

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE RICHMOND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00P.M.-WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Selectmen present: Gary Poulin, Tracy Tuttle, Rose Beckwith, Clarence Cummins and Peter Warner.

Others present: RSU #2 Superintendent-Virgil Hammond, Mike Grizkewitsch, Sr., Mike Grizkewitsch Jr., Ryan Shea, O'neil Laplante, William Terry, Tom Nugent, Town Manager-Marian Anderson and Executive Assistant-Laurisa Loon.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 REQUEST TO APPROVE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2013

Selectman Tuttle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2013, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (5-0).

4.0 APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

5.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATION

5.1 Virgil Hammond RSU #2 Superintendent

The Superintendent announced the RSU #2 children have made gains in NECAP testing these assessments are given in the spring and fall. The school has seen significant growth from spring to fall testing (4th grade-looking back 7 years they are above the national normal in reading and grew 4 ½ points and nationally 3 ½. 5th grade math scores increased 6 points above the national average; reading was below the national but did see growth. The 8th grade had 7 points growth in reading. Freshmen were 7.75 points in reading above the national average; the 6th grade saw a decrease in math.

Selectman Tuttle asked how the teachers are progressing. Mr. Hammond stated that the teachers are doing excellent. Selectman Cummins asked if we are an exception or is this progress through-out the state. Mr. Hammond stated that we are the only school district requiring proficiency on all standards.

Mr. Hammond stated that the school has seen a reduction in subsidy from the state equaling nearly \$79,000. The Governor recommended to continue the reduction for the fiscal year 2014 this would mean losing ¼ million from the state for the June 13/14 budget. Pushing the debt forward, the proposed \$829,000 subsidy payment would

make paying the schools bills difficult. This means that the local minimum contribution must raise 7.69 mils currently a mil rate of 7.80 is being discussed to qualify for State subsidy in FY14.

Monmouth is looking at withdrawal from the RSU #2. Their contribution toward the RSU #2 is 3.4 million if they were on their own their budget would be 4 million. The State is saying to qualify for state subsidy you have to raise the mil rate.

Selectman Cummins questioned who is making this decision at the state level. Mr. Hammond stated that the education committee sets the amount and puts into a formula which distributes to all school districts and then the state legislature has to approve it.

Mr. Hammond would like the board to attend the meeting on the 13th to ask questions about these issues.

Currently Richmond's enrollment is up.

In 2012, the State contribution to the RSU's budget equaled 11.4 million this year they are estimating 10.3 million in state contribution. The State pays 45% of public education costs in 2003 a citizen-initiated legislation required the State to pay at least 55%. This year we are looking at 43%.

Shifting teacher retirement costs onto local tax dollars would mean a \$300,000 increase to the RSU budget.

Selectman Cummins questioned what happens if the school budget does not pass. Mr. Hammond replied that the current budget would rule until a new budget is approved.

Mr. Hammond stated that the finance committee is still working on the proposed budget.

Selectman Warner asked where are we over spending? Mr. Hammond replied that we are not over spending, we are over allocating expenses.

Mike Grizkewitsch asked if there are public hearings.

Mr. Hammond stated that there will be future meetings. The current budget with a short fall of \$225,000 means the school is not hiring any currently vacant positions, heat is kept low and capital improvement projects are not happening.

Selectman Tuttle asked if Monmouth withdraws, how soon will it take effect, does this mean a smaller number of towns and a bigger share of money? Mr. Hammond responded they would stay through the next school year and be gone by the fall of 2014.

Selectman Tuttle asked if the majority of towns reject the budget and keep rejecting the budget and make the schools operate on the current budget what would that amount be. Mr. Hammond responded that we would have to function with the current budget of 23.1 million.

O'Neil Laplante stated that the state would still increase.

Mr. Hammond stated in regards to the RSU #2 facility use application a school employee must be present while an organization is using the facility. The schools insurance company requires a school employee at the building because the employee knows the emergency procedures.

Again the school budget meeting will be held February 13th at 6:00p.m., at Hall-dale.

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Community Business Friendly-update

The Town Manager stated that we sent in the application last Thursday, it was sent for a review prior to the initial submission, we are unsure when we will hear something.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Emergency Procedure Discussion

Selectman Cummins wanted to make sure the town had an emergency procedure in place.

The Town Manager stated that we do have an emergency plan there is a copy available at the town office (the plan outlines phone numbers contacts and warming areas). We are also working on a contingency plan, to include other warming/shelter locations. The plan is always a work in progress. Selectman Warner would like information in the newsletter on what happens during a town wide emergency.

Mike Grizkewitsch added that the town pays a lot of money to the county. He would like know what they do for Richmond.

7:14p.m. Peter Warner excused himself from the meeting.

8.0 ASSESSOR ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS-None

9.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS-ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Public

Mike Grizkewitsch, Sr. stated he would like to be on the February 20th agenda he wants to talk about the TIF, library and summer recreation budgets.

Bill Terry and Ryan Shea would like to know about the town's relationship with RYRA. What if there are needs such as repairs or upgrades, some people are talking about having a rec director. How does the selectboard feel about those requests? Selectman Tuttle stated that in this current budget we cannot see taking on a position when we are talking about cutting positions.

A past town meeting changed the name from Richmond Summer League to RYRA, the committee took on other programs such as soccer and basketball and became a self-supporting association, the town still processes all checks through the warrant to keep track of the books for the committee and the committee falls under the town's insurance since they use town property.

Mike Grizkewitsch does not understand why the town supports Summer Recreation and not RYRA. RYRA has 300 kids Summer Recreation has 83. We should take all these small pots of money and combine them into one pot to run all three programs (Summer Rec, RYRA, Senior Dept.)

William Terry heard about a program from the National Guard, that helps towns, if the towns provide the materials and cost, they provide the engineers and equipment. He wanted to know how RYRA would go about approaching this issue to the town.

Selectman Tuttle advised that they come up with a plan on what it would cost for a rec director, have a job description, how it would encompass all the ideas, and bring that as a warrant item to the selectboard for town meeting. If they needed money for repairs/improvements to the fields they would also need to bring that amount forward to town meeting.

Ryan Shea would like to be emailed when department head meetings are taking place.

9.2 Town Manager

There is a meeting next Wednesday the 13th at 6:00p.m., at Hale Dale regarding the RSU #2 budget, please get any questions you may have and email them to the Town Manager.

The American Legion dance is cancelled due to the storm on Friday February 8th.

The County budget meeting was yesterday, February 5th.

United Way awarded the town \$19.34.

The CEO is working on the old Pleasant Pond market, trying to work with owners. He will also start working on the David Smith property issues.

Selectman Tuttle stated she was given a copy of the CO's letter and does not understand even though older people own the property why the younger people living on the property and can't clean it up.

We are aware that the town phones did not work during the power outage. Staff did leave but used their own time. We did have foreclosures coming up so people were in to pay.

We will need to decide on the foreclosed property Map U01-092-00 located at 52 High Street. The family doesn't want it.

9.3 Selectmen

Selectman Poulin asked if we are still moving forward with the solar light project at Lane Field if so he will need the paperwork in order to proceed.

9.4 Boards and Committees-None

10.0 WARRANT

10.1 Request for action regarding all disbursement warrants

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

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Tuttle made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (5-0).