

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday May 10, 2023 – 6:00 PM – hybrid

PRESENT: Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Al Hanson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Travis Walsh, Rep. for EverSource; Pat Callahan, Building Cte.; Peter Beckwith, Highway Super.; Kathy Mason; Jay Phelps

Approval of the Minutes of the April 12, 2023 and April 26, 2023 Meetings of the Board of Selectmen: Changes having been made as requested, Neal moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting as amended. He was seconded by Al and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Neal moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2023, meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended. Al seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Eversource Pole Hearing – East Road: Travis Walsh, representing EverSource, approached the Board to obtain approval for the plan to upgrade and replace existing poles along East Road and to add 17 additional poles in the interval spaces. This change is necessitated by the increased weight of the new electrical lines that will be installed.

There was a discussion of several issues involved in this project, including the tendency by the sub-contractors of EverSource to leave extensive debris and damage behind at the end of a job. Roger suggested that a clause be included in the contracts that require the sub-contractor to clean up and repair the worksite before they leave and that payment of the contract will be contingent on that happening.

Neal moved to approve the work plan for Eversource. Al seconded the motion and then called for further discussion.

The discussion that followed covered several concerns voiced by members of the public in attendance or via Zoom and included such issues as the extensive removal of trees, the specific placement of the additional poles and debris left at the worksite from previous jobs. Mr. Walsh offered to be the contact point for people to reach EverSource directly with their objections so that some compromises could be worked out about pole placement and tree removal. Contact with Mr. Walsh will be through Danielle.

Roger asked for a vote on the motion made and seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION:

Invoices/Change Orders: Roger noted that he has been given a contractor invoice in the amount of \$491,538.55, which has been recommended for approval by the Building Cte.

Roger moved to approve payment of the contractor invoice in the amount of \$491,538.55. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was approved by unanimous roll-call vote: Neal, aye; Al, aye; Roger, aye.

Roger then introduced the Change Order which consisted of three parts: \$1,300 for millwork changes, \$61,238 for an upgraded generator and \$1,830 for signage changes. The total came to \$64,400, which was recommended for approval by the Building Cte.

Roger moved to approve the Change Order. He was seconded by Al and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote: Pilson, aye; Hanson, aye; Manzolini, aye.

Neal asked to be assured that the Contingency Funds are more than adequate to cover those charges. Pat assured him that they were. Roger noted that at this point 72% of the building project funds have been spent, the entire project is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to completion, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the schedule, and on track for completion this Fall, which is extraordinary and very gratifying.

Public Comment: Holly reported that the “Friends of Bruce Garlow” want a tree planted in Bruce’s memory at the new building and asked who to contact to arrange that. Pat advised that funds could be donated for a specific use. Danielle said she is working on creating tax receipts for donations. Pat will compose instructions for those donations to be posted in the newsletter. Holly will pass on that information to that group.

Jay Phelps reiterated his concerns with the Fire Dept. Danielle noted that a meeting including Jay and Chief Traver is planned to be set for after the Town Meeting.

Process and Timeline for the Sale of Town Hall: Neal asked that work begin to determine if there are any viable options for the use of this building. Danielle explained that the process has several steps: 1. Obtain an appraisal from a Municipal Building Appraiser. 2. Hold a Special Town Meeting to obtain authorization from the residents to sell the building. 3. Do an RSP and then decide if you want to hire a realtor. This issue will appear on the next meeting’s agenda as an Update on the Process to Sell the Current Town Hall.

Memorial Day Planning: When contacted about the band’s part in the Memorial Day Services this year, Joy (The school Music Teacher) said it has been three years since the band marched. They are working on it now, but the question remains uncertain. Al will ask Rabbi Caine if he will do the honors again this year.

Town Administrator Updates: Danielle reported that the Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:30 AM in the school Gym.

Town Elections will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Town Hall from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Hazardous Waste Day – Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant in Lee, MA.

Bulky Waste Day – Saturday, May 27, 2023 – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Richmond Highway Dept. Garage Area – Danielle noted that she is hoping to get one of the new textile collection bins for Bulky Waste Day.

Demand Notices for Real Estate, Personal Property, Operating Maintenance & Betterment taxes will be going out for the next Fiscal Year.

We just passed two weeks of the change of Town Hall hours with no complaints and find it is working well.

Holly Stover expressed a concern with holding toxic materials in a home for a year. She suggested contacting Tri-Town Health for more dates.

Selectmen's Matters: Al asked Danielle to get the wreath for Memorial Day services.

Roger asked if Danielle had found out what the process is for dealing with blighted properties. He wanted Beth (town counselor) to be advised of any such issue so that the town can start addressing the problem. He was interested to know what the other surrounding towns' process is. Danielle will ask Beth for advice.

Neal reported on the mediation process between BNRC and Perry's Peak residents. There was a full-day session that included two site visits. The parties have agreed to continue discussions at a later date.

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. He was seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Signed:

Roger Manzolini, Chair