk to the Post Office, Library, and Town Center. The east side side sidewalk(s) will greatly improve the safety.

00:25:36 Jay Furr: Betsy, what's your last name?

00:25:58 Betsy: My last name is Hardy.

00:37:15 matthew parisi: Thank you!

00:57:58 pgosselin: Would we be in the right to ask VSP to do additional speed patrol on Cochran Road due to the impact from the Rt.2 VTRANS project?

01:18:05 Christopher Cole: Good idea Pete.

02:27:30 Stefani Hartsfield: Hartsfield Health Systems Consulting