

## Rockingham Selectboard

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 6 pm in the Lower Theater

Present: Chair, Peter Golec; Vice-Chair, Elijah Zimmer, Rick Cowan, Susan Hammond, Bonnie North, Selectboard; Scott Pickup, Municipal Manager; Residents, Steve Crofter, Laurel Green, Diana Jones, Karissa Pavlovic

Press: FACT TV, Alex Stradling,

Agenda- Golec called the meeting of the Select Board to order at 6:04pm.

Approve Minutes of January 16, 2024: *North moved to approve minutes of 1/16/24, Cowan seconded. Motion carried.*

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: *Two appointments; Thad Guild for Design Review Board, Peter Bergstrom for Rockingham Conservation Commission.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): *Crofter thanked North, Cowan and staff for the survey to help increase attendance at Town Meeting, and is on a working group of residents to assist voters in attending/voting. Survey results are available on [www.rockinghamvt.org](http://www.rockinghamvt.org) Crofter highlighted a few: 464 commented.*

*Childcare available? 60 yes. Transportation? 38 yes. 15 comments favored Food. 104 people favored a Saturday Meeting. He suggested the Board plan and warrant a Special Town Meeting to get a vote to change day/time on the ballot in 2025. North said the package they purchased through survey monkey gave them condensed information, but has the complete survey results. Green said the working group is hosting a public info. meeting on Sat. Feb. 24 from 1030-12 at the Library 3rd floor with a mock vote.*

Manager's Report- Pickup said they were working on paving bids. AP Triton will present findings at a public meeting on Thurs. Feb. 22- 3rd floor conference room. Zimmer asked about sidewalk counters, WRC is collecting additional data and will report at the Walk Bike Committee meeting. Cowan asked about the status of the accident report, Pickup will present the findings once received from the state attorney.

### Board of Liquor Control- (1-2-24)

1. A) Application for Second Class License
  - a. B) Application for Tobacco License (VT 103 Bart Energy)
2. A) Application for Tobacco License (705 Rockingham Rd. Jiffy Mart)
3. 3. A) Application for Tobacco License (97 Westminster St. Stanch's Place )
4. 4. A) Application for Second Class License (59 The Square, Halladay's)
5. 5. A) Application for First Class Restaurant/Bar License
6. B) Application for Third Class Restaurant/Bar License (22 Rockingham St. Wunderbar)

7. 6. B) Application for Third Class Restaurant/Bar License (65 Rockingham St. Donovan's) *North moved to approve all (6) License applications, Cowan seconded and motion carried.*
  
1. Approve Final Town Meeting Warning and Articles- (1-2-24) *North moved to approve the Town Meeting Warning & Articles as presented to be held March 4, Cowan seconded. motion carried. RATIFIED (1-16-24) North moved to ratify Agenda Items 1- 5, Zimmer seconded and motion carried.*
  
2. Approve Application for BRIC grant (RT 121 Culverts)- (1-2-24) *North moved to approve the BRIC application and authorize the Municipal Manager to sign. The local match will be \$13.7K, this was a request for a resolution of support. Cowan seconded and motion carried. RATIFIED (1-16-24) North moved to ratify Agenda Items 1- 5, Zimmer seconded and motion carried.*
  
3. Review Draft Lease and Purchase Agreement (BF Train Station)- (1-2-24) *North made the motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to execute the real estate purchase agreement option for BF Train Station, and authorize \$10K as purchase option deposit, Cowan seconded, motion carried. RATIFIED (1-16-24) North moved to ratify Agenda Items 1- 5, Zimmer seconded and motion carried.*
  
4. Approve Form MP1 for Use of VCDP Funds- (1-2-24) *North moved to approve the MP1 Policies & Procedures form for use of VCDP funds, Cowan seconded, motion carried and the Board signed the form. RATIFIED (1-16-24)North moved to ratify Agenda Items 1- 5, Zimmer seconded and motion carried.*
  
5. **Approve Board of Liquor Control items and prior agenda items 1-4 (consent agenda) (1-16-24)** *Golec asked for ratification of licenses and Agenda Items 1-5, Accepted at 1/2/24 meeting that was not properly warned. North moved to ratify Agenda Items 1- 5, Zimmer seconded and motion carried.*
  
6. Animal Control Officer Candidates- *Two interested; Diana Jones has ten+ yrs. experience, and a relationship with the Humane Society. She has a semi-heated safe space to temporarily hold animals. Cowan asked if there was equipment needed and if any was available from the previous ACO- rabies pole and other items. Jones asked if there were logs of previous history, it was limited. Hammond agreed moving forward this was something the Board should require. Karissa*

Pavlovic said she saw a need and wanted to help the community, and had experience with animals. She said she worked full-time, had children and was going to school, but could help field calls. Golec said the Town had posted the job description, and all candidates would be contacted.

7. Adopt Certificate of Highway Mileage- *North moved to approve the certificate of highway mileage and Board to sign, Cowan seconded. Motion carried.*
8. Final 2025 Budget Adoption- *Golec moved final budget adoption of \$6,536,903 with \$5,461,840 to be raised by taxes, Cowan seconded, motion carried.*
9. Grant Agreement Approvals-
  - A) ANR -Recreation Trails Grant (BF Recreation Resources Restoration and Mtc. Project)- Pickup said this was to maintain Oak Hill, Pump track and included mechanical knotweed removal and erosion mitigation at the Riverfront Trail. Project would include final design and trail map printing. Total project \$23,650 Grant request \$18,350, local match \$5300. *Cowan moved to authorize the Municipal Manager to execute all documents and a \$5300 town match appropriation. Zimmer asked where the match would come from, Pickup said Highway. North seconded and motion carried.*
  - B) Bellows Falls Historical Society- BFHS was applying for a pass-through grant for brickwork and foundation drainage. No money was requested.

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants- *North moved to review and approve orders, bills and warrants, Cowan seconded and motion carried.*

Review Agenda Items for next SB meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024-

- Downtown Transportation Fund grant application
- Fire Feasibility Study report discussion
- Additional liquor licenses
- Discuss date for Special Town Meeting to be warned no less than 30 days, no more than 45 days

Review Agenda Items for Tri-Board Meeting- Tuesday, April 30, 2024

- VTrans/VHB updates on Depot St. Bridge project

Other Business- Cowan thanked Golec for updating committee terms. Golec said taxes are due Monday, February 12. He said the Town Meeting Warning will be posted in The Shopper, and on FB forums. 400 copies of the Report were ordered and will be available at Lisai's Market, Saxtons River Village Market, the Library and Town Hall. Social

service review committee members Deborah Wright and Jonathan Wright will attend. Zimmer said there was progress on lightbulb replacements downtown, but there were more to replace and now that the snowflakes were gone it was looking darker in the Square. Green asked about Dark Sky compliant measures for streetlamps. Zimmer has done research and will continue to share findings. Green said this was a concern of the Conservation Commission. Crofter requested an extra packet at Board meetings for the public to view.

Executive Session- *None needed*

Adjourn- *North moved to adjourn at 7:04 pm, seconded by Cowan, motion carried.*

Attest: \_\_\_Recording Clerk Betsy M. Thurston\_\_\_\_\_

Recording Clerk, Betsy Thurston