
Rockingham Selectboard

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 6 pm

Present: Peter Golec-Chair, Susan Hammond-Vice Chair, Elijah Zimmer, Rick Cowan, Bonnie North, Selectboard, Also Present: Scott Pickup, Municipal Manager; Gary Fox, Development Director; Resident

Press: FACT TV; Betsy Thurston, The Shopper; Susan Smallheer, Brattleboro Reformer

AGENDA

Call to Order: Meeting of the Rockingham Selectboard was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Peter Golec.

Approve the minutes of April 5, 2022: *Cowan made the motion to approve the minutes seconded by. Motion passed unanimously.*

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: *None*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): *None*

Manager's Report- Pickup mentioned 2 items: VTrans working on the rock ledge off Exit 6 on the SB ramp and looking for SB support on the digital grant through the VT Arts Council application by FACT TV and RED at no cost to the Town. They were requesting funds for digital entertainment to use the Opera House for program/outreach and courses. Collaboration with Flat Iron Coop, RAMP, and Main St Arts.

Meeting of Liquor Commissioners

Flat Iron Cooperative- First Class License, Outside Consumption Permit
North made the motion to approve the permit, seconded by Hammond. Motion passed unanimously.

1.

Cemetery Maintenance Bid Award- Pickup said this was the second round of bids, because the first round received no bids. Pricing was in line with budget and Pickup suggested contract be awarded to Brothers Land Management LLC. *Golec made the motion for the contract to be awarded to Brothers Land Management LLC of North Walpole, Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

2.

Annual Appointments-

BFADC- Cowan made the motion to accept the reappointments of Susan Hammond and Elijah Zimmer, North seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bike Ped Committee- North made the motion to accept the applications of Marsha Stern of BF, Stan Talstra of SR, Cowan as SB liaison, and Bonnie Anderson to form the Bike-Ped Committee. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Sexton- Hammond made the motion to accept the reappointments of Malcolm Potter and Manager Pickup. North seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Connecticut River Joint Commission- Cowan offered to sit on the committee if needed. North made the motion to accept the reappointments of Margaret Perry and Tom Herson. Asking what this was, Golec said it was developed due to a private landowner creating a landslide into the River from a gravel pit. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Energy Commission Chair- North made the motion to accept the reappointment of Peter Bergstrom, Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce- Hammond made the motion to accept the reappointment of Elijah Zimmer, Cowan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Green Up Chair- Cowan made the motion to accept the reappointment of Guy Payne, Amy Howlett had resigned. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Opera House Committee- North made the motion to accept the reappointments of Hammond and Cowan, Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Rules Committee- Cowan made the motion to accept the reappointment of North. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Animal Control- Windham County Humane Society reapplied for the contract of \$.25 per Rockingham resident. North made the motion to accept the reappointment of WCHS. Cowan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Committee- Golec made the motion to accept the reappointments of Gaetano Putignano, Ben Masure, Megan Applegate, Heather Hicks, Bonnie North, Susan Hammond. Hammond seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Revolving Loan Fund- Hammond made the motion to accept the reappointments of Katie Dearborn, Sanford Martin, Susan Hammond, Rick Cowan, Gary Fox, and Rebecca Gagnon. North seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Historic Preservation Review Committee- North made the motion to accept the reappointment of Myles Mickle, John Leppman, Annette Spaulding, Elijah Zimmer, Diana Jones and Walter Wallace. Cowan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Senior Center- Hammond made the motion to accept the reappointment of Hugh Haggerty. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Service Officer- Christine Bullard resigned. Discussed her role, assists police and temporary housing. Noone to take her place.

Tax Stabilization committee- Golec gave some history: In the 60s & 70s businesses were given help on taxes to encourage them to come to Rockingham. Fox explained that decades ago a formula was implemented to save on taxes for small businesses to renovate their storefronts or building versus large companies like Chroma doubling their footprint for a multi-million dollar project the committee would develop a customized stabilization. The small business formula is a 5-year progression; first-year they save 50%, year 2 -40%, and so on, until year 6 they pay full taxes. It only applies to municipal taxes. Hammond made the motion to accept the reappointments of Tim Powers, Richard Stickney, Ton Herson, Dennis Harty, Pat Fowler. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Committee- Golec said the policy was from 1994, stating that 7 members involving 1 Chair from each of the three Boards, 3 Fire Chiefs, and the Manager made up the committee. Wade Masure recommended the committee be Fire Department only, which constitutes a new policy. Pickup suggested Board members remain on the committee to

discuss large money obligations and it would be helpful for ground-level discussions. *Cowan made the motion to appoint Golec the Board's representative. Zimmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

3.

ARPA Resolution for Standard Allowance- Pickup explained that VLCT sent the form to help with compliance and reporting, allowing Rockingham to streamline reporting requirements. This is one-time and must be completed by April 30. Golec commented on the ARPA public process and said it was interesting that Rockingham supported infrastructure projects. *North made the motion for the Town of Rockingham to accept the irrevocable decision to spend the standard allowance of \$441,534 on government services throughout the performance of the grant. Hammond seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

4.

Financials- (Budget Status Report)- Cowan asked about the delinquent taxes and asked if the number was correct. Pickup said yes with penalties and interest. He mentioned the Town should send a press release about the Home Assistance Program and that a lot of people seemed to not know about the program. Pickup said the Town had received 4 payments so far and the information will be sent with the first round of notices on the tax sale process. Pickup urged people are 100% responsible for the application and for qualifications. Zimmer asked when the assistance might stop. Hammond suggested when the money was gone. Cowan said it was a win-win for everyone; homeowners avoid tax sales and keep their houses, and the Town has fewer tax sales. Cowan mentioned that SR wasn't hosting fireworks this year due to the price doubling this year. Golec said they were going to be in the black on solid waste and that Larry White wants a commission! Pickup said Westminster's contract with Town pickup was over and the Town should negotiate a contract to eliminate the \$35 per sticker for West residents. Golec asked about an excavation permit for \$10,000 and Pickup said there might be an opportunity for a gravel pit of 36 cubic yards and have the ability to charge \$4-\$6/yard instead of \$15-\$16 yard. Discussing street lights; there are 21 bulbs out, plan is to replace half at \$1785 per light which upgrades to a muted, less intense LED. North asked how long a light lasts, generally ten years. Zimmer said they were six months past warranty. Pickup said the first-generation LEDs were only about 5 years and hoped for better longevity with the latest engineering. Golec asked about the vehicle maintenance. Pickup said some had transmission, but there were a couple of significant hydraulic issues. One of the trucks was a 2017 and Cowan asked about the warranty, it's only 5 years old. Hammond asked about credit card changes. Pickup said there was a transaction fee, but would not charge percentages which the Town was paying for. Cowan noticed new staff: Heather Hitchcock and Mary as Assistant Town Clerk. Zimmer discussed the cinema, interested in post COVID numbers. Pickup said factors impacting the cinema included the grant for lighting needed structural assistance for the new lights that were 2,000 pounds each and the major electrical upgrades needed to update the lights. They can use the Shuttered Venue Grant to supplement expenditures. Pickup said it gives them the opportunity to invest in critical upgrades. Theater tours and musical groups want digital lighting. Hammond agreed there would be more interest in live events with the updated lighting. She anticipates a different theater experience. Zimmer said the classic film sponsorship and attendance show community support and investment.

5.

Local Cannabis Control Board Discussion- North asked why the SB shouldn't be the local cannabis commission. Golec said he had called VLCT about a sample application and had not heard back. He visited ccb.gov to see the actual forms but was unable to print either the pre-

application or Form B. Pickup said the first licensing in the state will be in October, but they are receiving pre-applications already. North said it makes sense the SB is the cannabis control board. Pickup suggested the language reference Section 7 BSA 863B giving SB the statutory authorization and adding zoning and regulation on signs by working with the Design Review Board. *Cowan made the motion to appoint the select board as the local cannabis control board seconded by North, motion passed unanimously.*

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants- *Cowan made the motion to review and approve orders, bills, and warrants, seconded by Zimmer, motion passed unanimously.*

Review Agenda Items for Next SB Meeting – Tuesday, May 3, 2022 -

- Town Plan update from Chuck Wise and Planning Commission. Cowan said Arts was important but scored low on the connection to the Town Plan.
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- Bridges- Hammond said on May 11 the Towns recommendations for bridges were due. Pickup said Bridge St. is there, must go to WRC by May 9. Hammond agreed on writing a list to make the state aware, so they know they are in need of repair.
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- Clock Tower- Pickup gave an update on the clock- fixed a defective part in the motor, installed and still not working now waiting on a piece that should fix the problem. Zimmer asked who controls the color? He had received input on the colors...some people think there should be a reason for special colors or seasonal only. The Board suggested setting parameters. Hammond agreed to have some reasoning behind the color choice.

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting- Tuesday, May 31, 2022

- ARPA update on the public meeting
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- Area Wide Plan presentation

Other Business- Hammond asked about the movable speed signs in Bartonsville. Pickup said it was used on Atkinson, but there were complaints in Cambridgeport and different locations in Bartonsville. Golec mentioned the cannabis questions on PBS.

Executive Session- If Needed- *None*

Adjourn-

Attest: _____ Betsy M. Thurston _____

Betsy Thurston, Recording Clerk