

**Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of October 3, 2022**

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, June Heston

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Director; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Allen Knowles, Brad Elliot, Cara LaBounty, Charlie Baker, Hailey Morgan, Judy McVickar, Judy Rosovsky, Lisa Kory, Lisa Miller, Marshall Paulsen, Martha Nye, Mary Houle, Melissa Wolaver, Susan Wells, Teri Martineau

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment:

Houle: I covered the sensitive plants from frost. After tomorrow morning I will not cover them anymore. The Post Office said I could put some plants in the windows for the winter. I planted daffodils and tulip bulbs along the walkway, entry, Post Office and gave some to the Library. I will be submitting my tally sheets for the reimbursement of the plants and bulbs which will be below the \$1,500 Town Center budget.

Heston: I want to recognize Linda Parent for receiving Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association Clerk of the Year award. It is very well deserved with many people celebrating it on Front Porch Forum or with flowers in the Town Office.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of closing Esplanade St. and Pleasant St. on Halloween evening

Heston: This is a request from Marshall Paulson to close Pleasant St. to vehicular traffic on Halloween, Monday, October 31, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm. This will allow for trick or treaters to safely visit the street.

Paulsen: Last year I handed out 27 dozen cider donuts for the adults. This has developed into a Town-wide block party, and I think that is pretty cool. I think we should spend more time together like this.

Heston: There is also a request from Amy Channell to close Esplanade St. to vehicular traffic on Halloween, Monday, October 31, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm, to also allow for trick or treaters to safely visit the street. Both streets were also closed last year. Volunteers Green will also have a Halloween celebration on Saturday, October 29.

Paulsen: The Rescue, Fire and Police also support this. If that were to change, we would reconsider. I would like to put a sign up a few weeks before. I mount it on a telephone pole that is currently with a Road Work Ahead sign. I will make sure to put the sign in a proper place for people to view.

Hill: I think Pete will have recommendations for where to put the signs.

Heston: I think the neighbors all know.

Sander: I think the signs were a procedural courtesy of information for the neighborhood.

Furr moved to close Pleasant St. and Esplanade St. to vehicular traffic on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 4:00 – 9:00pm and thanks the residents of Pleasant and Esplanade Street for providing this service. Sander seconded.

Sander: I want to thank Marshall personally as this is just awesome.

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

Consideration of purchasing Radar Speed Feedback Signs

Heston: At our last meeting we considered purchasing pole mounted radar speed feedback signs. The Board wanted to consider the vacancy savings in the Police Department which are currently at \$66,732. Interim Chief Benjamin Herrick has researched radar speed feedback signs and notes that they cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$6,000 depending on the brand, model, and features. Most of them can be mounted on a pole and moved to other locations in the future but that would only happen about every 6 months. Most of the models are able to collect data which we want for the Traffic Calming Policy.

Herrick: It costs a few hundred dollars more to capture the data. I think it is worth it so we can focus our attention on when to be there.

Forward: Do we have any idea on the lead time for this?

Herrick: There is a single sales company that services the northeast so we will purchase from them. It is whatever they offer and provide.

Forward: Have you communicated with other Towns to see if they are able to loan us a few in the interim.

Herrick: I am not aware of any Towns that are not using theirs.

Forward: I believe Hinesburg has some that we could use on Cochran Rd. Do we know about the one Cochran Rd that is not consistently working.

Herrick: I do not know what is causing it to be intermittent. I will investigate to see if the batteries are holding a charge. Highway will have to help me to get up there.

Forward: I think that would be a high priority. What is the status of our cart?

Herrick: It is being repaired and I am not sure when it will be ready.

Forward: I think we should address the many concerns as quickly as we can.

Kory: Are the new ones going to be solar powered? The western end of Cochran Rd is really difficult to get sun especially during the winter. I am skeptical a new one will work with only a few hours a day of sunshine.

Herrick: The solar panels do not need direct sunlight. The only other alternative is to have it hard wired so we would need a place to have it plugged in.

Kory: It is often not currently working around 8:30 in the morning.

Hill: Maybe it is an older model.

Herrick: I do not know the age of them but the one closer to Town is older than the one closer to Dugway Rd.

Forward: The new ones should be LED which would reduce the electrical demand.

Furr: If it is a 10-year-old battery then that could be the issue.

Hill moved to overspend the Police Supplies budget line in order to purchase four radar speed feedback signs in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 with the overbudget portion of the purchase being made up for by savings elsewhere in the Police budget. Sander seconded.

Roll call vote follows discussion.

Heston: We are going through a process to address the many suggestions for speed bumps.

Kory: I am concerned that these radar signs are a prerequisite to doing any other Traffic Calming measures on Cochran Rd.

Heston: This is more of a stopgap. The Traffic Calming Committee is working through the process.

Arneson: Level one is enforcement education which is the purpose of the radar speed signs. Our Bike, Walk, Trails group presented at our last meeting some Level 2 and 3 temporary and permanent responses. We are moving a little faster than we could be. We have planned proactively with the Transportation Committee which is on a later item on our agenda. Our Town Planner will help advise us on our next steps. A speed bump requires a bit more study due to some of the negative impacts. A crosswalk might be something we could do a little bit quicker. We will certainly bring this back to a future meeting with a menu of options.

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

Consideration of adopting the 2022 Chittenden County, Vermont Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Heston: This plan is included in the packet (https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/3c2_Final_Draft_2022_Chittenden_County_All_Hazards_Mult_Jurisdictional_Plan.September_2022.pdf). It was 372 pages of exciting reading. That was a lot of work and I got through a lot of it.

Furr: I wish I had more time to read the plan. It is very well prepared and important information.

Arneson: It is a collaboration between the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) consultants and the member Towns to provide feedback. Our Town Planner and Highway Foreman also provided input. The retaining wall on Dugway Rd. is part of the mitigation money. It is also associated with the culvert on Thompson Rd. If we do not join in on this plan, then future funding is affected.

Heston: It also talks about the things we do not have in place and the goals to get there. On page 6 of the Richmond Annex (https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/3c3_Annex_11_Town_of_Richmond-_V10_.pdf), it lists under the transportation section Rt. 7 which is not Richmond. It also doesn't mention Interstate 89. That should be looked at as it lists roads not in Richmond.

Forward: I agree it is a lot to bit off since Friday. I did find a number of errors in this including dams. I have questions about low, medium, and high concerns relative to the other Towns. I do not think it is realistic to read this amount over a weekend. I would prefer to table this until next meeting and give us more time to read it. One of the values of reading it is we can understand what it is for and correct errors, but we cannot do it in two days.

Arneson: We have some time to address between now and the deadline on October 31st.

Annual report from Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Baker: I am Charlie Baker, the Executive Director and the CCRPC. Every year, I try to get to each Selectboard as a customer service check-in. We put together an annual report for the previous fiscal year (https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/3h_Richmond_CCRPC_FY22.pdf). The second page lists some of the things we did over the last year. Is there any feedback on any of these things?

Forward: This is a lot of valuable service which benefits us in many different ways. The elderly transportation program is such a cool program. It is useful to the elderly and disabled and wish it was available to everyone else. There are Town experimenting with this. I think it might be the future of public transit.

Baker: We have a quarterly meeting with the E&D providers. Green Mountain Transit has three micro-mobility pilots coming up this fiscal year.

Forward: I volunteer our Town for any pilot programs. Thank you for the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. There is a lot of cost involved but it gives us a good starting point to understand the possibilities.

Hill: I wanted to mention a conversation with Chris Cole and the Transportation Committee about the Rt. 2 project and how to connect the Village with the Park & Ride. That has been on the radar, and we will hear more from the Transportation Committee and getting on-demand vans and drivers.

Knowles: The Transportation Committee has discussed how pleased we are with the support from the CCRPC. It has been excellent. As far as the mini-bus option, I was at the car-free day in Burlington and talked to the GMT representatives. That is on the Transportation Committee agenda.

Hill: The last month there have been conversations about parking. It isn't just about commuting but also recreation. The report has a pretty awesome map about the different sites including along Rt. 2 and Jonesville. It is something to contemplate with the Parking Committee.

Baker: The middle of the third page mirrors the State's capital program. I think these are all on your radar for the State using Federal funds. The bottom of page 3 to the top of page 4 about the feasibility of the Gateway. Bard is on our executive committee and is a great voice on our board and is now treasurer. We are trying to advance equity in our work and homes in our region. Urban towns ask for a lot, and they have more money. As much staff time is spent with rural towns. We will try to help as much as we can with what you need.

Forward: This Building Homes Together initiative is something we hear a lot about concerning the challenges of affordable housing. Richmond has as much demand for affordable housing as any other town. What can you do in that program to help us improve our housing stock.

Baker: It is a complicated answer. There is a shared campaign with Champlain Housing Trust and Evernorth which used to be Housing Vermont. We raised the visibility of the housing need in the Legislature. A lot of that has been funding into affordable housing programs. We hope to encourage the market to reduce the permit barriers to housing. We have a variety of things that Towns are doing such as trust funds and inclusionary zoning. Is there more that we could do with the sewer capacity in the Village? We can help with Village Planning and Zoning changes and funding.

Hill: We think about affordability and equity. If you don't allow dense zoning it ain't going to happen. The size and density of the units matter. Being on public water and sewer matters. How do we deal with property taxes?

Furr: Our Planning Commission is deep in the process of reviewing the Zoning.

Forward: They are doing a re-write of the Village Zoning right now. They have warned a public hearing for mid-October and early-November. They will come to the Selectboard for our approval to address these density issues. Maybe we should be more

proactive and have a conversation with Champlain Housing Trust or Evernorth. How could we help you look at our Town? Is that realistic?

Baker: Yes, Michael Monty with the Champlain Housing Trust.

Heston: The continuation of Jolina Court did talk with the Champlain Housing Trust.

Hill: Champlain Housing Trust is not interested in managing three affordable apartments in a unit that they built. They do not take over something they already built or planned. If there were 2 affordable units out of some large number, then what is the right density bonus for a couple of affordable units. That is not a huge payback.

Forward: The next Creamery project proposal is looking at 90 units. So, 10% is something. We should also approach Cathedral Square. Maybe the Housing Committee investigates a partnership. It wouldn't be a bad use of ARPA funds. Affordable housing is an on-going need.

Hill: We tried to develop a partnership with the Champlain Housing Trust.

Baker: The whole housing market is supply and demand. Across the state they are seeing a huge demand for housing units. It will be a topic in the Legislature again. The diversity of issues continues to increase the scope of our work. The Legislature increased our funding for the first time in 20 years. In FY22, the Legislature designated a \$1 million to the 11 Regional Planning Commissions for each of us to have a staff person to help Towns with energy plans and implementation. There is also \$40 million or so that the Legislature allocated for municipalities to make your buildings more energy efficient. With ARPA money there are some snags with eligibility. You can do ventilation because it is COVID related.

Forward: Much of the smaller Towns do not have paid staff at the regional level. It feels to me more like a regional issue than individual Towns.

Consideration of approving Conservation Fund request by Richmond Land Trust for engineering at Bombardier meadow

Arneson: This is for engineering to look at a more permanent solution to the temporary parking at the Bombardier meadow. They will look at parking designs and access to the river. It is \$625 and is in response to the Town's directive to find more parking in that area. There have been some conditions that have changed. This is preliminary work.

Rosovsky: This proposal is an engineering piece and will keep the finances clear. They want to look at different ways to deal with the parking issue. This isn't creating any new or different parking.

Forward: Parking does not fit the Land Trust's mission. Somebody needed to make the request to go through the process.

Hill moved to approve the request from the Richmond Land Trust for the use of \$625 from the Conservation Reserve Fund to pay for engineering study at the Bombardier Preserve. Furr seconded.

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

Consideration of approving Conservation Fund request from Andrews Community Forest Committee for a Trail Review

Forward: There is some controversy about this request. I would like to hear from Judy. The Andrews Community Forest Committee (ACFC) and the Conservation Commission (RCC) are separate entities and may not always agree with each other.

Rosovsky: The Conservation Commission did approve to put this request to the Selectboard. The original concept for Andrews Community Forest bike trails was to connect the Sunshine Trail to other trails. One group has a gamut of opinions from no trails to limited trails. There is a community of ardent bikers that would like to see as many trails as possible. There is some concern about the impact of trails in forested areas. This proposal has brought these different issues to a head. I would be interested in engaging town leaders about how to resolve these dilemmas. This particular proposal is about having ecologists review a 50-foot buffer along the trail that is congruent with the Andrews Community Forest management plan. The ACFC are the stewards of this forest. The Conservation Commission is trying not to but in.

Forward: We look to you to give recommendations on how the Conservation fund should be spent. We approved money to hire Melissa Levy to facilitate these conversations and complicated issues.

Wolaver: Melissa Levy was hired to do a final facilitated meeting that would fit in after the study is completed but before a revised management plan is submitted to the Selectboard. She has not done any work yet as the contract was just approved. When the revised management plan is prepared then she can prepare for the facilitation. The revised management plan is not yet finished. We have not begun the facilitation process.

Rosovsky: There has been some concern about the amount of public involvement from the ACFC. I appreciate the amount of work they have done. The issues might be bigger than the group of volunteers can handle. The RCC advocated for greater public involvement and hearings. For this proposal, the public requested including existing trails to review. The RCC has approved recommending this to the Selectboard. This is not about the debate of the trails.

Hill: One sentence says it would look at a 50-foot buffer of the proposed trail. Is there a singular trail or plural trails.

Elliot: I think it is just a typo as it would cover the network of 6.5 miles worth of trails. The request is for \$3,500. There is a requirement in the management plan that before any trails can be constructed an ecologist walks a 50-foot swatch beside the trails and looks for rare and endangered species. The application came in for a fine-scale review without any information about what that would be. That seems like a vast amount of territory in not a lot of hours. The hourly rate would be about 53 hours. It would be equivalent of walking a 100-foot-wide path between here and Williston Town Center often in thick vegetation. The RCC tabled the request for more details on deliverables, what is to be done, and an explanation if the budget is sufficient. We still do not know that, and you do not know that. According to the ACFC meeting last Monday, they work has been

done despite the application being all future tense. No, they are asking for payment retroactively. I went back to look at the motion from the ACFC where they ask for the \$3,500 from the Conservation Fund. The problems are no details and retroactive funding. Some of these trails are controversial because they go through a deer yard, and another goes back into a corridor. If the work has been done, then the report should be done in a couple of weeks. I recommend that we table this until we can see that report and judge if we have confidence that those threatened and endangered species will not be harmed by those trails.

Hill: What is the ACFC authority on spending money without our prior approval?

Arneson: They do not have authority to spend from either fund. There is a process that needs to be addressed.

Hill: I do not know how we incur expenditures without prior approval. We should have clarity on that before approving anything. We need credibility of transparency in our Town Staff and Committees.

Rosovsky: I understand the process concerns. We wanted to get the trails examined at different seasons during the year. I am glad they did the work ahead of time since we just had a frost. We had a spring examination and now this is a fall examination. I am aware of concerns, but we would have to wait until next year for another fall. The proposal was not approved at the August meeting. The RCC wanted more details and information about how this would go ahead. At the September meeting, I did feel we were provided with additional details. We haven't asked other people with similar proposals to provide this level of detail so there is a fairness and consistency in this situation. We agreed this proposal was acceptable to us.

Forward: Brad, who do you mean we?

Elliot: I represent myself and a few others with similar opinions.

Forward: What is the urgency of doing this? What is the harm in waiting?

Heston: The work has been done and someone will expect payment. It isn't the right way to go about it.

Wolaver: As an ACFC Committee member, I was not aware of the work being done prior to Selectboard approval.

Hill: I suggest we table this as I have a lot of concerns around the process and on-going management. It is a basic check and balance we expect of all Committees.

Sander: Are we tabling it until when or under what circumstances or details?

Hill: I would like someone to explain the authorization of the request and the urgency of the project. I have concerns about oversight and management. I appreciate the seasonal thing, but I am not persuaded. I think moving slowly would be fine. The current residents of the forest would probably say the same thing.

Furr: Rushing into things is bad policy.

Heston: We will not take action tonight. We will take action when we can hear from the ACFC.

Consideration of using funds from the Bridge and Culverts reserve for line striping on Bridge St. bridge

Gosselin: We have had several requests for more permanent striping on the concrete deck. L & D Safety Marking Corporation is the marking company for the State of Vermont. The quote they gave us is a recessed stripe and the epoxy cures, so it won't get scraped off by the plows. It is a little costly. The Bridge and Culvert fund could make up for what is currently in the budget. Maybe they could slide in and do it this month. It is fine being tabled for a later date. I cannot find anybody else who can do this type of work.

Hill: What is the current balance in the Bridge and Culvert fund?

Gosselin: It is around \$300,000. It is a big safety issue as nobody can define the center. If we approve this, then I can see if they can do it this Fall or Spring.

Arneson: The Bridge and Culvert fund was \$307,926 as of June 30, 2021, and I do not think we have spent anything from it since then.

*Forward moved to approve the expenditure of \$3,260 From the Bridge and Culvert reserve fund to pay for line striping on the Bridge St. bridge. Hill seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

Discussion of 2022 health insurance plans for Town staff

Heston: We are looking at a significant increase. Open enrollment happens in November.

Arneson: We have hired Hickok and Boardman for consultation on health insurance. Connie and I have also done a preliminary review. Currently the Town offers the MVP Platinum, Gold HDHP, and Silver HDHP. The Town covers 100% of the premiums Platinum premiums. If an employee chooses Gold or Silver, the premiums are less so the Town covers those premiums. Any difference is paid to the employee in a health savings account. The cost to the Town no matter which plan the employee chooses. This year there is a 19% on these plans. Blue Cross Blue Shield is slightly lower than MVP. I do not think there is a significant savings to go back to Blue Cross Blue Shield. If we stay with the same coverage, then we would be looking \$350,000 increase combined. We can absorb this and move forward. We could also discuss employee contributions. Last year the Police Union contributed 5% and this year it is a 10% contribution.

Heston: I think it is time to ask for contributions from our employees especially since the police officers contribute. We should also evaluate the health savings plan. How do we reign in our expenses in this area. I would like to have a conversation about a 10% contribution.

Hill: I think it is easier to talk about total compensation. I want to engage the staff in this conversation. It would be imprudent to not begin the discussion.

Heston: Can we get the numbers for the impact on the budget?

Hill: We could look at comparability for police and other employees.

Forward: One of the reasons we offer benefits is recruitment and retention. We are at full recruitment except for the Police Department. I suggest we look at comparable Towns from our cohort and what they do for employee contributions.

Gosselin: I would also bring up the opt-out insurance and getting that number very competitive so that maybe some family plans may go off the Town insurance.

Bona: The opt-out hasn't changed since long before my time. It isn't even covered in our personnel guidelines. I suggest we base that opt-out on the four different categories. One department finally tilted the scale such that the opt-out was not worth their spouse carrying the insurance. There is no change in out of pocket and deductible except the Platinum plan deductible did go up. I agree with Pete it might make a difference. If we looked at 25% of the premium as an opt-out, then maybe we will have a couple of people go of it. Any rate, it should be updated in the personnel guidelines.

Heston: In the payroll arena, they only take the insurance if they have to. Most employers do not offer the opt-out.

Forward: I encourage the opt-out and there are many couples who might benefit. Talk to the MMU School District to see that their policies are. I think we need to make this decision at our next meeting. I would really like to get feedback from staff for suggestions, concerns, and where they are coming from.

Furr: We heard a lot during the compensation study that some of our employees might not factor in the insurance. Younger employees might just want cash in their pocket. If the opt-out helps with recruitment, then that might help.

Bona: For a single person, an opt-out is currently \$2,500 and 25% would become \$2,900. For a family plan, 25% opt-out would be \$8,180 per year compared to paying \$32,000 for the insurance.

Gosselin: If you keep the opt-out numbers competitive then the enrollment will be a minimum.

Discussion of priorities from the Bike Walk Trails Plan

Arneson: There are some things to do now that will trigger another study. A crosswalk might be quicker to implement for Traffic Calming. Ravi, our Town Planner could look at Cochran Rd and the realistic costs and construction.

Forward: I like the idea of talking to the Transportation, Traffic Calming, and Transportation Committees. They should be able to give us some recommendations.

Arneson: We should get a simplified menu and then talk to the other Committees.

Update from Police Governance Committee

Heston: Hinesburg Town Manager Todd Odit and Josh are working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Survey Committee. We also talked about a short-term partnership. They expressed an interest in shared services. The next meeting will be in October for the short-term piece and to look at the draft MOU.

Forward: There are differences between the MOU, shared contracted services and a Municipal District. I am interested in contracted services.

Heston: There is some confusion over the MOU, the Municipal District, and the contracted services. The MOU would define the Joint Survey Committee. The Union Municipal District might come out of the Joint Survey Committee. Contracted services can help us with staffing issues to meet the gaps.

Forward: They could work in conjunction.

Furr: I worry about the morale of the police officers.

Heston: Their first assumption was that we were getting rid of our Police Department. They were concerned they would not have a job. Even if there is a merger, there still would be a need for their services. We want to get their perspectives. They had a lot of good ideas for scheduling and working together. They also had feedback on where to process people.

Sander: We need to protect our best asset which is our local police force. I am glad we live in Richmond.

Discussion of how much to budget for an increase to the pay grid for the FY24 budget

Arneson: We need to build the first pass of the budget. In the past number of years, we have been working with a pay grid where everyone goes up one step and the pay grid increases not to exceed 1.5% for cost of inflation. The CPI from August 2021 to August 2022 is 7.3. The CPI is likely to trend downward as the Federal Reserve looks to limit inflation. Perhaps we use 5% as the starting point for the budget.

Heston: We need to do some homework on CPI versus cost of living.

Hill: What do other Towns look at?

Arneson: This will come up the next few weeks and months. What do we want to use for our first run at the budget.

Forward: If we don't use CPI then what metric would we use?

Heston: We should look at the cost of living from our area. The CPI is based on metropolitan areas. The 5% is a random number.

Forward: I am fine starting with the 5% but we should look for something that is published. We can also ask for recommendation from VLCT.

Bona: This is a very big part of the budget and very time-consuming because it impacts retirement and disability insurance. When you are saying let's start at 5%, that means the grid itself would go up by 5%.

Arneson: Yes, each employee would go up a step and the grid would increase by 5%. So overall, it would be around 2% for the step plus the 5% or around 7% step plus CPI.

Hill: The United States Congress Joint Economic Committee of October 2022 as core CPI inflation at 4.9%.

Bona: What if we do a 5% then add or deduct from a compensation contingency line?

Heston: Perfect and thank you.

Review of the annual report for the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

Arneson: This is the current mitigation plan where we are not tied to the County wide one. This provides an update on the progress to the Selectboard. It is a lot of work Highway does.

Gosselin: We have been very proactive. We received a lot of grants. It is a good report, and we do a lot of work. I feel good about it.

Hill: The drainage ditches and the larger rock placements look good compared to lots of places around New England where none of that work has been done.

Gosselin: We are building our infrastructure to be more resilient to the larger storms.

Forward: Should we be doing both center lines and fog lines on our roads?

Gosselin: The white fog line is at the cost of the Town. It is \$.25 per foot which is a big number. That is a big number when you add it up. The class 2 highways are done annually by the State.

Forward: I think fog lines really improve safety. Fog lines really help with nighttime driving and bicycle safety.

Gosselin: That would be a great Transportation Committee topic. The Selectboard could budget for it. It just needs to be done annually and we contract out for it.

Hill: The fog lines are important for the built-in lane departure safety features of new cars.

Update on FY23 paving plan

Gosselin: Contractors are shorted staffed. Our contractor F.W. Whitcomb only worked on Saturday due to lack of staff. It was seven years ago when we paved on frozen ground, and we had some failures. I re-wrote the paving deadline at Oct 15, but we can extend a few weeks if the temperature cooperates. F.W. Whitcomb was only going to do about 40% of our work. I want Bridge St. to be perfect like the upper piece. We lost two weeks in September to rain. We are on hold with the elevated sidewalk in front of the Market. Our contractor would be able to complete everything in the Spring (the section of Bridge St. between the railroad tracks and Volunteers Green, the Volunteers Green parking lot, a portion of Cochran Rd., a portion of Duxbury Rd, and the parking area behind town garage). The budget goes to June 30.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Consideration of approving the use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) to pay for an email account to collect feedback from the public on the use of the funds

Arneson: Recently an email address was created to collect ideas for ARPA funds. I forgot it cost \$12 per month. The Town may need this email address for up to four years to see through spending the ARPA funds.

Hill moved to approve the use of up to \$576 in ARPA Funds to pay for an email to collect feedback on ARPA spending. Furr seconded.

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

Warrants

Furr: Why does the AP Warrant numbers not match for the insurance?

Arneson: If we have a Police Office who is on insurance then they contribute their part in two paychecks. It is the difference between what the Police Officer contributes and what the Town and Union contributes. I did also provide an update from today.

Forward: Did Linda pay tax on a hotel? Also, the Housing Committed paid sales tax on a sign. Why is there a streetlight on Williams Hill?

Arneson: I will follow up.

Forward: Should Ben be paying Union dues? It is a bit of a conflict of interest. We should keep digitizing documents for space and integrity. Why 8 tax sales?

Arneson: Ben is still a contributing member but does not actively participate in Union activities. The tax sales often get processed like this for some of the associated legal fees.

Sander moved to approve the warrants as presented from 10/3/2022. Hill seconded.

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

Purchase Orders

Furr moved to approve PO# 4501 to U.S. Bank for Fire Truck & Jericho Rd loan not to exceed \$119,226.14. Sander seconded.

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

Sander moved to approve PO# 4506 to Recordsforce for records restoration not to exceed \$12,009.90. Furr seconded.

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

Minutes of 9/19/22

Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 9/19/22 as amended. Sander seconded.

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

Discuss Items for Next Agenda

*Multi-Jurisdiction Hazards Plan

*Insurance

*Andrews Community Forest

*Bike Walk Trails

*Radar Feedback signs

*Police Governance

*Budget Meeting on Oct 18

Executive Session

Forward moved to find that premature general public knowledge about contract negotiations with Hinesburg regarding police services would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Furr seconded.

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

Forward moved to enter into executive session for attorney-client privileged communication under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(1) of the Vermont State Statutes and to invite the Town Manager, Josh Arneson. Furr seconded.

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

Furr moved to exit the executive session. Sander seconded.

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

Adjournment

Sander moved to adjourn. Furr seconded

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

00:08:18 Judy Rosovsky - VT: Go Linda, you ROCK!!!

00:08:55 Jeff Forward: Now the state knows what we already did, that Linda is the best!

01:33:09 Connie: cant hear Josh

01:33:17 Connie: yes