

BORD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 14, 2024 6:00 P.M. HYBRID

Present – Alan Hanson, Roger Manzolini, Neal Pilson, Danielle Fillio, Peter Beckwith

Appointment of Cemetery Plot Manager – Peter Beckwith, Highway Superintendent, explained that with the resignation of Steve Parsons as Cemetery Superintendent, the position has been split into two. He will be the Cemetery Superintendent and grounds maintenance and Rich Atwood will be the plot manager. Roger Manzolini made a motion to appoint Rich Atwood as Plot Manager. Neal Pilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Appointment of Mehernosh Khan, MD to Board of Health. The Board read a request from Valerie Bird, Board of Health Agent, to appoint Dr. Mehernosh Kahn to the Board of Health. Roger Manzolini made a motion to appoint Dr. Kahn until the next Town election. Neal Pilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Vote on Increasing Certain Town Fees – Danielle Fillio presented a fee schedule increase to the Board of Selectmen to bring Richmond up to comparable levels with surrounding towns. Al Hanson made a motion to increase the fees for Municipal Lien Certificates to \$50. Roger Manzolini seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Neal Pilson made a motion to increase the fees for Dog Licenses to \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$20 non-spayed/neutered. Al Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Neal Pilson made a motion to increase the fees for Wire Inspections to \$75. Al Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Neal Pilson made a motion to add a \$75 Janitorial Fee to the Town Hall Community Room Rental Policy to cover costs for staff working weekends (set-up/breakdown). Al Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Gift of Piano – Joy Mullen and Seth Hoffman gave a presentation on a baby grand piano that Mr. Hoffman wishes to donate to the Town. I would be kept in the Community Room for events and private use. Joy explained what it would entail for upkeep, where it should be stored, and how it could be moved. The Board thanked them for their presentation and said they would get back to him as soon as possible after speaking with staff on logistics.

Paint Stewardship Legislation for Massachusetts – Thomas Irwin presented to the Board a paint stewardship program that he is trying to get approved through the legislature. The program would allow individuals to return their unused or old paint back to the stores free of charge to be recycled and disposed of accordingly. No votes or decisions were made by the Board at this time.

Driveway Permit – Sleepy Hollow Road for Joseph Short – Pete Beckwith presented the application to the Board for approval stating that Conservation, Building, and Fire had already signed off. Pete spoke with the owner regarding culvert size and had no further conditions. Roger Manzolini made a motion to approve the permit as presented. Al Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Review of Old Town Hall RFP – Danielle Fillio reviewed the RFP with the Board to discuss changes made by the Board and Town attorney after the last meeting. The

points discussed and confirmed were wording changes in the evaluation criteria (making all evaluation criteria follow the same language), confirming title requirements, and the minimum bid amount and bid due date. Danielle stated that she would like to use the beginning of April depending on posting requirements. The Board asked to have walkthroughs as well as set “Open House” dates where a town employee/representative will be on site for tours and questions. Danielle will arrange this with Bobby Hammer and Pete Beckwith and add the above-mentioned language to the RFP. Roger Manzolini made a motion to accept the changes as discussed and to allow Danielle to move forward with the advertising. Neal Pilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Collector Advertisement – Danielle Fillio let the Board know that Jodi Hollingsworth had given her two-weeks’ notice. Danielle requested permission to be able to post the Treasurer Collector position as soon as possible. Roger Manzolini made a motion to allow Danielle to make the post. Al Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Flag Flying Policy – Danielle Fillio presented the Board with a Flag Flying Policy, a written policy of what the Town’s past practice has been. She explained that to be able to enforce the past practice it would need to become a policy. A policy that states that the only flags allowed to be flown on town-owned properties are flags of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Town of Richmond, various flags of military branches, and the MIA-POW flag. After discussion the Board requested to change the wording to include Town owned or leased properties. Roger Manzolini made a motion to adopt the Policy with requested changes pending town council approval. Neal Pilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes – Postponed until next meeting

Public Comment - None

Selectmen Matters – Neal Pilson gave an update on a meeting he attended with Steve Traver, and representatives from West Stockbridge, and Stockbridge regarding potential shared Fire and EMS services. He noted that although they are in the talking phase, it is most likely that Richmond would not be interested in a three-way arrangement due to increased distance and response time. Austin White let the Board know that if Richmond moves forward with three towns it would require 24-7 staffing.

Sewer Matters – Pete Beckwith provided information on the service, repair and updates of generators and fire extinguishers. He also gave an update on residents who want to bypass their pre-existing grinder pump and use gravity alone as it is possible that it may come before them as Sewer Commissioners. Pete did explain to the resident that they had to have an engineer stamped plan stating they could bypass the grinder pump with no issues.

Adjournment – With no further business, Al Hanson made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Neal Pilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.