

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ SEWER COMMISSIONERS
Richmond Town Hall
November 15, 2023 6:00 PM

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

1. Approval of Minutes of September 13th and 27th and October 11th. The Board chose to postpone the approval of minutes for more time to review.
2. Appointment of Cultural Council Member Jessy Turner – The Board read a recommendation from the Cultural Council chair for the appointment of Jessy Turner as well as the letter of interest from Jessy to be on the committee as neither could be present at the meeting. Neal made a motion to appoint Jessy Turner to the Cultural Council, Roger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
3. Conservation Restriction – Berkshire Natural Resource Swamp Road and East Road – Berkshire Natural Resources asked the Board to accept the conservation restriction on East Road across from Jane Kelley. She donated the property to the Richmond Land Trust that already owned property on that side of the road. The Land Trust would like to put it in a conservation restriction for recreation and preservation. The Board thanked Jane for her generous donation. Roger made a motion to accept the conservation restriction, Neal seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. Municipal Aggregate Vote to move forward – The Board of Selectmen discussed the next steps for the Municipal Aggregation plan. Danielle explained that now that the plan had been posted for public comment for 30 days the Board needed to vote to accept and approve the Aggregation Plan. Roger made a motion to accept and approve the Aggregation Plan as presented for submittal to the DOER and DPU. Alan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. Town Center Discussion – Roger gave an update on the new building stating that the building was complete. There was still a punch list of items that were being worked out but not enough to withhold the final payment. Roger made a motion to approve the final payment to Tierney in the amount of \$383,681.35. Neal seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Roger explained that they had change order #9 which included kitchen hot water heater, electrical repairs, and fire system changes in the amount of \$11,110. He made a motion to approve said change order. Neal seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
6. Discussion of Town Hall Room Rental Agreement – Danielle gave the Board two different versions of room rental agreements and asked that the Board review them and let her know their preference so that she can come up with a draft based on how they wanted it. The Board agreed that it would be addressed at the next meeting.
7. Public Comment Time Limitations – The Board had a discussion on putting time limits on public comment to keep the meetings more manageable. A discussion was had on possible time limits such as five (5) minutes per person or possibly per topic. It was noted that the Board will still allow public comment on specific topics that are on the agenda as they have always done. This would just be under the public comment portion. The Board made no decision.
8. Public Comment

Dick Stover expressed concerns regarding the potholes on East Road. Danielle said it was on the list of the Highway Department.

Holly Stover made several comments about the condition of East Road and potholes and ditches and her disappointment and frustration with the continued maintenance of gravel roads. She stated that she felt the Town Highway Department is very inexperienced and that she would be happy to show the Board how the maintenance should be done.

She announced the pancake breakfast to benefit the food and fuel program is on Saturday the 19th from 7:30 to 10 AM at the school.

Holly said the town has an inexperienced Conservation Commission and was happy that they were seeking help from Mark Stinson at the DEP.

Holly asked if a Sewer Advisory Commission meeting had been scheduled regarding the status of the sewer bills and Betterments. She also asked if a job description had been done yet for the Sewer Department and suggested that Danielle work with Tom Grizey to get that done.

9. Town Administrator Updates – None

10. Selectmen Matters – None

11. Adjournment – 7:53 PM