

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE RICHMOND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00P.M.-WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Selectmen Present: Tracy Tuttle, Rose Beckwith, Clarence Cummins, Jennifer Greenleaf and Daniel Dunton arrived later. Also present: Chief Scott MacMaster, Superintendent of RSU #2 Virgil Hammond, Carry Moody-Long, Donna McClusky, Deborah Fisk, Adam Garland, Mark Pearson, Judy Batty, Linda Dow, Robin Thayer, Keith Edwards, Charlie Hutchins, Richard Ashcroft, Fred Browne, Town Manager Marian Anderson and Executive Assistant Laurisa Loon.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 REQUEST TO APPROVE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Selectman Cummins made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21st, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0) (Selectman Dunton not present at time of vote.)

4.0 APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

4.1 Appointment of Marian Anderson LPI/Code Enforcement Officer

Selectman Cummins made a motion to appoint Marian Anderson as LPI/Code Enforcement Officer, Selectman Greenleaf seconded, motion passed (4-0) (Daniel Dunton not present at time of vote.)

5.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATION

5.1 Virgil Hammond Superintendent of RSU #2

The Superintendent gave a review of the new "Standards Based Learning Program" at the school also a new website called "educate" where you can log in and view your child's progress. Selectman Tuttle questioned how have seniors been incorporated into this program? Mr. Hammonds responded that there will be a 6:00p.m., board meeting October 6th with a board member from UMA commenting on how colleges look at this grading system.

Mr. Hammond also addressed wanting to create easier procedures to have the schools open to the town. At this time no applications have been denied.

Resident Fred Browne also a substitute teacher on occasion stated he has spoken with several students and they have agreed they like the new learning program.

Mr. Hammond added that on October 13th the Supreme Court will be holding a session at the high school.

5.2 Chief Scott MacMaster-COPS Hiring Grant Presentation

The chief gave an overview of the proposed grant that would allow the town to hire an additional officer. The grant would pay for the first three years. The Town would be required to pay for the fourth year. This position would allow the department to introduce additional programs like, Project Alert in the school, more support for ongoing investigations, after school programs, functions, activities, etc... There would be a direct cost savings per year, if we have someone go out on vacation, when they are not doing overtime, they would be filling in on vacations. The crime rate has gone up. The government saw a need in Richmond.

Selectman Cummins questioned how the fourth year would be funded, if the Chief was going to set up a reserve account. Chief MacMaster stated he would like to put the money in each year that is saved over the three years to pay for the fourth year.

Resident Dick Ashcroft questioned if we would we need to have another cruiser. Chief MacMaster responded, no- we have a reserve budget for equipment, vests, clothing, etc. I would not be back for extra money and would not be looking for more. Mr. Ashcroft continued that he does not believe Richmond needs that large of a police force. Chief MacMaster stated this grant would not be a tax increase. We have major access routes that bring trouble through this town and the government saw this need in Richmond. Chief MacMaster stated in hiring a person the contract would clearly only be for four years. Richmond would recoup any money spent on training if the employee leaves within five years.

Chief MacMaster also stated that overtime is not an expectation in the department it is not something the officer depend on, they are given a base salary and overtime is extra. We are hoping that one of the reserve officers would step up and take the full time position.

Resident Linda Dow questioned if the police have a union. Chief MacMaster responded that the town has a union that several of the officers belong to.

Resident Fred Browne stated that when people are looking for a place to live, they inquire about what the town offers, such as their schools, fire departments and police force and he has had great experience with Richmond's police force.

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Umberhine Library Update-Marian Anderson

Selectman discussion on possible funding/grants for a new library.

The Town Manager stated the Town was not successful with the CFMF grant. There are other small grants that may come up. DECD had severe funding cut. At the present time the funds stand at \$220,516.00, there had been some discussion that the library turned over an estimated \$300,000.00 to the town, the only amount that has been spent is the \$9,000 for the demolition and for the asbestos removal, and the safe deposit key. An email went out to former trustees asking where we want to go from here, sent update to Davis Foundation on status of grant.

Selectman Tuttle stated that you can build a lot of building for \$220,000., she also likes the floor plan the original committee came up with, these are competitive times and she feels we could get competitive bids. Selectman Dunton agrees with Selectman Tuttle, he feels we should see what we can build with our current budget. Selectman Cummins is concerned with the quality of building and it lasting for more than 20 years. Selectman Beckwith and Greenleaf agree with Selectman Cummins statements. Selectman Greenleaf added that she has worked with construction and \$220,000 would not be enough to cover the cost of a commercial building to meet the necessary requirements. Resident Fred Browne wondered if the Town had a conversation with Gary Nash in donating the building that is currently behind the Health Center? Judy Batty agrees that a modular style building could be a possibility. The Town Manager would like to sit down with the previous committee, look at the professional plans and try to come up with something to put out to bid to see what we can get for concrete numbers. The Selectman agreed to move forward.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS

7.1 General Assistance Ordinance

Selectman action requested to sign the annual General Assistance Ordinance.

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to accept the ordinance, Selectman Dunton seconded, motion passed (5-0).

7.2 Firework Ordinance-Marian Anderson

Selectman discussion on enacting an ordinance for Town Meeting approval on the location/proximity of fireworks in residential areas.

The Town Manager stated if the town wants an ordinance we need to get a warrant article together for the April town meeting. Selectman Cummins questioned if we need an ordinance? Selectman Beckwith stated she would like to hear from Mr. Marston and would also like to see what other towns have drafted.

8.0 ASSESSOR ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Abatements

Selectman action requested to approve the abatements

Gregory & Kelsea Zoulamis for U01-149-00-Tax Credit of \$482.80 to correct land and building assessment.

Emile Rideout Estate for R08-032-00-Tax Credit of \$408.00 to correct land assessment.

The board approved the abatements.

8.2 Maine Valuation Return

Selectman action requested to sign the MVR for 2011.

The board approved and signed the 2011 MVR.

9.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS-ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Public

Resident Linda Dow voiced her concerns with Darrah Street. She provided a written statement and photos of the exterior garbage around a rental property. The condition and/or trash is present and wants it cleaned up, she has approached the tenants and landlord. She is requesting a letter from the board on what will happen so this does not continue. The Town Manager stated that it is not in the towns ordinance that multi-unit buildings are required to have a dumpster. We can cite him for creating a health hazard and propose an ordinance change for town meeting, but would need to find out if it is retro-active or if existing multi-units would be grandfathered.

9.2 Selectmen

Selectman Cummins questioned what is the status of the Personnel Policy. The Town Manager stated the process is taking longer but is in progress.

Selectman Dunton stated that Northeast Ambulance made a donation of a dozen first aid kits to the Richmond Recreation Program and a \$300.00 towards sponsorship.

Selectman Beckwith would like to thank the fireman for their work this weekend on the house on the River Road.

9.3 Town Manager

The docks will be removed October 26th.

The Holding area hour's will be changing in December and notices are being put up.

Finished interviews for the Economic Development Director and working through final selection process. Will have a recommendation for the board at the next meeting.

There will be a joint meeting with Fire, Police and Northeast Ambulance to resolve some issues that have been raised November 7th at 6:00p.m., at the Fire House.

9.4 Boards and Committees

10.0 WARRANTS

10.1 Request for action regarding all disbursement warrants.

Selectman Dunton made a motion to approve the warrant, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (5-0).

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Cummins made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Greenleaf seconded, motion passed (5-0).