Town of Randolph
Regular Meeting Minutes – Selectboard (DRAFT)
February 10, 2022

***This meeting was hybrid, with remote access provided via Zoom.**

****This draft is intended for open meeting law compliance; a more detailed version may replace the draft.**

Selectboard: Trini Brassard (via Zoom), Perry Armstrong (via Zoom), Patrick French (in person), Tom Ayres (via Zoom), and Larry Satcowitz (via Zoom).

Municipal Staff: Trevor Lashua, Town Manager; Kimberly Grout, Chris Chambers, Josh Jerome (via Zoom), Mimi Burstein (via Zoom), Haidi Arias (via Zoom).

Public Attendees: Michael Binder, Joan Allen, Jim Merriam (Norwich Solar), Brooke Dingledine (via Zoom), Jeff Grout (via Zoom), Brendan Malley (via zoom), Gary Dir (via Zoom), Jamaica (via Zoom), Jon Kaplan (via Zoom), Julie Iffland (via Zoom), Kathy (via Zoom), Adam Proctor (via Zoom), additional individuals attended via Zoom.

Media: ORCA (via Zoom), Zoe Newmarco, White River Valley Herald (via Zoom).

<u>Regular Selectboard Meeting</u>

Trini called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. <u>Public Comment</u>

Julie Iffland from Randolph Area Community Development Corporation (RACDC) asked to add the Randolph House sewer issue to the agenda.

Jon Kaplan asked if the new utility poles and removal of the trees on Pleasant Street was approved. Trini said it was approved initially at a Selectboard meeting during the summer, and was scheduled to be discussed at last month's meeting. The trees were removed prior to the discussion, due to miscommunication on GMP's end.

Josie Carothers asked the Selectboard what their thoughts were on using ARPA funds for the East Randolph Hall. Trini suggested asking the newly formed ARPA Committee.

3. <u>Approval of Agenda</u>

Tom moved to adopt the agenda adding the Randolph House sewer issue. Pat seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

4. <u>Consent Calendar (meetings minutes, warrants).</u>

There were three sets of minutes to consider: the regular meeting of 1/13, and the special meetings from 1/22 and 1/27.

Pat mentioned that the minutes from January 22, 2022 need to say a.m. and not p.m. for the start time.

Pat moved to approve the minutes changing p.m. to a.m. on the 1/22 minutes. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

<u>Business (#5)</u>

<u>5.a – Davis Road Solar Project (Continued from January 13, 2022).</u>

Trini stepped down as chair after disclosing a potential conflict of interest, and Larry chaired the meeting pertaining to Davis Road Solar.

This was a continuation of the discussion about the Davis Road solar project that began at the Board's 1/13 meeting. Larry asked Brendan Malley from Norwich Solar to present a map the company provided earlier in the day that illustrated how the solar array would be situated to avoid areas where the 25% slope prohibition in the Town Plan has been raised. Norwich hired a remote licensed surveyor and engineer to draw a new map showing the location of the array. Trevor handed copies out to attendees and screen shared so those on Zoom could see the map. After a very long discussion which included the location of the solar array, concerns over slope and whether or not they were addressed, the access road, what constitutes development, and alleged violations of open meeting laws, the Selectboard considered putting the open meeting law conversation on a future meeting. There was discussion about there being no need to take action on the preferred siting letter if there was no intent or motion to rescind it; the letter's issuance stands as approved in June 2021 at this time.

<u>5.b – Direction to the Planning Commission Regarding Cannabis.</u>

Josh asked if Randolph should adopt a cannabis control board much like a liquor control board. The Board and Josh talked about how to create a cannabis control board and what direction they would need from The Planning Commission. Discussion also covered how a local control board could use its ordinances, and any violations of, to respond to nuisance or other issues.

Trevor was tasked with looking for guidance on how to create a cannabis control board.

<u>5.c – East Valley Community Hall Project – Discussions of Donations/Naming Rights.</u>

This was a continuation of a discussion started at the 1/22 special meeting regarding naming rights and donations. After covering such topics as, the Town allowing naming rights to individuals/organizations donating funds for projects, what parameters if any should be put on naming rights, how to vet donors and naming requests for appropriateness, and whether there is an appropriate dollar amount.

Trini volunteered to go back to the community and see if anyone there is interested in starting a fund raiser for the East Valley Community Hall.

5.d – Consider Adopting Grant Agreement Resolution for the Childcare Project.

This is the standard resolution associated with State grant agreements; the project is the Orange County Parent-Child Center. Josh explained that Selectboard signatures are needed in order to upload the document to the State of Vermont's grant portal as a final condition prior to executing the grant agreement.

Pat moved to adopt the grant agreement resolution for the childcare project. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.e – Consider Approving Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending.

Assessor Mimi Burstein explained that there are no appeals or suits pending regarding the Grand List.

Pat moved to approve the certificate of no appeal or suit pending. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.f – Discuss July 4th Fireworks.

This was an initial discussion on the possibility of greater Town involvement in the July 4^{th} fireworks. The display, usually fundraised, organized, and staffed through the efforts of the Randolph Village Fire Department, is increasing in cost (from $6,000 to $10,000).

The general question was what role, if any, would the Town be willing to take on with regards to the event? Fiscal support for 4^{th} of July activities, in both the FY22 (current) and FY23 (proposed) budgets is $1,000.

Tom volunteered to reach out to the two local Rotary Clubs and see if they would be interested in fundraising for the project. Perry said if Tom doesn't get anywhere with the Rotary Clubs, he would ask Karen at Chandler Center for the Performing Arts if they would be interested in fund raising.

5.g – Consider Appointing TRORC Transportation Advisory Committee Representative.

The Town has been without a representative to the TAC for some time. The committee is involved in transportation project prioritization and funding conversations.

Pat moved to appoint Trevor to be the TRORC advisory committee representative. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.h – Other Business.

There was nothing under other business.

5.1. – Randolph House Sewer Issue.

Julie Iffland from Randolph Area Community Development Corporation (RACDC) gave an overview of the Randolph House sewer problem. The Randolph House sewer line is 3 feet lower than identified by project designers for RACDC, and cannot hook up to the Town's sewer line as a result. Chris Chambers, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, said the Town's line is in rough condition, but there are others in town that are much worse. The project is being held up because of the 3-foot discrepancy in the Randolph House's line; the line travels under a portion of the project. After much discussion about who should be responsible for paying for this project, it was decided the Town would pay no more than half of the $40,000.00 estimate provided by Naylor and Breen.

Tom moved to authorize soul source procurement based on using contractors currently on site, and for an amount not to exceed $20,000.00 from the Town of Randolph. Larry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Manager's Report (#6)

New Sidewalk Machine, Local Democracy Internship, Energy Audits of Municipal Buildings RFP, Bylaw Modernization Grant update.

Executive Session (#7)

Pat moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) (B), collective bargaining, and 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3), personnel. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Town took a five-minute break, and Trevor informed the remaining attendees that no business would be acted upon following the Board's exit from executive session.

Tom moved to exit from executive session at 9:28 p.m. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Perry moved to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 10th, at 5:30 p.m., though it may be moved to Thursday, March 3rd, to match the practice of recent years (following Town Meeting).