

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday April 13, 2022 – 6:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Al Hanson, Selectman; Roger Manzoloni, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Nicole Scarborough; Tom Grizey, Sewer Super.; Jeff Morse

Neal opened the meeting at 6:01 PM

Approval of Minutes of the March 15, 2022 and March 23, 2022 meetings of the Board of Selectmen and Release of the March 2, 2022 Executive Session of the BOS. Roger moved to approve the minutes as listed above. He was seconded by Neal and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Updates from the Town Administrator: Danielle reported that the Highway Department is in the process of winter clean up and beginning to grade roads. Some roads are still wet and soft and cannot be graded in that condition, so she is asking residents to be patient.

The Dublin Road project is ending. They are now doing site work and will be leaving next week. The road will have to remain closed for at least one day and residents will receive as much notice as possible. We have been given a window of April 18-20 for the closing of the road for paving.

Danielle is working on grants for storm water assessment, which will assess roads and drainage all over town to prepare for climate vulnerability. This is a joint effort with West Stockbridge. In order to submit the grant request, Danielle will need letters of support and a statement of funds available by April 27. The scope of the grant has been changed in order to reduce the amount of money required for matching. Danielle asked for permission to use \$45,000 out of the ARPA funds to match the grant instead of the original \$150,000.

Neal was uncomfortable with tapping into the ARPA funds before knowing other possible uses and requests for these funds. There are several possible uses for the ARPA funds. A discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of using the ARPA funds, suggestions for other sources, such as creating a new Warrant Article for the \$45,000 and asking the town to vote on it. It would be necessary to meet once more with the Budget Advisory Cte. for their recommendation.

EverSource – Pole Location on Summit Road: Nicole Scarborough of EverSource came before the Board to seek permission for EverSource to place an additional pole approximately 970 feet from Route 411, between two existing poles, 113 feet from each. Roger moved to approve the request as stated. He was seconded by Al. Before the vote, Roger reminded Nicole to be sure the sub-contractor doing the work would clean up after themselves when they are done. The motion was then put to a vote and was adopted by unanimous consent.

Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant: It was noted that all zoning bylaw changes require a 2/3 majority vote. That fact will have to be added to the text of appropriate Articles.

Roger asked that the order of the Articles be changed so that Article 13 becomes #6, Article 25 becomes #7, Article 26 becomes #8, Article 6 becomes #9 and Article 7 becomes #10. He felt that order of presentation will engender the most debate among the larger number of people who will still be in attendance early in the meeting.

In response to a question from Jeff Morse, Roger explained that the Planning Board Article (originally #25 – now #7) was sequenced early because it is, in fact, a subset of Article #26 – now #8. John Hanson, Chair of the Planning Board, will be explaining what his Article does. Danielle will check with the Town Attorney.

Danielle then asked where in the document the Board would like her to add the new Article for the \$45,000 from Free Cash. She was advised to add it after the Article about the Church Lane Survey.

Jeff Morse asked who wrote the explanations that will be presented at the Town Meeting. He was told that Danielle writes them and the Board of Selectmen review and approve. He then asked whether there will be a Moderator for the Baby Town Meeting and was advised that there most likely would be.

Memorial Day Festivities: Roger will be the Master of Ceremonies as he will be the new Chair of the Board of Selectmen then. Roger is in the process of contacting each of the participants that contribute to the celebration.

Selectmen's Matters: Question of the status of the ambulance project with West Stockbridge. They have not yet gone to their Town Meeting for approvals.

Sewer Matters: Tom Grizey, Sewer Superintendent reported on a problem with some capacitors that went out. He has completed his class to become a licensed electrician and inspector. He also reported that the Highway Department has decided to take the sewer tank from Town Hall and bring it down, via a tanker, to put it into the Town-owned pumping station. This will save the Town some money and simplify the process. The Board was enthusiastic about the idea.

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 PM. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Signed:

Neal Pilson, Chair