

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
RICHFORD, VERMONT**

July 18, 2016

Chair Linda Collins called the regular meeting to order at 6:56pm with members Tim Green, Wayne Hurtubise, Chris Martel, and Norris Tillotson present. Also present were Rowena Brown, Eric Collins, Darlene Gregoire, Michael Hranek, Louise Irons, John Libbey, Frank O'Neal, John Nutting (7:16pm) and Joey Randall.

The Chair noted that the order of agenda items was being switched. Executive Session was moved to later in the meeting to accommodate the anticipated arrival of employee John Nutting. Guests were recognized in the order in which they arrived.

Frank O'Neal verbalized concerns about ATV's, motorcycles, and noisy vehicles racing through town at all hours of the day and night. Mr. O'Neal stated that the disruption is a safety issue and affects quality of life and property values in Richford. He asked what had been done in the past, what is being done currently, and what will be done in the future to curb the problem. Police Commissioner Chris Martel is the Town's liaison with law enforcement officers. The Commissioner responded that the Sherriff decides how to enforce violations and advised that the State Police, Franklin County Sherriff's Office, and Border Patrol all provide coverage in Richford. The most effective deterrent is for residents to report specific issues directly to authorities as soon as possible and as often as necessary. Residents may contact Patrol Commander Will Ruprecht, Franklin County Sherriff's Office, at 524-2121 to report incidents. Lt. Maurice Lamothe is the Commander for the State Police barracks in St.Albans. Speed limit signs are posted at Richford's village limits. Mr. O'Neal invited all present to join him in an ad hoc group to work on the issue and provided his personal phone number (802-310-5854) for those who would like to contact him about the group.

Michael Hranek is the property owner of 109 Main Street and was present to inform the Selectboard of his plan to use the property as an internet café and small campground. Mr. Hranek also expressed concerns about Richford, particularly its lack of year-round activities and marketing of the Town. He inquired why both sides of Main Street aren't zoned for mixed use and asked the Selectboard to consider a volunteer part-time mayor/manager. The Board Chair responded. The Planning Commission established the town's zoning districts, which were approved by Richford voters. Any changes to the districts must follow the same process. The Planning Commission meets the second Monday of every month at 7:00pm. The Development Review Board (DRB) issues zoning permits. The DRB meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. Creating a mayor position in Richford would require a charter change.

Tim Green stepped away from his seat on the Selectboard momentarily to represent Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) and Richford Economic Advancement Corporation (REAC). Mr. Green is disturbed by recent DRB activities that he feels reflect poorly on the Town and Selectboard and proceeded to describe two separate zoning permit applications from the respective organizations. In a Findings and Decision Letter from the DRB to NFCT, the DRB determined that it could not issue a permit for NFCT's sign because the proposed location for the sign is in the Town's right-of-way (ROW). The sign, which is similar to the way-finding sign in Davis Park, would be installed on the upper overlook at 113 Main Street. Mr. Green stated NFCT is prepared to invest heavily in Richford and is being turned away. He asked the Selectboard to appeal the DRB decision as a property abutter and approve a zoning permit for the NFCT sign as proposed. The DRB used a map in the Zoning Office to determine boundaries of the 4 rod ROW. Mr. Green briefly covered some conditions in the Findings and Decision letter given to REAC and requested time on the August 1st Selectboard meeting agenda to further discuss the Conditional Use Permit that was issued for REAC's Phase II project at 111-113 Main Street.

Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Tim Green, to enter Executive Session at 8:10pm with John Nutting and Louise Irons to discuss Personnel. The motion carried. Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to come out of Executive Session at 8:35pm. The motion carried. As a result, the disputed bill was taken care of.

Patching Thomas Street is a bigger job than the highway crew can do in-house, so John Nutting asked Pike for an estimate. Pike recommended a ½" shim and paving, rather than patching the street. The company's quote came in at \$13,000. A 2nd shim on Thomas Street will be taken care of next year. Norris Tillotson advised that, due to budgetary restraints, plans for Liberty Street cannot be performed this year if the change is made on Thomas Street. The permits are good for a year, and upgrades on Liberty Street will be in the 2017 Budget. Wayne Hurtubise will sign Pike's adjusted contract. A grant may be available for South Richford Road (a Class 2 road). John Nutting will submit an application for this grant on behalf of the Town.

The Board confirmed with John Nutting that it's against the law to put "slow down for children" warning signs on state roads as requested by a resident on South Richford Road. John stated that a traffic study must be conducted to lower the speed limit. Additional speed limit signs may be placed in the village, but it is mandatory for them to be posted at the village limits. When work began on the South Richford Road bridge (Bridge #20), the excavator dug into the old full span 20' bridge that was buried in the ground. John made a decision to get it hauled away for \$5,000. There is a line item in the budget for unforeseen projects, such as this. A motion was made by Chris Martel, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to approve a driveway permit for Aaron Mills at 48 Combs Road pending receipt of payment. The motion carried.

The following corrections were noted to the unapproved minutes from the 07/05/16 Selectboard meeting: The meeting was called to order at 6:55pm (not 5:55pm) and Greg Hall is performing work at the Post Office (not the Town Hall). Tim Green made a motion, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

The Chair distributed rules for running meetings from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Signature forms will be collected from members at the next Selectboard meeting.

Nothing additional was reported from the Highway Department.

Chris Martel delivered a report from Playground and Cemeteries. Daycamp is averaging 80-100 children per day. The basketball court will be paved when Pike is here for other work in the fall. Pike was approached to donate \$1000 toward the paving project.

Nothing additional was reported under Public Safety, Water and Sewer, Parks and Buildings, or Trash.

Tim Green commented that the Town's website is outdated. He will research how to improve it.

Linda Collins made a motion, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise to enter Executive Session at 8:43pm to discuss Personnel. Louise Irons joined members in Executive Session and everyone else left the premises. Motion made by Tim Green, seconded by Norris Tillotson, to come out of Executive Session at 9:15pm. Motion carried. As a result, motion made by Tim Green, seconded by Norris Tillotson, to hire Linda Collins to temporarily cover secretarial duties for the Selectboard at \$12.00/hour not to exceed ten hours per week. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Minutes taken by Darlene Gregoire.

A true copy. Attest:

Town Clerk