

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
5:00P.M. SELECTMEN MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Selectmen Present: Clarence Cummins, Rose Beckwith, David Thompson and Peter Warner arrived at 6:05p.m. Absent Gary Poulin.

Others: O'Neil Laplante; Town Manager, Janet Smith; Executive Assistant, Laurisa Loon.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 REQUEST TO APPROVE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2015

Selectman Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (3-0).

4.0 APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

4.2 Appointment of Ryan Chandler to the Budget Committee

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to approve the appointment of Ryan Chandler to the Budget Committee, Selectman Thompson seconded, motion passed (3-0).

5.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATION

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS

7.1 MDOT Agreement Request: to stipulate that the municipality will issue a permit to allow construction equipment that exceed legal weight limits, over municipal roads. Specific municipal roads involved are not necessarily known at present. The agreement acknowledges the towns right to require a bond from the contractor.

The Manager stated this allows the State to put in the RFP that any contractor needing to use our roads would be able to do so. Also, depending on traffic and roads being used we may require a road bond.

Selectman Thompson made a motion to approve the agreement, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (3-0).

7.2 Daytime parking ban for snow removal purposes-discussion

The Manager presented the Parking and Traffic Ordinance created in 1991 and amended in 2010. It does not discuss snow removal or emergency parking bans.

The Manager presented the board with possible amendments to address those concerns. The Manager stated she consulted with MMA Legal on these proposed amendments.

The amendments still requires a public hearing to amend the parking ordinance with a 7 day notice.

Allan Moeller would like the verbiage added that they cannot be parked within 6 feet of the pavement. The Town Manager referred to Article 8 which gives the town the authority to address parking within the right of way.

The Manager stated that we will schedule a public hearing at the next selectmen meeting.

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to take 10.1 public comment out of order to allow Virgil Hammonds to give his budget presentation, Selectman Thompson seconded, motion passed (3-0).

Virgil Hammonds

Virgil Hammonds stated that the Foundation Allocation was 8.1 last year. A .3 mil increase and expects a 8.44 mil for this year. Almost 2 mils in 2 years. Selectman Thompson stated that we receive the minimum of state aid. Virgil responded that is correct raising the minimum the lower the state subsidy we receive. We are ball parking \$350,000 for the minimum mil rate increase. This summer we put in the new boiler through the bond project. We converted the burner at Hall-dale elementary. We have seen over a 50% savings in December and January. Significant savings with oil prices at \$3.29 under that amount.

We are waiting on news to see if we were accepted into the Next Gen Grant. We applied in December, it would be \$250,000 in additional support to the high schools.

Selectman Thompson asked what the financing looks like over the next five years. Virgil responded that the board requested a report from Planning Decisions to forecast for each of our communities. Selectman Thompson stated that it's basically a stagnant enrollment the rational being there are no more students now than there were 20 years ago, but the budget keeps going up.

Virgil also added that there is a Federal requirement that we must always improve on the Special Education classes which is currently at \$5,000,000. 60% of that amount is in Richmond.

O'Neil Laplante asked if making an adjustment to the transportation account by looking at outside vendors would do. Virgil responded that Hall Dale/Dresden have a private contract. Richmond and Monmouth we have our employees and buses. Richmond and Monmouth argued against it a couple of years ago. Jobs were guaranteed for our bus drivers but the company could lower their hourly rate. We have since invested in new buses (4 to the fleet) 2 in Richmond and 2 in Monmouth. O'Neil Laplante asked how much does the RSU #2 pay for leasing opposed to Richmond/Monmouth. Virgil responded is about 30% less to contract out buses. We pay higher hourly rates/benefits to our bus drivers.

There will also be two finance committee meetings a month in addition to the listed budget meetings.

7.3 Request to release library building funds for window blind purchases.

The Library is looking at getting energy efficient shades with blind lift to help with heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. We have a quote with Home Depot. The town does get a discount. We are looking at 18 shades in the amount of \$2,384.64. In the furniture account there is \$5,483.14. The library trustees are requesting the board to release the \$2,384.64 to purchase the shades.

Selectman Thompson made a motion to release the funds to allow the purchase, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (3-0).

8.0 ASSESSOR ITEMS-BUSINESS

8.1 Abatement Request R04-008-03-Purington

The assessors recommendation was to deny the abatement based on the fact that in 2012 the property was sold when the town was at a 20% higher market adjustment.

Selectman Warner made a motion to accept the assessor's recommendation and deny the abatement, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0).

9.0 BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUSINESS

10.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS-ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 Public

Virgil stated that they take an average of the 3 years of the town valuation to offset fluctuation in markets. The Governor added \$10,000,000 for education, 80% of every federal dollar we receive ½ million the state deducts the subsidy.

Selectman Warner stated that he heard the Principal Association wanted to organize how sports played so Richmond wouldn't be traveling so far. Virgil Hammond stated their proposal was bringing it back down to 4 divisions to help with travel. Removal of the heel point system. It does not do anything for the other teams for them to play Richmond it would hinder their play-off seating. The percentage of B and C schools has changed drastically.

10.2 Town Manager

The Manager stated she is looking into live streaming committee meetings. The possibility is there to use the cable franchise fees. The Manager stated that the website-Town Hall streams videos. That way someone can sit at home and watch the meeting. The fee is \$200/month with free installation and account set up. It keeps playback in storage for a year. No web interfacing. No contract required. Selectman Beckwith asked about purchasing equipment? The Manager replied that some are using PYLE Home equipment with wireless mikes, cameras and a sound board. You can set what time the meeting is scheduled to start and end. We currently have \$48,000 in the cable funds. Selectman Thompson asked how many people are actually utilizing it to see if it's worth it.

O'Neil LaPlante added that having this option is transparency. People have the option to see and be part of the meeting.

The Manager handed out the 4th quarter ems report from Northeast Ambulance.

The Manager announced nomination papers will be available March 16 and will need to be returned by April 27.

CC-northeast location. Janet-they have looked at several properties and land they are still looking at if it's more viable to build or buy something already built.

The Manager announced the Sagadahoc County Advisory Committee: District 3 reps, peter Oceretko, David Hennessey, Julia House. She will follow up with their contact information via email.

The Manager provided the Food pantry totals from July to January. Those will be uploaded to the board. They served 780 household, 1,811 individuals. Approximately 93 households per month average.

We received correspondence from the Department of Agriculture that they have updated the model ordinance for flood plain management, the new digital rate maps are effective July 16. This will be brought before the board to be placed on the town meeting warrant. The Town currently has a 1998 model and a couple of amendments were last made in 2009. We need to repeal the prior ordinance and adopt the newest model for the Town of Richmond.

The Manager attended the Budget committees first meeting they received the proposed budgets. Meetings will be held the opposite Wednesday of Selectmen meetings from 6-8:30p.m. Administration, ACO, Benefits, Boards and Committees, Capital Outlay; are the first to be discussed. We will be putting out agendas on our website, it is not a public forum but public may attend.

10.3 Selectmen

Selectman Thompson stated he was approached by Dick York who questioned when natural gas would be available in Richmond. The Manager replied there is not a specific timeline. The companies see a problem with tying in due to the number of people and if it's worth the investment.

Selectman Thompson asked if there was a limit on comp time earned it appears an office used 47 out of 49 hours. Comp time limit is 40. The Manager stated she would look into this issue.

Selectman Warner asked if we could look into detouring parking and Main Street traffic to help the public works department during day time snow removal. Also are we looking into a snow blower for the library, town office and fire department, there could be an option for cost sharing with the Utilities District.

11.0 WARRANT

11.1 Request for action regarding all disbursement warrants

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to approve the warrant, Selectman Thompson seconded, motion passed (4-0).

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Thompson made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Warner seconded, motion passed (4-0).