

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Wednesday February 9, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid

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

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Roger Manzoloni, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Dick Stover; Holly Stover; Jessy and Brian Turner, Ron Veillette, Con.Com. Chair

Neal opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with

Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting: Roger had not yet received a copy of the revised edition that would have included his change and preferred to defer approval until he has had a chance to look at that.

Updates from Town Administrator: Danielle reported that budgets and town reports are due in by February 15th. Not enough budgets have been returned at this point to be able to determine how many Budget Advisory Committee meetings will be needed. Those meetings will take place every Wednesday at 5:00 PM starting on March 2nd.

The schedule for the town will be as follows:

Town Caucus – Monday, March 28, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Baby Town Meeting – Saturday, May 14, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – 7:30 PM at the school

Town Elections – Saturday, May 21, 2022 – 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Updates from Town Administrator: Danielle reported that she is working with Paul Lisi, Town Tax Collector, to put together answers to the Betterment questions from the last meeting.

Updates from Municipal Building Cte.: Danielle advised the Board that she has spoken with the Building Committee Chair, Pat Callahan, and been advised that they are not prepared at this time to send the Board an update. Roger suggested that the Board be prepared to call a Special Meeting to address the Building Committee's request, which should happen in a few days.

Annual Review of the Icehouse Hill Farm Special Permit: The Turners requested that the Board approve some modifications to the permit that would allow them to book weddings more successfully. At issue were the following:

The requirement to end weddings at 9:30 or 10:00 PM has lost them several potential bookings. They are asking for four weddings a year to be allowed to end at 11:00 PM.

Live music – They are asking for permission to have two of the four allowable weddings to have live music – the other two would continue to use a D.J..

They are requesting four additional events per year for a total of 8 so that they could add daytime events such as Corporate Meetings, Wedding Rehearsals, Birthday Parties, all of which would end by 9:00 PM.

Roger commented that he has heard no complaints concerning noise levels, which indicates that the events have been acceptable to the neighbors. Roger was inclined to support the request.

Al asked about the difference between live music and a D.J. in terms of the control of the level of sound. He was advised that Icehouse will continue to be bound to the decibel restrictions placed on them in the Permit. In addition, it was noted that the bands under consideration for those two weddings are very familiar with local restrictions. There was a discussion of the use of bass instruments and drums and Roger suggested that until a problem was identified with those instruments, the Permit should not disallow their use.

Dick Stover commented that he is a close neighbor of Icehouse hill and has never heard any objectionable noise from them during events.

Neal reiterated the changes being requested in the Permit and moved to modify the existing Special Permit as listed above, as well as any other incidental changes to wording that may be needed to conform. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Roger suggested that any changes in signage the Turners would like to make should comply with the Town's sign bylaw. They agreed to do that.

Discussion and Vote of Highway Personnel Overtime Compensation: Danielle advised the Board that Peter Beckwith, the Highway Superintendent, has needed to put in extensive overtime hours as a result of the constant short-handed status of his crew. She has researched what seven other local towns have done and found that four of them pay overtime. Those towns that did not do so had large crews and all roads in their towns were paved.

Danielle advised that in time the crew, which is currently very young and inexperienced, will become adept at their work, which will reduce Pete's overtime. She is requesting that a payment of \$6,377. be made for the overtime accrued in 2022. That amount is not representative of Pete's normal pay rate but is based on the pay rate of the next highest paid Highway Department employee and there is money available in the budget to cover. Roger and Neal expressed their support and Al moved to award Peter Beckwith back overtime pay in the amount of \$6,377. The motion was seconded by Neal and adopted by unanimous consent.

Public Comment: Ron Veillette reported on a Con.Com. denial of permit for 950 West Road for a driveway that was put in without a permit. That driveway ripped through a riverfront and buffer zone. The owner was advised to bring any objection to the DEP, which they will do.

An enforcement issue at 159 Willow Road was mentioned at the meeting last night. The Zoning Enforcement Officer passed the issue to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which has never heard of it. It was discussed at last night's ZBA meeting and Bill Martin will request copies of the data that the Con.Com. has on that location.

Danielle added that the Zoning Enforcement Officer informed the owner that he must go before the ZBA for a variance on all violations. An application to that effect has been put together. If the owner does not comply, the Zoning Enforcement Officer will begin to levy fines on all violations, which he is empowered to do.

The DCR came to a meeting of the Con.Com and is working on restoration plans with three landowners concerning the View Drive Cell Tower issue. The DCR will pay for a consultation and a review plan. The good news is that this issue is finally able to move along.

Selectmen's Matters: Alan asked how Pittsfield figures the amount charged to Richmond for the sewer and whether the increase in charges being seen in Pittsfield will affect Richmond's rates. Roger explained that the original \$450,000.00 that Richmond paid to Pittsfield was an up-front payment for future sewer upgrades in Pittsfield. So long as Richmond remains below the 110,000 gallons of water per day usage, that rate is fixed.

Neal reported that the Board had been requested to provide representation for the Negotiating Committee dealing with the Teachers' Union. Neal will volunteer to receive periodic updates from Peter Dillon, School Superintendent, and will attempt to attend any meetings where he feels there is a specific need to do so.

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Neal seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous approval.

Signed:

Neal Pilson, Chair