

BOARD OF SELECTMEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Monday April 11, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Richmond Town Hall – 1529 State Road, Richmond, MA 01254

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Al Hanson, Selectman; Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Paul Lisi, Treasurer/Collector

Neal opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. Al moved to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, the Treasurer/Collector. Neal seconded the motion, which was carried by a roll-call unanimous vote.

Roger thanked Paul for agreeing to reopen negotiations of his contract.

Paul noted that Roger had advised him that the Board of Selectmen needed to talk to him about the contract because the Finance Committee did not approve of the proposal that was put forward. Paul said he was willing to agree to a return to his current salary plus the 3% increase that all town employees will be receiving, at 34 hours/week. Roger explained what it was that the Finance Cte. found objectionable in the proposed contract. The issue seemed to be essentially one of a perceived lack of fairness in the resulting increase in the hourly rate that arrangement would create.

Neal wanted to be clear that the Finance Cte. does not have the authority to approve or disapprove the contract that the Board entered into with the Treasurer/Collector. However, they said they would not support the provisions of the contract that relate to new hours worked and compensation. At the Town Meeting, the Chair of the Finance Cte. would object to that line item of the budget and it would be put to a vote if the meeting today did not occur.

The Finance Cte. offered two options for consideration. Paul was willing to accept the option that would keep him at his current salary plus a 3% increase for 34 hours per week. Roger said that the concerns of the Finance Cte. had been addressed and he felt they would accept that solution.

Neal summed up the discussion to say that the Board is in agreement that it will accept the Treasurer/Collector's revised offer to continue at the compensation provisions of the current agreement and the number of hours worked per week, along with the same 3% increase that the other town employees will receive.

There being no further discussion on the issue, Al moved to close the Executive Session and return to the Open Session. The motion was seconded and adopted by a roll-call unanimous consent.

Roger moved that the Board increase the Treasurer/Collector's salary of \$74,919.00 by 3%. Neal seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

The Treasurer/Collector then asked what exactly the Budget Advisory Committee was looking for from him in terms of the proposed budget he submitted. Danielle explained that there were questions about the overall budget and specifically the extra \$1,000 – asking what it was for. The committee voted to level fund that line item, so Danielle has invited the Treasurer/Collector to attend the BAC meeting scheduled for this afternoon in order to answer the BAC's questions.

Roger explained that one of the BAC's concerns was that the spending for the Treasurer/Collector of only 57% of his current budget to date seemed to indicate that there was already enough money in the Treasurer/Collector's budget. However, what was not considered at that time was the \$6,000.00 expenditure that came in subsequently. That information sparked additional questions about other line items. Neal pointed out that the BAC is looking for every dollar they can save, but Danielle said if the budget is cut to the bare minimum, the Town will not have any reserve for unanticipated expenses.

Paul outlined some increases in regular costs that are expected this year, which he felt justified an increase in his budget, especially as the Town has really limited sources of revenue throughout the year. A budget always needs some padding and Richmond's budget is only very slightly padded against unforeseen expenses.

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 AM. Roger seconded, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Signed:

Neal Pilson, Chair