

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

**Wednesday October 26, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Hybrid**

**PRESENT:** Roger Manzolini, Chair; Al Hanson, Selectman; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator, Brad Havill; Tom Forstner; Ina Wilhelm, School Committee Chair; Lisa Fairfield; Dick Stover; Holly Stover; Paul Lisi, Tax Collector/Treasurer

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**Approval of Minutes of the October 12, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Selectmen:** There being no questions or comments on the minutes, Neal moved to approve the minutes as read. He was seconded by Al and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**School Committee Appointment of Nate Steele and Tom Forstner:** Roger noted that Nate Steele was known to him and had been at the last meeting to answer questions, but he asked Tom Forstner to introduce himself and describe his interest in joining this committee.

Tom explained that in his current position he manages 13 people, which has provided the opportunity to be involved in how policies and procedures work, as well as the financial aspects and he has considerable background in successful conflict resolution. In addition, he is the father of a student of Richmond School. Ina Wilhelm voiced her strong recommendation for Tom's appointment.

The members of the Board having been satisfied with his qualifications, Roger moved to appoint Nate Steele and Tom Forstner to serve until the next election of School Committee members. Al seconded the motion, which passed with unanimous consent.

A short discussion ensued concerning the arrangement of the length of terms for the various committee members, which the School Committee determine.

**Recreation Committee Appointment of Brad Havill and Andy Leeco:** Neal noted that Jeff Konowitch, Chair of the Recreation Committee, requested these appointments. Brad noted that he has been attending meetings of the committee for a year and he is interested in recreation for young children and for everyone in the community. Neal remarked that he was familiar with Brad's work on the Municipal Building Committee and moved to approve the appointments of Brad Havill and Andy Leeco to the Recreation Committee for a one-year term. He was seconded by Al and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Burial Request from Lisa Fairfield for her father, Gordon Fairfield:** The family's burial plot was determined to have room for the burial of Mr. Gordon Fairfield and his wife. Al moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Neal and passed by unanimous consent.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant Approval and Closure:** Roger outlined the three warrant articles in question:

1. Raise and appropriate \$10,724.00 to cover the difference in debt service from the original estimate due to unanticipated increased interest rates.
2. Add \$3,438.00 to pay for prior year invoices received after the books were closed.
3. Transfer \$935. From Ambulance Receipts to Ambulance Expenses to pay an invoice

Neal moved to approve the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to take place on November 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM . Al seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

**TOWN CENTER DISCUSSION:** There were no issues to be discussed.

Neal noted that it was very exciting to watch the building taking shape. He appreciated the fact that photographs of the process have been circulated to the townspeople.

**Public Comment:** Dick Stover asked Danielle if there was any further information available on the Air B&B situation. Danielle said she had reached out to the State for information on the number of Richmond Air B&B's registered with the state that are paying the taxes. She explained that it has been very difficult to get anyone to respond.

Holly Stover reported that she had sent an email to the Board concerning the poor communication between the Berkshire Health Alliance and the Town. The Richmond Congregational Church will be holding a flu and COVID vaccination clinic on November 10<sup>th</sup>, but word of that was not received at Town Hall. Danielle replied that Nancy will coordinate directly with her from now on and notices of the upcoming clinic have been posted.

Dick Stover asked if the situation at 159 Willow Road had been resolved. Danielle responded that the Con. Com and the Building Inspector discussed the situation with the owner who has agreed to take care of it. He needs to come to Town Hall for a permit, which he has not yet done. In the meantime, he is being fined every day.

**Town Administrator Updates:** Danielle reported that work on the Storm Water Management Grant has completed the survey, which will be sent to residents with a link to the report in the newsletter, on the website, in Face Book, in the School Newsletter and in RPA email blasts. Notice was also sent to the *Richmond Record* and Danielle is working on a date for a table to be set up at the Library with copies of the survey information for those without access to computers. In addition, there will be hard copies available at Town Hall.

The initial assessment of Richmond and West Stockbridge has been completed. Over 350 culverts have been documented, mapped and visited and 6 miles of roads and stream crossings have been walked over.

On November 10, 2022 the initial meeting to discuss the findings and create hydrological maps will take place. After that initial meeting, Public meetings will be held to hear the results of the survey for residents so that they can offer the committee their opinions as to where the

problems are. That will offer the group the opportunity to compare the engineers' findings to the public's input to determine if everyone is on the same page and how to move forward. Emails, notices in the newsletter and flyers will announce those meeting dates and times.

Danielle reported that the Town has received a State Grant in the form of a Speed Radar Trailer (valued at \$15,000.00) at no charge to the Town. She is currently creating a Memorandum of Understanding with the MASS DOT. The agreement includes a requirement for the Town to report the speed information obtained for a period of three years. The Town is free to move the location of the trailer at will with the single requirement that it be placed on Swamp road for three weeks out of each year. Peter Beckwith will be in charge of the device and be responsible for sending the data to the State.

Halloween Trick or Treating will take place on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, which is the same schedule for Pittsfield. The Richmond School will have Trick or Treat tables at the school on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. The Fire Dept., the Library and the Town will each have tables there.

For the final Town Administrator Update, Danielle turned the floor over to Paul Lisi. Paul announced that he has submitted a letter of resignation as of November 25, 2022. He noted his willingness to help in the transition process and to be available to Danielle through the month of February as needed to instruct the new collector in how Sewer Betterment bills are dealt with and how to use Softright. Paul asked that a member of the Board perform an exit interview with him at their convenience.

The members of the Board thanked Paul for his years of service. Holly and Dick Stover added their thanks and wishes for the future to that of the Board.

**Selectmen's Matters:** Al noted that he will sign the Farmland of Local Importance papers for Al Averill and send it to him.

**Sewer Matters:** Danielle noted that money for the back-up pumps Tom has identified as needed is available and they will be ordered. Roger noted that the Town is now in a much better position should there ever be an emergency pump failure.

There being no further business before the Board, Neal moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Al and adopted by unanimous consent.

Signed:

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Roger Manzolini, Chair