

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday January 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid

PRESENT: Roger Manzolini, Chair; Alan Hanson; Neal Pilson (via Zoom); Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Ron Veillette, Chair Con. Com.; Christian Hanson, Balderdash; Pat Callahan, Chair Bldg. Cte.; Tom Grizey, Sewers;

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes of the December 14, 2022 Board Meeting: Alan moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022. He was seconded by Neal and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

Discussion and Vote to Begin Eviction Process – 216 March Hare Rd.: The process was not begun in light of the promise by the owner to begin a payment schedule. At this time, she is requesting an extension of the deadline from December 31, 2022, to January 12, 2023 due to problems with her access to the funds, which caused the default.

Roger moved to approve the extension of the payment deadline from December 31, 2022, to January 12, 2023. He was seconded by Alan and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion and Vote to Consent to a Reduction of the Notice Period for Agricultural Preservation Restriction at 81 State Road: Danielle explained the process involved and advised the Board that shortening the notice time is beneficial for the Town. Roger moved to approve shortening the notice time from 120 to 60 days. Alan seconded the motion. For further clarification, Christian Hanson explained that the property in question would be protected in perpetuity from any form of development. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Appointment of Claudia Ryan to the Board of Health: Roger moved to approve the appointment. He was second by Alan and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Electricity Cost-Savings for the Town and Residents: Danielle said she wants to contact Dynegey to begin a dialogue on the subject of having Richmond join a Municipal Aggregate to lower electric rates for residents. Further discussion was postponed to a future meeting once Danielle has more information.

TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION:

Invoice for Approval: An invoice in the amount of \$421,086.08 has been reviewed and approved by the Building Committee. Roger moved that the invoice be approved for payment. He was seconded by Alan and the motion passed unanimously.

Status of Building: Roger was happy to report that everyone is happy with the way the project is going – everything is on schedule. Pat Callahan noted that the Building Committee is

pleased with the progress being made. She noted that this is the time to plan for the technology that will be needed in the new building to allow meetings like this on Zoom. She said that Danielle is spending time on creating a viable plan.

Pat then raised the issue of adding solar panels to the new building. She would like to have the architects contact an engineering firm to complete a full design of the solar system so that the Town will be prepared to go to bid. The contingency budget would provide the \$20,000.00 cost for the cost of the design.

Roger noted that once that project is done and paid for, we will have a “Solar-Ready” building, but there is no money in the project for solar panels or their installation. Danielle explained that the Board of Selectmen is required to authorize the architect to create a plan for solar under the existing contract as a reimbursable expense of up to \$20,000.00, which would come from the Contingency Fund.

A lengthy discussion ensued that included the value of owning versus leasing the panels; what exactly is involved in what the State has been advertising under the banner “Own Your Own Electric Source.” Danielle noted that our I.T. Department has recommended going with the Richmond Telephone Company as opposed to Spectrum as the best source of internet access to the Town Center.

Danielle asked for permission from the Board to go forward with discussion with Richmond Telephone as our internet provider for the new building. Pat has also indicated her approval. Roger indicated his approval for Danielle to continue her discussions with Richmond Telephone and Alan agreed.

Public Comment: None

Town Administrator Updates: Danielle reported that she had recently gotten the Town Credit Card back.

She has been working with I.T. to update individual computers that have been outdated for years, running on outdated versions of Windows. That should be completed by the end of next week.

Al asked whether the Board members should have their computers updated as well. Danielle asked that they bring their computers into the office, and she will investigate it later this week.

Danielle noted that she is having invitations sent to all homeowners in Richmond and West Stockbridge about the Storm Water Management Webinars scheduled for February 27, 2022 from 6:30 – 7:15 PM and again on March 29, 2023 from 6:30 – 7:15 PM. The first webinar will be a generic overview of experiences and solutions. The second webinar will go into depth about solutions.

Danielle plans to work with the company doing the Storm Water Management Plan to develop an expression of interest that will indicate whether we are eligible for a grant. She also plans to

use some of the solutions to apply for funding to implement protections sooner rather than later. The Board agreed with that idea.

Selectmen's Matters: Al was concerned about possible changes to school bus pick up locations should the unusual weather conditions we've been experiencing lately continue. He was assured that the Bus Co. and the school have a protocol in place to handle just such situations.

Roger raised the issue of the tree-clearing that the Electric Company has done in front of the new building site. He wondered if they are planning to remove the remaining stumps at some point and noted that the Board should be thinking about how to replace those trees over time.

A discussion arose concerning whether the Veterans' memorial that is outside the front of the school should be moved to a location in front of the new Town Hall. Pat felt that its current location sees very little foot traffic and it is mostly ignored. She reported that Roseanne Fieri, the past Veterans' Coordinator, and Mike Lawrence, a recently retired veteran, are looking at the building site to determine where trees, benches, etc. will be located. They will create a proposal for the Selectboard.

Sewer Matters: None

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 PM. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Signed:

Roger Manzolini, Chair