Town of Randolph
Regular Meeting Minutes – Selectboard (DRAFT)
March 3, 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, Josh Jerome (via Zoom), Amy Grasmick (via Zoom), Emery Mattheis (via Zoom).

Public Attendees: Michael Binder, Joan Allen (via Zoom), Brendan Malley (via zoom), Mary Richter (via Zoom), Julie Iffland (RACDC), additional individuals attended via Zoom.

Media: None.

Regular Selectboard Meeting

Trini called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Public Comment
Michael Binder said he would like to see the Davis Solar Project on next month's agenda.

Pat moved to add Davis Road Solar to the April 14th Agenda. The motion failed for lack of a second.

There was discussion about the request, prior meetings, the attorney's opinion, etc. Trini clarified that her family no longer owns the property, there's no conflict of interest, and no need to recuse herself. Trini then asked if the Board felt there was more to be discussed. Tom said he felt they needed to finish with the topic. Larry agreed and said he did not feel there was more to discuss.

Tom moved to reconfirm previous authorization of the project.

Larry clarified that the Board approved its support for a preferred siting letter for the project already and that the Planning Commission is asking the Selectboard to basically do nothing. There was agreement that, if the Board was keeping its approval for the letter in place, no action would be necessary. Tom withdrew the motion.

3. Approval of Agenda
Larry moved to approve the agenda. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Consent Calendar (meetings minutes, warrants).
There were a pair of minutes to consider: the regular meeting of 2/10, and the special meeting/public informational hearing for Town Meeting on 2/21.

Perry moved to approve the consent calendar, meetings, and warrants. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Business (#5)

5.a – Selectboard Reorganization.
Trini opened the floor for nominations for chair.

Perry moved to retain Trini as chair. Larry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Trini opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair.

Tom moved to retain Larry as vice-chair. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Trini opened the floor for nominations for secretary. Perry confirmed that the duties of the Board secretary were far from robust and demanding.

Pat moved to make Tom secretary. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.b – Committee Appointment and Reappointments.
A listing of all positions up for reappointment was sent to the various chairs, per the practice of years past, with a polite request to poll members on reappointment interest. The Board walked through each committee to discuss the members and their interest in continuing on the various committees.

The Board will revisit the remaining, non-committee appointees, at a future meeting.

Trini moved to reappoint all members whose positions were set to expire this year. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.c – Discuss Kimball Public Library HVAC Improvements.
Library Director Amy Grasmick provided an overview of the issues with ventilation in the library. Tom and Amy discussed various grants, such as those provided by the VT Arts Council. Tom asked if the Library Trustees would consider putting up funds. It was suggested that Amy apply for a USDA Facilities grant as well as the Arts Council grant. The question came up about using ARPA funds for the Library HVAC improvements.

Perry moved to have Amy apply for two grants, the Vermont Arts Grant and a USDA Facilities Grant. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.d – Consider Authorizing Application for a VCDP Implementation Grant for RACDC (Salisbury Square).

Julie Iffland from RACDC provided more information about the Salisbury Square project. She asked the Town to "apply" for $1 million in community development block grant funds during the next round. The Town would be the applicant; however, funds (if awarded) would be passed through the Town and on to RACDC. After Trini asked what the buildings will look like, Julie said she would send pictures and design renderings.

The next step would be warning a public hearing, with action on whether or not to apply to follow.

Tom moved to set up a special meeting to discuss the Salisbury Square Grant application on Thursday, March 31 at 7:15. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

5.e – Local Cannabis Control Board Discussion and Planning Commission Direction (follow-up from 2/10).

Economic Development Director/Zoning Administrator Joshua Jerome provided an overview of where the Town is with regard to creating a local cannabis control board, and how various applications for zoning permits for cannabis businesses would flow through the Town's regulatory process. Trini suggested the Planning Commission take a look at the information provided. Josh said they will be discussing the cannabis topic at the next meeting.

5.f – Consider Involvement in an EV Charging Station Project (Pleasant Street Parking Lot).

Economic Development Director/Zoning Administrator Joshua Jerome explained the proposal which includes placing an electric vehicle charging station in a location previously identified in the Town's Pleasant Street parking lot; there appears to be no cost to the Town (and even a little bit of revenue). Trini looked at the contract and said she didn't think it looked like a fair contract for the Town. Members discussed various areas of concern, where the contract could essentially bind the Town. It was decided that Trevor would review the contract, pull various areas of concern, and then check with Blink to see if they will negotiate. Some of the areas referenced include terms, length of the lease, responsibility for maintaining equipment, etc.

5.g – Consider Sick Leave Bank Policy Addendum (COVID-19).

Trevor explained that during the latest surge in COVID-19 cases, the Town had a handful of employees who did not always have a sufficient store of sick leave accumulated. To cover that time, the Town was considering whether or not a COVID-19 addendum to the sick leave bank policy is appropriate.

Pat moved to authorize the Town Manager to create and implement a COVID-19 Addendum to the Sick Leave Bank Policy. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Manager's Report (#6)

Open Meeting Law Training (Thursday, March 31st, at 5:30 p.m.). *Maple Street Traffic Impact Analysis and Cost Estimates Presentation on April 14th. North Wells and Reservoir Project to be* *bid soon. New Finance Director hired – Catherine Gazda. East Randolph Dam Removal – next phase of study receiving grant funding.*

<u>Executive Session (#7)</u>

Perry moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 313 (a) (1) (A), contracts, 1 V.S.A § 313 (a) (1) (B), collective bargaining, 1 V.S.A § 313 (a) (1) (E), possible/probable litigation. Larry 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.

Perry moved to exit executive session at 7:59. Tom seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59. Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 14th, at 5:30 p.m.