

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

**Wednesday June 22, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid meeting**

**PRESENT:** Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Krista Proper, Richmond Telephone Co.; Pat Callahan, Phase 2 Building Cte.; John Vittori; Susan Lockwood, March Hare Rd.; Robert Harrison; Pete Beckwith, Highway Super.;

**Richmond Telephone Co.:** Krista Proper approached the Board to explain the plans for the future of the company. Richmond Telephone is a family-owned company serving only the Town of Richmond. They have a strategic plan in place to provide competitive voice and internet service via fiber-optic lines. They have already established some pilot customers and the process is going very smoothly. Several updates and improvements have been made and there are now fiber-optic lines to all the homes on Rte. 295 and that will continue to expand until all of Richmond is covered. The cost will be \$49.95 per month for 100 gigs; \$69.95 per month for 200 gigs. There are no installation charges, but construction costs will be incurred where necessary, depending on the distance of the home from the street. Those costs will be shared with the homeowner and payments spread over time. At 500 feet from the street, fiber will be free, \$1.00/foot over 500 feet. It is estimated that full coverage of the town should happen within three years or so. There is a plan eventually to add television service via fiber-optics. The company currently serves the school's fiber connection.

Neal suggested it would be helpful for the company to continuously update and inform the public of their progress.

**Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen:** Roger questioned whether the minutes had been corrected to reflect that it would be the high bid that would be accepted for the two vehicles being offered and not the low bid. Neal said he would investigate it and if not would have that correction made.

**Building Committee Updates:** Pat Callahan reported that there is a great deal of action at the site; the DOT has approved the driveway and is considering what to do about the tree that the committee would like to preserve. A weekly update meeting will take place. The selectmen might attend that meeting on occasion.

Work is being done on the water supply that will be shared with the school and contacts have been established at the school between the contractor and the school administration.

The Building Committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the Month via Zoom. This will be an Open Meeting. Bills will be coming due regularly on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and will need to be acted upon quickly. A need has been identified for sub committees to make recommendations on internal colors, furniture selection, etc. These should be done now as

there will be lead times for orders placed. Danielle has been working on planning for the AV systems and the Security system before the walls go up.

There will be a modest ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday July 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM for photo opportunities.

There was a discussion of the scheduling of Board of Selectmen meetings so that they always come about a week after the Building Cte. meetings in order to get the payment of bills signed off. Scheduling will mostly work out as it stands.

**March Hare Road Drainage Concerns:** Susan Lockwood came before the Board to advise them of a situation she has been having since the recent heavy rains. Her neighbor has been cleaning out the drainage ditch by moving the debris onto her property and her culvert, which was installed only 3 years ago, is now half full. The Town's grader is too big for March Hare Road, which causes the gravel to be pushed up onto the sides of the road, carving a ditch down the middle. Ms. Lockwood presented a diagram that illustrated the problems.

Al Hanson had suggested installing a drop inlet before her culvert, but Peter Beckwith pointed out that culverts on both sides would have to drop three feet, which would not leave much elevation from March Hare Road that goes to the culvert under Swamp Road. Pete has another solution to slow down the runoff and solve the problem. Roger determined that the homeowner and the Town agreed with Pete's solution and that it should take place.

**Interview – Robert Harrison for ZBA Membership:** Roger thanked Mr. Harrison for taking the time to come in so that the Board could have a conversation, as they always do with potential new board members. After a short conversation, Roger moved to appoint Robert Harrison as an Alternate Member of the ZBA. Alan seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous roll-call vote: Manzolini, aye; Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye.

**Special Event Permit for a Wedding:** John Vittori advised the Board that on October 1<sup>st</sup>, he will be hosting a wedding for his daughter at the Orchard. The wedding hours will be from 4:00 to 11:00 PM; he is expecting 150 guests, there will be a D.J. but no live music and parking will be easily accommodated on his extensive fields. Beer and wine only will be served, but no one-day pouring license will be required as the Orchard already has a pouring license for the business. He is planning to advise his neighbors about the upcoming event.

Roger moved to approve the Special Event Permit. Neal seconded and the motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote: Manzolini, aye; Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye.

**Update from the Town Administrator:** Danielle reported that she is currently working on a website redesign with the company and Berkshire Regional Planning. She is hoping for a revamping of the town website and the newsletter to make them more user-friendly and attractive.

Berkshire Regional Planning is also working with her on short-term rental information. They will access the MASS website to compare their list of registered Air B&B sites with a list provided to her by Dick Stover. The objective is to get all the Town's B&B's registered so that the Town can begin to collect the room tax it is entitled to.

Danielle had a site visit with the Engineering company and the well drillers to discuss siting, costs and access to the construction site for the necessary rigs and heavy equipment. They will create two proposals; one for four wells and one for two.

The Official Bond Statement is being prepared for review by the Bond Council in order to be on track for all deadlines.

The Ambulance Memorandum of Understanding between Richmond and West Stockbridge – Mary Ryan of West Stockbridge has advised Danielle that her Board of Selectmen are all on board with the agreement and are planning a meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> to officially adopt it. The Richmond Board will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time they will also vote on approval of the agreement.

Danielle reminded the Board that, at their meeting of July 27<sup>th</sup> she will need a quorum to get signatures on the Bond documents to be mailed the next day. It is expected that the money will be available on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Danielle asked Pete Beckwith to update the Board on the projects he is going forward with using Chapter 90 monies. Peter reported that he is completing the projects approved last year. He needs some signatures to obtain use of the Chapter 90 monies.

The Town still has some Winter Recovery money in the amount of \$130,000.00 which Pete wants to put towards continuing with the road fabricating and the drainage problem on East Road going downhill.

**Accept and Award High Bids for Chief's Car and COA Van:** After being assured that the minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> either do or will say "high bid" instead of "low bid," Roger moved to award the high bidder for the old Fire Chief's Car (\$8,100.00) and the high bidder for the COA van (\$9,000.00). The Fire Chief's car will be going to another fire department and the COA van to an Auto Sales Company in Illinois. Alan seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll-call vote: Manzolini, aye; Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye.

**Public Comment:** None

**Selectmen's Matters:** The issue of the lack of available candidates for the Lifeguard position at Richmond Pond Beach raised the need for posting of both 'Swim at your own Risk: and "Lifeguard not on duty" signs.

Neal asked whether the decision had been made as to whether the Town would need another debt exclusion vote. Danielle responded that she is still awaiting word from the COR.

As to Neal's question concerning the Church Lane Survey, Danielle noted that she is working first on getting the answer on the Debt Exclusion vote and has not addressed the survey yet.

Roger reported on his work concerning EDU's and the Camp Russell Boys' Club. He will be meeting with the Director of the Camp at 10:00 AM on Friday to discuss the camp's water usage, the number of sewer connections, etc., using the camp's data. There is some question as to whether an old agreement exists between the Town and the Camp concerning the placement of a pump station on campgrounds that was to protect the Camp from being assigned more than one EDU. No one at the meeting recalled the existence of such an agreement.

The Club has 6 stubs, 16 toilets, and 7 building connections to the sewer system. As a Sewer Commissioner, Selectmen have the authority to allocate the number of EDU's to a location, based on water usage. Roger stated that he plans to be sensitive to the Camp's financial situation when determining whether any additional EDU's should be assigned. Roger noted Tom Grizey's assistance with his understanding of water usage has been very helpful and said he believed the project is moving in the right direction.

**Sewer Matters:** Tom Grizey reported that three days ago, one of the pumps quit. He is working on repairing it. He pulled the pump up and discovered that a bolt had fallen out and destroyed a gasket. The system is temporarily running without that part and is not causing any problem. Tom asked for permission to order some parts to keep in the case of further incidents. Roger was in favor of Tom's having the authority to order at his own discretion up to \$500. A reserve fund should be set up for that purpose and added to incrementally. Roger asked Tom to put together a list of items that should be in store before the Richmond Shores Association meeting and raise the issue at that time.

Holly Stover suggested creating a Contingency Fund for sewer problems and Roger advised her that there is a Sewer User account, but he will look into whether there is a need to create an additional account.

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous vote: Manzolini, aye; Hanson, aye; Pilson, aye.

Signed:

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Roger Manzolini, Chair