



**Town of Richmond Wellness Committee**  
Richmond Town Hall  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 6:00 PM**

**In Attendance:** Pamela A. Rohland (Chair), Thea Brennan (Vice Chair), Daniel Fitzgerald (Clerk), Julie Leusner, Jessica Wolke, Chief Elwood M. Johnson, Jr., Dr. Robert W. Harrison Jr, Dennis McGinity, Laura Kenyon, and Alison Croke.

**Excused:** Gary W. Kowalewski

**1. Call to Order**

- Pamela Rohland called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Moment of Silence**

- Pamela Rohland led the moment of silence recognizing effects of the violence in Ukraine

**4. Roll Call**

**5. Old Business - Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Elwood Johnson made a motion to approve the February 17, 2022 Meetings Minutes. Thea Brennan seconded the motion. Lauren Kenyon and Dennis McGinity abstained. All others were in favor.

**6. New Business**

- Committee Membership expressed appreciation to the Ad Hoc workgroup for the recap document and the initial write up of the draft recommendations. The Committee provided feedback and decided to organize the draft recommendations into two groups - Immediate Needs and Long-Term Needs. They are as follows:

**Draft Recommendations for the Town Council:**

- **Immediate Needs**

- Immediately fund and hire a Human Services Director (Town Employee or Contracted Individual) dedicated to continuing the work of the Wellness Committee. In the first year of this position the following goals would be met:
  - Begin to spend Richmond ARPA funds to meet immediate needs exacerbated by COVID-19 and lack of transportation.

- Establish partnerships between public and private organizations to resolve immediate needs (e.g. behavior health, transportation, accessible spaces, etc.).
    - Assess funding and timeline for Community/Senior Center Project
  - Fund and expand the Public Safety Department Clinician Program
  - Initiate grant-like process to support and reimburse local organizations addressing health and wellness needs in Richmond exacerbated by COVID-19.
    - Examples: Wellness checks program for residents, transportation to follow up visits to primary care appointments and health/wellness related meetings, and provide funds to support existing community organizations that service Richmond Residents.
- **Long Term Needs**
  - Fund and staff a Human Services [Director] Department
  - Build and Staff Community/Senior Center
    - Ensure it is accessible to all residents
    - Space to bring in specialists
  - Transportation for residents to access the community center and other health services
  - Build out comprehensive volunteer program to support health and wellness needs

**Next steps:**

- The Committee requested the Ad Hoc Recommendations working group to make the suggested edits, organize findings into a final report, draft a suggested job description for the Human Services Director, and prepare draft slides to be used when presenting to the Town Council for review at the March 16, 2022 Wellness Committee meeting.
- Pamela Rohland will work with the Town Clerk to get onto an April Town Council Agenda.

**7. Adjournment**

- Alison Crokemade a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09. Elwood Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Next Meeting:
  - March 16, 2022 at 6pm