



TOWN OF RICHFORD

Selectboard

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MINUTES APPROVED as AMENDED

APR 1st at 1st Bi-Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2019

2nd Bi-Monthly Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7 PM by board Chair Andrew Derby with Linda Collins, Scott Coons, Jacques Desautels and Sherry Paquette present.

Guests in attendance:	Katie Foster	Greg Lamoureux	Joey Randall
Norris Tillotson	Arthur Pond	Michael Smith	Joe Pollender
Darlene Gregoire	Michael Hranek	Michelle Raymo	Pamela Royea
Joshua Aldrich	Anita Sartwell	Alan Fletcher	John Libbey

Derby made note of a change in the order of agenda.

Darlene Gregoire (REAC) was present to apprise new members of three items REAC feels are important to REAC & Richford currently.

1) The Rail Trail grant progress .Ext.: ~~An old \$150,000 grant whose time is running out is in jeopardy of failure due to many board changes, a bankrupt railroad, easement problems, and sales of properties which over time have prolonged the completion of this project. The state has since kicked in additional funding. REAC got involved to help the town complete it, NWRP (\$15,000 fee based) is now on board to assist in gaining the needed easement sign-offs. The selectboard, per Mrs. Gregoire should expect regular progress reports. Failure to complete the project, will require the town to pay back the grant.~~

2) REAC borrowed \$20,000 from the town's Revolving Loan Fund and \$20,000 from another source to purchase 111-113 Main St. 7 yrs. ago. Since that time REAC has paid back \$11,000 in principal and \$5,487.50 in interest. REAC receives a little funding from the town by general election article if so voted. Their biggest fund raiser is an annual golf tournament. REAC is looking for some financial relief of given the interest rate on their existing loan. REAC completed an action plan on the front half of the property but need come up with and complete an action plan for the back half of their property that includes the need to remediate some soils. RISE VT has committed interest as well. Gregoire was referred to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

~~3) Town Office Position: During the campaign for new selectboard members REAC 'heard' that a new office position might be forming at town hall. REAC would like to see that position, if it comes to fruition; include some portion of REAC administration "like Laura" used to do. Gregoire asked if the board would consider reinstating their phone number and PO Box at the Town Hall.~~

Michael Hranek (501 3c) looking for monetary relief from monies he owes on outstanding water/sewer base rates for 2 Apts. in a his house. ~~he bought out of a bank sale "as is". Mr. Hranek directed much of his questions to Alan Fletcher, Town Clerk & Treasurer who reiterated the conversation had previously been had with him on how to remedy his property back to a one family home by removing the second kitchen sink. John Libbey also spoke up. (Multiple voices... but paraphrased Libbey probably referenced conversations previously had regarding reapplying for a two-family or a mixed use; either way a permit issue.)~~ Hranek left the meeting.

Arthur Pond congratulated the new board members. He had just a couple questions... for Coons and ~~Derby~~ Desautels. He'd heard there was the possibility of abandoning the service contract with SOS (Simons Operating Systems) and wanted to know if that was true. Coons acknowledged the subject was broached on the campaign trail. Pond reminded the newcomers the water & sewer departments are a municipal user-fee based system that is not taxpayer supported for which the town at large does not pay for and would prefer they not change how it's operated. ~~He defended Daryl's record and commitment.~~ Derby commented he had encountered praise of SOS as well. Pond then asked Desautels about the \$350,000 grants. Collins answered as well explaining what roads the grants covered. ~~had come through for.~~

~~In addition to Pond's questions was a new issue~~ Regarding the handling and management of the CCTV external cameras, Collins had called ~~on~~ Arthur Pond because both VSP and BP needed access to video last week. Collins noted she hasn't the interest but does have a budget that would cover hiring Pond to manage the cameras. Derby didn't have an issue with it if Pond could train him as well. Paquette made the motion to retain Arthur Pond's services to manage the cameras and train Derby; Collins seconded the motion; motion carried. Pond left the meeting.

Motion to approve March 11th minutes: Collins has amendments... the spelling of Josh Aldrich's name; Collins took exception to a sentence that held no meaning for her, it will be struck as well as the final sentence with the exception of the adjournment time. Collins made the motion to accept the minutes of March 11th as amended; Sherry seconded; motion carried.

Chair Derby recognized guests not on the agenda. Joey Randall spoke up requesting sheriffs be more cognizant of parking issues on Troy St. as vehicles are parking in the travelled way. Randall left the meeting a short time later.

Derby brought up that Northwest Access is only airing the meetings on local access channels which are not available to all residents; furthermore for \$960 a yr. the meetings can air after-the-fact on You-Tube. A check with Treasurer Fletcher indicated money could probably be found. Collins made the motion to spend \$960 for Northwest Access TV to put selectboard meetings on YouTube; Derby seconded; motion carried.

Derby brought some truck information to Desautels regarding a signed agreement between 'Clarks' and Johnny Nutting, representing the Town of Richford to build and purchase a truck providing the budget passed, which it did. Desautels questioned whether the board had to honor the purchase or might get a better deal elsewhere.

Derby then disclosed his conversation with Kim Collins (e911 Coordinator). She estimates there are 40 roads left to correct and only five or so have been done. The board left the appointment at 1 yr. Citing her willingness to do more yearly and the consensus of the importance of getting it done the board would like Kim to complete the roads as soon as feasible recognizing she interfaces with the other Listers and the state e911 GIS office to complete the task.

The board then considered Michael Hranek, Ashley Desautels, and Joanne Daigneault for appointment to the open position on the Planning Board. Coons made the motion to appoint Daigneault to the position; Paquette seconded; motion carried.

On March 12th the Richford Firefighters Association met and approved Andy Pond as Chief, Stuart Guyette as 1st Assistant Chief, and Jeremy Paquette as 2nd Assistant Chief. Collins made the motion to accept the slate of officers for the fire department as presented; Derby seconded; motion carried.

The following appointments were made for the ensuing year:

Energy Coordinator & Tree Warden:	Dan Parsons
Fire Wardens:	Paul Martin & Andy Pond
Solid Waste:	Tim Green
Town Attorney	Michael Gawne
Ambulance Manager	NOTCH

Chair Derby then reminded everyone the 'New Selectboard Training' session would be held March 30th and the last day to sign up is the 22nd.

Collins then brought up the VLCT Model "Rules of Procedure". Derby stated he had no problems with it, some discussion ensued including keeping the 5 minute rule for those not on the agenda and 10 minutes for those on the agenda. Coons made the motion to accept the VLCT Model of Rules of Procedure; Paquette seconded the motion; motion carried.

For future consideration policies under review may include 'Conflict of Interest', 'Winter Plowing' and 'Purchasing Policy'.

Derby announced the formal resignation of John Nutting effective 03-25-19 and Norman Godin effective 03-30-19. It was decided to post notice for a job opening.

Water/Sewer Departments: Coons and Paquette reported on the new mapping system.

Parks/Playgrounds/Cemeteries/Police: Collins needs netting installed and Nutting had all the stuff. Also the musical instrument needs to be installed at the library.

Discussion about review and consider changes to Personnel Policy & Procedures.

Buildings: Paquette reported on a Fire Department door, a Post Office door, the Stairs to the Clock Tower and Brick Pointing projects for Town Hall.

Derby brought forward discussion regarding policy should a board member fulfill a foreman position.

Regarding the 'job opening' advertisement, consensus is to advertise open-ended.

Cemeteries: Collins cleaning of Troy St head stones, Davis park tree stump removal, Arkie's help on parks, and a sidewalk at playground are all on her list but right now everything is under snow.

Police: Collins and Derby: Collins noted Sheriff Contract renewed for 1 yr. Derby would like to setup a meeting with the Sheriff, then a public meeting with Border Patrol, Sheriff, State Police to air all the policing concerns, then meet again with the Sheriff afterwards to discuss resolutions.

Norris Tillotson: Norris is glad to see younger people getting involved. *He spoke of the accomplishments over the years, many of them recent. He said it took a while to get SOS straightened out but Daryl is doing an excellent job with both plants.*

Water Plant:

~~Brow Hill (secondary reservoir) is fixed; all the lines and fittings at the Water Plant have been replaced with Chlorine proof parts.~~

~~Daryl has a good knowledge of engineering. With the mapping grant and the systems running better now than they ever have there is no way to run them any cheaper or more efficient than they are now with SOS physically, mechanically, or financially. There is piping in the ground back to 1893. 2019 summer projects are laid out. The new mapping system is available on GPS.~~

