

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN – SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Wednesday March 23, 2022 – 6:00 PM – via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Neal Pilson, Chair; Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Chris Horten, Berk. Cty. Mosquito Control; Erin Roney, School P.T.A.; Jennifer Morse; Rick Bell; Ron Veillette, Con. Com.

Neal opened the meeting at 6:08 PM with approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. All corrections having been made Roger moved that the minutes be approved. He was seconded by Neal and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

**Updates from the Town Administrator:** Danielle reminded the group that the Town Caucus will take place on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Town Hall; the Baby Town Meeting will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Town Hall, the Annual Town Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Richmond School and Town Elections on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

Danielle reported that the Dublin Road Bridge project will be completed with repair of the guardrails and paving of the road on April 19, 2022. The road will, therefore, be closed for a day or two.

**Erin Roney – PTA Bike Ride Special Event Permit:** Ms. Roney came before the Board to request a special permit for the Richmond School P.T.A. to conduct a bike ride event for the youngest grades on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM. The ride will be held entirely within the Colonial Acres neighborhood at the Orchard Circle - Grist Mill Intersection.

Each child will have parents in attendance who will take care of any traffic issues that may arise with residents of Colonial Acres needing to come or go out of the neighborhood. Parents will also be available to oversee safety and deal with any injuries that may occur.

A call for public comment produced none. Roger noted that it will be necessary to notify fire and police of the event. He then moved to approve the special permit. Neal seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

**Mosquito Control Information:** Chris Horten of Berkshire County Mosquito Control provided a slide presentation of the practices involved in mosquito control for the Town. He spoke about integrated management and adaptive management and how mapping surveillance of the population of mosquitos in an area creates a “tipping point” for control measures. He spoke to the importance of eliminating bodies of stagnant water, which are breeding grounds. These include boats, tires, etc. Reducing the number of those sources reduces the population of mosquitoes.

Control of population is on two levels: larval control and adult control which involve different strategies. Surveillance of target species provides ongoing resistance testing and pesticide

stewardship. The efficacy of the pesticide is monitored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to date there has been no finding of resistance to the pesticide. The EPA regulates the product used and the Mass. Pesticide Bureau approves the use, which is regulated by State and Federal levels.

West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are monitored by tracing the specific species of mosquito that carry those diseases, their flight ranges and reproductive processes to keep the population numbers low enough to avoid amplification.

Requests from residents either to specifically spray on their property or to opt-out of the program are accepted. Last year, the organization helped with some source reduction by removing old tires from the dump site. Roger asked if it would be possible for residents to arrange for similar removal of tires or other unused sources of stagnant water. Chris felt that something of the sort could be arranged and suggested that people access the website for that purpose.

Neal recalled some opposition to preventive spraying that arose last year and suggested that the Richmond Board of Health be asked to attend the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen to discuss the situation and offer their position on the issue.

Jennifer Morse asked about the safety of bees with the use of this pesticide and was advised that at a certain concentration it will kill bees. If the location of a beehive is provided, the truck can be sure to avoid spraying within 300 feet of the hive, which is the pesticide's effective range. Or the property housing beehives could be put on the exclusion list and opt out for adult control. Larval control spraying is not a danger to bees.

Ron Veillette asked about long-term impact and the build-up of toxic materials in the ground and water. The EPA has a system to test for toxicity and the level of effectiveness and has built in margins of safety. There is a separate division that monitors all scientific papers on the issue and every five years the product is reviewed to determine whether it should be continued in use as it is or changed. Changes would occur only if an improved product had been developed or if insect resistance was seen to be developing. The equipment that sprays the product is monitored to be certain of compliance with a specific droplet size. That droplet size will kill mosquitoes, but not larger insects or hard-bodied insects.

Ron then asked about endangered species, which Richmond has many of. Will they avoid those areas? The organization works with the National Heritage Foundation and the Endangered Species division of MA Fish and Wildlife to create a specific protocol in areas of concern.

Neal thanked Chris for his presentation. He asked Danielle to contact the Board of Health and invite them to the next meeting for their input on the subject.

**Review of Planning Board Zoning Recommendations:** Neal reported that the Board has been given three different reports by the Planning Board and has been asked to decide which of those should be presented for a vote at the Town Meeting.

Danielle noted that Matt Mozian, attorney for the residents of Perry's Peak Road, has advised her that if the Board is willing to present both the residents' version of the report and the Planning Board's report on the Town Meeting Warrant, they would withdraw the Citizen's Petition to avoid adding confusion to an already complex issue.

Roger asked that the three reports be clearly identified: The Resident's Amended Petition was labelled 5-2; the Planning Board's Recommendation Report was labelled 5-1 and the Citizen's Petition was labeled 5-3. The Board will be obligated to put all three versions on the warrant unless report 5-3 is withdrawn. There was a discussion of the procedure for the Petition to be withdrawn, which could be accomplished in time for the Town Meeting.

Roger moved to put two of the reports: the Perry's Peak Residents' Report (5-2 ) and the Planning Board's Report (5-1) on the warrant for the Town Meeting for review, discussion and vote and to provide an explanation of the additional features of the residents' petition which includes the need for a Special Permit for certain events. Alan seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote.

**Review and Vote on Selectmen and Town Administrator Budgets:** Danielle reviewed the budget line by line but particularly noted the following changes from last year:

Training – A decrease of \$4,000 (\$6,000 budgeted)

Information Technology Services – An increase of \$2,000 (\$25,000 budgeted)

Administrative Assistant Salary – An increase o \$1,900 in recognition of additional responsibilities taken on (\$20,000 budgeted)

Town Counsel – An increase of \$5,000 (\$35,000 budgeted)

Danielle raised the issue of the cost of the Special Permit process as opposed to the fee currently required. The current fees do not cover even the cost of the mandated advertising. There was a discussion that resulted in a suggestion to look at the history of applications and perhaps set up a two-tier system for the sake of fairness to those requesting permits for non-income-producing events.

Roger then moved that the budget be approved. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** Deferred to next meeting in order to have time to review individually.

**Setting of Operating and Maintenance Charges (Sewer):** Roger moved that the Certification Letter, containing the increase in charges by \$6.40 and scheduled to be mailed on March 23, 2022 be approved. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

**Declaration of Fire Chief Car as Surplus:** Al moved that the Fire Chief Car that has been removed from service be declared surplus and be put up for sale. The motion was seconded by Neal and approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Selectmen's Matters:** Roger asked if anyone was aware of where the "Citizen's Cane" was. The cane was a gift to the Town from the State to be bestowed on a resident of the Town reaching 100 years of age. It was a symbolic gift, meant to be returned to the Town for future such celebrations. Roger wants the cane for the new Town Hall. Some discussion resulted in Al volunteering to call Virginia Larkin, who he felt might know where it is.

**Sewer Matters:** None

There being no further business before the Board, Neal moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Roger and adopted by unanimous consent.

Signed:

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Neal Pilson