

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday May 25, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid

PRESENT: Neal Pilson, Chair; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Roger Manzoloni, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator

Neal opened the meeting at 6:10 PM with the

Reorganization of the Board: The Board Chairmanship has traditionally been rotated among the members once a year. This year Roger Manzoloni will take over from this point. Neal resigned from the Chairmanship and Alan moved to appoint Roger as the new Chair. Neal seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Roger thanked Neal for his leadership of the Board for the past year and then called for

Updates from the Town Administrator: Danielle reported that she is in the process of putting the old Fire Chief car and the COA van (previously declared “surplus”) out to bid. She anticipated having the bids completed by the next scheduled meeting of the Board, at which time they can be awarded.

The Highway Department is working on dust control and will shortly begin summer construction projects – Swamp road resurfacing; Dublin Road spring clean out and the Swamp Road culvert repair as well as drainage throughout town.

The beach was opened last weekend in response to the extremely hot weather with no lifeguards. The ropes and docks are not out yet. There are currently no Boat Monitors and seasonal help can only be hired in mid-June. None of the lifeguards or monitors will be returning this year and advertising for help has been put out. The beach will be open again the Sunday and Monday of the Memorial Day Weekend.

Memorial Day Arrangements: Danielle noted that Roger has put together a program. Roger advised that there will be no color guard this year, but he does have an agenda: Opening Remarks, Rabbi Caine’s presentation; meet at the firehouse just before 8:00 AM and begin the march to the school at 8:00 AM. The school band will be at the school. Danielle assured Roger that the wreath has been ordered and will be there on Sunday. Roger said that he has visited the scene and found it in need of clean up, which he plans to do tomorrow, probably with the help of the school Principal. Danielle said she will have the PA system in place on Monday morning.

Appoint Dr. Laurence Cohen to the Board of Health: Roger moved to appoint Dr. Laurence Cohen to the Board of Health seat vacated by Fred Schubert’s move out of town. The motion was seconded by Alan and adopted by unanimous vote.

Accept Donation from the Friends of the Library: Roger moved to accept a donation of \$212,650.00 to be used towards the cost of the new Town Hall/Library building. Neal seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Danielle noted that the Treasurer can now deposit the check tomorrow. Roger asked that the Friends of the Library be sent a letter of thanks to be signed by the three members of the Board.

Declaration of ARPA Funds for Use on New Building: Roger moved to allocate \$287,350.00 of the ARPA funds to be used for government services, as defined under the rule. Neal seconded the motion but asked about the difference in the amount since the last discussion. Roger explained that he chose to keep the sum of the Friends of the Library Donation and the ARPA funds at \$500,000.00, which covers the shortfall recommended by the Building Committee. Neal remarked that doing so wisely keeps ARPA monies available. The motion being made and seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

Timeline for Town Hall/Library Project: Roger requested a discussion of next steps. The check from the Friends of The Library will be deposited and funds allocated. Danielle noted that meetings with Standard & Poors for a Bond Rating will take place the last week of June. At that same time, a Notice of Sale, comprised of all requisite documents being prepared by Danielle, Paul Lisi and David Eisenthal, will be completed and sent to S&P by June 29th. She anticipates a Rating Release on or about July 14th and the Sale Date of the Bond to be July 20th.

On July 27, the Board has a regularly scheduled meeting at which at least two of the board members will need to be in attendance in person in order to accept the Bid on the Bond. If all goes well at that July 27th meeting, the Settlement of Bond will be on August 2, 2022, The First Installment Payment will be due December 15, 2022 and the First Principal Payment on June 15, 2023.

Neal asked if the full amount of the Bond will then be available on August 2nd. He was advised that the funds will be placed into an account owned by the Town. The Town will be asked for a Cash Flow Schedule and how much will be spent in a Timeline. Danielle is awaiting receipt of that information from the Project Manager. Neal remarked that the Board should also have a reinvestment plan in place.

Neal officially congratulated the Phase II Building Committee for their persistent hard work in getting the project to this point.

Renewal of Town Administrator Contract: The start date of a new contract will be August 1, 2022. Roger asked for the opportunity to read over the contract in the time before the next Board meeting on June 8th and then act on it at that time.

Danielle reported an update on the Shared Ambulance Service with West Stockbridge. She and Austin White will work on the Agreement so that it will be done exactly as needed and then begin to advertise for employees. Danielle and Austin will work together on the selection process and give the Board their recommendations.

Public Comment: None

Selectmen's Matters: Neal raised the issue of whether the Town should consider any further bylaw recommendations on short-term rentals. He noted that this has become a major issue for Great Barrington and Lenox. He wanted to determine if there was any similar concern in Richmond as there has been a substantial increase in the number of short-term rentals occurring in the County. A discussion resulted in the consensus that determining the level of concerns in Richmond about this issue is a good idea. It was suggested that it would be wise to study some bylaw language being created by neighboring towns before it becomes a major issue in Richmond.

Roger spoke to the roadwork being done and concerns he has heard about from residents about water flow onto residential driveways. He wondered if Pete was planning to go back and correct those situations or if it is the homeowners' responsibility to divert that water from their driveway. That question will be relayed to Pete.

Sewer Matters: None

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Neal seconded the motion and congratulated Roger for being able to conduct his first meeting of the year so efficiently that it only took a record 35 minutes. The motion being made and seconded, a vote was taken, and the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Signed:

Roger Manzolini, Chair