

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday April 27, 2022 – 6:00 PM – via Zoom

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Tony Segal, Chair Board of Health; Angela Garrity, Town Accountant

ABSENT: Technical difficulties made it impossible for Alan Hanson, Selectman to join the meeting.

Approval of April 13, 2022 Minutes and Release of April 11, 2022 Executive Session Minutes:

There being no concerns about the April 13, 2022 minutes, Roger moved to approve them as read. The motion was seconded by Neal and approved by unanimous vote. Roger moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Neal and carried by unanimous vote. Roger moved to release the April 11, 2022 minutes of the Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen. He was seconded by Neal and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Updates from the Town Administrator: The Dublin Road Bridge Project has been completed, the road paved and the plantings underway. The total cost of the project was \$720,000, of which \$650,000 was obtained from a Small Bridge grant. There was a discussion of what was included in the project. Roger asked about curb work and Danielle advised him that curb work was not a part of the Dublin Road Bridge Project, but Peter Beckwith, the Highway Superintendent was trying to provide curb work at some locations. Danielle will check with Peter to see if he was successful.

Danielle reported that the Town Hall will be getting new phones next week. She does not anticipate any disruption in the working of the Town as a result and all the phone numbers will remain the same. The Town's I.T. service provider will now also host the phone system, which will make it much more efficient.

Neal stated that he wanted to make clear that whenever Danielle or Peter Beckwith or Paul Lisi are asked to attend a board or committee meeting to make a report or answer questions, that employee should be listed at the top of the agenda and not made to wait any length of time. He felt it unfair for a salaried employee to be asked to extend their workday by several hours.

Road Opening Permit – EverSource Underground Wire Installation on Osceola and Osceola Notch Road: Danielle reported that she and Peter did a site visit and walk through on April 11th, at which time EverSource showed them the work they intended to do. The only concern Pete had was the underground wires on Osceola and Osceola Notch. Because it is a gravel road, EverSource agreed to a 36" depth for wires, which will be encased in concrete to avoid the possibility of the grader digging them up.

Neal moved to approve the Permit for EverSource. He was seconded by Roger and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment: Tony Segal, Chair Board of Health, was invited to attend this meeting to discuss the Board of Health's masking mandate and their stand on mosquito spraying. Tony reported that the Board of Health lifted the mask mandate at their last meeting, although with some trepidation in the face of a slight increase in the number of cases in the County and the State. Although the Omicron variant is far more transmissible, it causes a less severe illness. There have been no deaths from the virus in Berkshire County for two weeks and in Richmond for some time. The question arose as to how best to handle the expected large numbers of people at the upcoming Town Meeting. Tony will talk to Emilie Jarrett, R.N. and report back to the Board of Selectmen after the Board of Health meeting next week.

Mosquito spraying. Tony reported that the Board of Health's position was that new technologies have made it possible to tell if mosquitos in the area are carrying any of the viruses. The BOH is not in favor of random, en masse spraying as all adjacent towns will not be using the same protocols, making it useless. Should a positive culture be found in the samples tested, that should trigger the use of larvicides on standing water. If a positive culture is found in a human, it would then make sense to consider more widespread spraying. Tony reminded the Board that any individual can opt in or opt out of spraying on their property or can be warned of scheduled spraying to be able to take shelter indoors.

Roger summarized Tony's suggestion: The Town should continue to monitor and if a positive culture is found, treat the area with larvicide as appropriate, but do not do mass spraying in general.

Tony then advised the Board that the BOH has been reduced to four members with the recent loss of Fred Schubert who has moved out of town. He proposed that the empty seat be filled by Dr. Laurance Cohen, a retired physician who has been approached with the idea and has agreed. The Board of Selectmen will place the appointment on the next meeting agenda.

Review and Authorize Town Administrator to Sign the Release Agreement for the Dean Hill Drainage Work: Neal noted that this is a very limited situation where the Town will perform work on private property and only because storm water diverted from the road onto private land as a result of unusually severe weather conditions, is causing damage. The Town Counsel created a Release form, which will need to be executed by Danielle as Town Administrator and signed by the property owner. Neal reiterated that this is a one-time only fix.

Neal moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it. Roger seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous vote.

Review and Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant: As there were no changes or questions from the Board members, Roger moved to close the Warrant. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous vote.

Selectmen Matters: Roger reported that he has been working with Joy, the school music teacher, to plan the Memorial Day activities and they are progressing well. The children will not be in the parade and the band will play at the school, but not march. Roger was advised that Chief Traver asked if he would want the Fire Truck and Ambulance at the school and Roger asked that the Chief be advised that he did, indeed, want them to be there. The plan is to leave from the Fire House at 8:00 AM.

Sewer Matters: None

Danielle added one more report to her previous Town Administrator Update: She is wrapping up the application for the Storm Water Drainage grant. By next Tuesday, she will have the final letters of support and the scope of work. She and Peter will look at the situation at Dean Hill road where there is no built-in drainage except at roadside crossings. They will research nature-based drainage and solve those problems as well as the reality of the conditions in Richmond in terms of storm water drainage will allow.

Roger suggested that considering the problem Al Hanson had with his computer that kept him from attending this meeting, the Board look at getting him set up with some workable I.T. to avoid similar situations in the future.

There being no further business before the Board, Neal moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. Roger seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent.

Signed:

Neal Pilson, Chair