

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday October 12, 2022 – 6:00 PM – via Zoom

PRESENT: Alan Hanson, Acting Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Paul Lisi, Tax Collector/Treasurer; Nathan Steele; Ina Wilhelm, School Cte. Chair; Ron Veillette, Con.Com. Chair; Dick Stover; Tom Grizey, Sewer Manager

ABSENT: Roger Manzolini, Selectman

Al Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 28, 2022 Meeting of the Board: All edits having been made Neal moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022 as read. Al seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion and Vote on 216 March Hare Road Property: Paul Lisi explained the situation. The property was taken by tax title process and is currently owned by the Town. The owner reached out to Paul to request a thirty-day stay during which she believes it is possible to pay the back taxes and legal costs required to vacate the judgement, as well as satisfy the taxes due for August 1, 2022 and November 1, 2022. The Tax Title Attorney for the Town was consulted who recommended that the Town allow that thirty-day stay. The Board will have to vote to grant the thirty days (to November 11, 2022) for the owner to clear the taxes and costs. If she fails to render those payments in the form of a Bank Check to the Town by the deadline, the Tax Attorney will deliver a vacate order. Al moved to grant the thirty-day period for the remedial action by the homeowner. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous consent.

Paul will let the owner know of the approval of the Board.

Discussion and Scheduling of Special Town Meeting: Danielle advised the Board that it is necessary for the Town to Raise and appropriate an additional \$10,000.00 for debt service payments. Interest hikes occurred faster than anticipated, which created the shortfall. At the same meeting a warrant article could be created for prior year invoices, rather than waiting for the Annual Town Meeting, which vendors do not like. Suggested date for the Special Town Meeting was Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM. That would require that the Warrant be closed and approved by October 26, 2022 and posted by November 1, 2022 with November 3, 2022 the last day to vote.

Al asked Danielle if she was aware of anything else that might come up that should be included in the Warrant. Neal noted that there has been discussion in the town about whether Perry's Peak Road is a private or Town way and how the Town could move forward on this issue. However, there has been no communication with the Select Board with respect to a petition on that issue. October 26, 2022 would be the last day to add it to the warrant.

Neal moved to schedule a Special Town Meeting for November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM to raise and appropriate an additional \$10,000.00 for debt service on the new building and to pay prior year invoices and any other items that may come up. Al Hanson seconded the motion. The location for the Special Town Meeting is to be determined.

Public Comment: Nathan Steele, resident asked how long and to what extent has the Town maintained Perry's Peak Road. Al responded the Town has always maintained and plowed that road since it's inception. He was advised that the Town still must figure out what its status is. Danielle explained that the road has to be officially surveyed and adopted by a Town Meeting vote to establish it as a public way before the Land Court..

Neal said that the issue is currently before the Land Court and there is discussion in the town as to whether the Board would take the steps required to "take" the road as a Public Way, but that is not now an issue before the Board.

Dick Stover said that he will notify the Land Trust that if they intend to get on the Special Town Meeting Warrant time is short and they will need 100 signatures.

Discussion at an end, the vote on the motion to schedule the Special Town Meeting was taken and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION:

Invoice in the amount of \$470,832.77 – Neal moved to approve payment to David J. Tierney, Contractor, in the amount of \$470,832.77, which is a routine payment approved by the Project Manager and the Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Al and passed by unanimous vote.

Change Order in the amount of \$58,177.00 – which represents a total of four changes: Sprinkler system wiring, Electricity for water supply, circulation desk for the Library and administrative counters for the Clerk and the Tax Collector; Sheer wall changes for the Library which includes additional windows. The changes were approved by the Architect, the Project Manager and the Building Committee. Neal moved to authorize the additional payment of \$58,177.00 for the Change Order as per documents attached. He was seconded by Al and, there being no further discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Status of Building – Neal reported that all is going along well. The good weather has been helpful and there are walls up and the project is on schedule.

Public Comment: Ina Wilhelm, Chair of the Richmond School Committee, asked about the vote from the Board to approve the addition of two new members to the School Committee. As that vote was not included on this meeting's agenda, it will have to be deferred until the next meeting on October 26th. The item will be included in that meeting's agenda.

Town Administrator Updates: Danielle noted that the assessment process for the Municipal Vulnerability grant has begun. Pete has spent five hours with the engineers so far and will go

out again during a rainstorm to get a better look at how rainwater flows throughout town. This is a town wide assessment of every culvert in town, reviewing maps and creating hydrological maps to have a clearer picture of water flow. In November meetings and reviews will begin as well as public outreach to determine what works, what can be improved and to create a Management Plan. That Plan will not fix the problems right away but will provide a clear understanding of exactly what the problems are and what needs to be done to eliminate them. That will be crucial in applying for future grants to enable the Town to do the necessary upgrades.

Nathan Steele described rainwater problems on West Road that he believes are caused by the removal several years ago of a culvert on that road during repair. He described how the runoff causes damage to private properties and the gravel road itself. Danielle asked that he provide her with the documentation of the existence of the original culvert for the engineers. She added that the situation Nathan described is definitely on the radar for this study.

Neal said that storm runoff concerns for the Town represent a major financial investment and the expertise of a large number of specialists. The Town is doing its best to address an issue that is largely caused by global warming, but the cost to fix everything is not possible for a town this size and, although we are doing our best to minimize the problems, some issues will likely remain.

Danielle noted that ongoing maintenance is part of the program as is an effort to protect wetlands. Landowners will be asked for permission to walk the part of their properties that abut the railroad tracks near West Road to get a look at the situation there.

Ron Veillette said that the goal is keeping water out of streams and to capture sediment before it gets to the streams. There must be vegetation to absorb and filter the water and capture the sediment. We cannot treat streams like a sewer. He added that every landowner with a stream on their property has a responsibility to maintain the health of that stream. Danielle said that education of the public is a major part of this project.

Selectmen's Matters: Neal reiterated his belief that Town residents have a responsibility to do their part to manage storm water on their property, which comes along with living in a small, rural town.

Al asked about plans for Halloween: whether the Trick or Treat schedule for Richmond will be the same as Pittsfield as it has been in the past. The School PTA will be holding a Trick or Treat event on Friday, October 28th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at the school. There will be tables from the Fire Dept. and other local businesses. The date for Trick or Treating in Richmond and Pittsfield is always October 31st.

Al also reported a complaint he received from a resident of March Hare Road about the condition of that road.

Sewer Matters: Tom Grizey brought a request to the Board to purchase an additional two pumps, one for \$7,000.00 and one for \$9,000.00 to have on hand in case there is a failure of either one or the other of the two pumps currently in place. Danielle will check the budget and, if needed, can take the funds out of the Sewer Enterprise Funds at the Special Town Meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous vote.

Signed:

Alan Hanson, Acting Chair