

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners
July 6, 2016 Minutes
Town Hall, 1529 State Road, Richmond, Massachusetts

ATTENDING: Alan Hanson; Neal Pilson; Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator; Katherine Zahn, Town Secretary

Absent: Roger Manzolini, Chairman

Others Attending: Stevan Patterson; Jennifer Sabino; Tom Grizey

Mr. Hanson, as acting chair, opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

The Board reviewed the minutes of June 22, 2016. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 22, 2016 as amended.

Mr. Patterson, Chair of the Energy Conservation Committee, appeared before the Board this evening. He related that in 2008 the ECC was created as an *ad hoc* committee charged with investigating Town (DPW, RCS and Town Hall) energy use; potential energy use reduction/savings measures and "green energy" options and reporting its findings to the Board subsequently. In 2012 the ECC presented to the Board a 5 year energy reduction plan that reflected a 20% reduction in energy use over the term. The Board approved and adopted the plan thus positioning the Town to qualify for "green community status" and enabling the Town to apply for state funding of green energy projects. A state grant of \$137,500.00 was issued to the Town and a portion used for energy reduction improvements based upon energy audits conducted at the Town Hall and DPW buildings. Given the age, construction and condition of the Town Hall building not all energy saving measures recommended were implemented, however, some replacement windows and a new rear entrance door were installed. Mr. Patterson was not certain of the energy savings measures taken at the DPW garage. He stated that approximately \$115,000.00 of state grant funds remain unspent. He remarked that funds budgeted and warranted for an energy audit of the RCS were insufficient to cover the estimated cost of \$50k for a significant engineering study including the structural and mechanical systems of the school building.

The possibility of placing solar panels on the DPW roof, the School roof or a ground mounted solar array at the Town landfill site was discussed. Mr. Patterson related that the Patrick administration provided the Town with information regarding a state program to support a solar panel array at the RCS through a lease program. Seemingly critical mass required for the output of such a system was lacking. Mr. Hanson suggested reaching out to solar companies to provide an assessment of the Town landfill site for solar array location. Discussion ensued concerning posting a notice or issuing an invitation to bid. Referring to critical mass Mr. Patterson commented that a metering cap may exist that limits the number of solar array installations. The Board agreed to table the matter for the next meeting when the full Board is present.

Mr. Patterson commented that installing LED lighting in his home resulted in substantial energy use reduction. He related that a lease program through Eversource

may be used for installation of new ballasts and LED bulbs. He duly noted that the Board tabled discussion with the ECC to July 13th.

Regarding sewer matters, Mr. Patterson remarked that questions about the sewer betterment account have arisen. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that he had spoken with interim Town Administrator Peter Fohlin about the matter and related that a forensic audit of the sewer accounts had not been done. A meeting with the sewer user households is set for August 4th.

Jennifer Sabino, 310 Shore Rd., appeared before the Board this evening to relate an incident of a dog attack. Ms. Sabino alleged that she was walking her dogs near the Town boat ramp when she was attacked by a German shepherd dog. She claimed that the owner of the dog did not talk with her and drove away with two dogs in the vehicle. Ms. Sabino reported the vehicle license plate and the incident to the state police. She received treatment for her injuries at the local BMC emergency room. She stated that she does not have puncture wounds and that dog saliva may have come in contact with her skin abrasions. She may seek rabies treatment shots. She claimed that Cindy Bartlett is the owner of the dogs and that neither dog has a current rabies vaccine.

Mr. Pruhenski confirmed his conversation with the Animal Control Officer regarding the reporting of the incident and steps taken to quarantine the dogs. He confirmed that the state police responded and will issue a report. Ms. Zahn confirmed that the Town dog licensing database reflects that Ron and Cindy Bartlett have two dogs licensed currently. Mr. Grizey commented that witnesses at the scene also spoke to the state police. Ms. Sabino pointed out that there is no signage at the Town boat ramp relative to leash law. She requested that such signage be posted.

Discussion ensued about the posting of signage and Town beach rules and regulation enforcement. The Town beach rules state that no dogs are allowed at the beach. Enforcement of this rule has come into question. Mr. Grizey related that this rule can not be enforced presently based upon an incident with a dog owner at the Town beach two years ago. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that the Animal Control Officer can enforce the state leash law and Town by-law. Mr. Pilson pointed out that the Town Beach is located in the City of Pittsfield and may be subject to Pittsfield's by-laws. The Board agreed to follow up with Pittsfield ACO, Joe Chague, regarding enforcement of the no dogs allowed on the beach rule and dealing with unleashed dogs at the Town beach area.

Mr. Hanson remarked that the boat ramp area is on Town property and the boat ramp is within the jurisdiction of the state. The state leash law applies throughout the state and is enforced by the ACO in each municipality.

Mr. Pilson queried if a reciprocal agreement could be made between the Town ACO and the Pittsfield ACO so that the Town ACO could take control of enforcement at the Town beach. He suggested that Town beach rules signage be posted at the gated entrance to the Town beach adjacent to the Town boat ramp and that state leash law signage be posted at the Town boat ramp area. The Board agreed to table the matter to the next meeting when the full Board is present.

The Selectmen signed the Warrants.

Mr. Pruhenski related to the Board that Kenneth Lieblein could not appear this evening to discuss a request for placement of a stop sign at the intersection of West and Rossiter Roads. He explained that Mr. Lieblein is concerned that bushes and vegetation growth within the Town right of way impede a clear line of sight at the intersection. DPW input will be requested. The Board agreed to table the matter to the next meeting when the full Board is present. Mr. Pruhenski intends to view the area.

The Board reviewed the FY-17 DPW employee agreements. The agreements reflect the FY-17 3% raise in salary approved at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting. The Board agreed to table execution of the agreements until the next meeting when the full Board is present.

The Board reviewed a list of appointments to Town Boards and Commissions and of Town Officials. In accordance with state law and Town bylaw and invoking the rule of necessity Mr. Hanson made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to make the following appointments unless otherwise noted:

One year term effective July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017:

Agricultural Commission- Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Robert Dahlen; John Vittori and Alan Hanson.

Fire Chief/Hazardous Waste Coordinator-Stephen Traver; the Board noted that this appointment includes the duties of Oil Burner Inspector; Propane Inspector (outdoors-to-tank); Smoke and CO2 Detector Inspector

Constables-Francis Malnati, Eric Latimer, Thomas Grizey and Ryan Malumphy
Police Chief-William Bullett

Fence Viewers- Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Katherine Zahn, Alan Hanson and Roger Manzolini
Field Driver-HOLD

Animal Control Officer-John Springstube

Emergency Management Director-Thomas Grizey

Emergency Management Director Assistant-Steve Traver

Town Counsel-Hannon Lerner

Three year term effective July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019

Conservation Commission-Ronald Veillette, Nick Martinelli

Historical Commission-Virginia Larkin

Recreation Committee-Jeff Konowitch, Rachel Kanz, Holly Freadman and Chris Begley

Zoning Board of Appeals-Wendy Laurin, Linda Kay and Richard K. Stover, Jr.,

Cultural Council-Frieda Pilson, Regina Serkin, Sandra Flannery and Irma Godlin

Council on Aging-Kathleen McMahon, Patricia Malnati and Betsy Bemis

Registrar of Voters-Katherine Zahn

Assessors-Diane Pero

The Board reviewed updated standard operating guidelines submitted by Fire Chief Traver. The SOGs include a junior members section and a safety/accountability officer

section. The radio use section was edited and social media guidelines added. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the SOGs. Mr. Pilson noted that he did not see a drug testing section in the SOGs and questioned if a policy exists that applies to Fire Department volunteers. Mr. Pruhenski will follow up with Chief Traver and report to the Board accordingly.

The Board discussed the appointment of an Alternate Plumbing/Alternate Gas Inspector. Mr. Pruhenski related that Mr. Gennari recommended Bob Krupski based upon his current professional relationship. The Board agreed to hold the appointment until the next meeting when a full Board is present.

The Board reviewed an information technology contract for FY-17. The proposal submitted by Anteris has been reviewed by Mr. Pruhenski and Town Treasurer Paul Lisi. The contract covers IT network services for systems at Town Hall. IT services at the RCS are not included. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that there is no provision for automatic or obligatory purchase of hardware. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract.

There was no mail for the Board to review this evening.

Mr. Pilson suggested that the Board begin meeting twice monthly commencing in August with the understanding that other meetings may be held should the need arise. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Hanson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to meet twice monthly on a trial basis commencing the second and fourth Wednesday evenings in August. Mr. Pilson noted that the *Town news* and calendar should reflect this change. Mr. Pruhenski will follow up.

Mr. Pruhenski updated the Board on the vacancy in the School Committee and ZBA. The vacancies have been announced in the Richmond Record and Town news. Adeline Ellis, Paula Patterson and Matthew Palardy have expressed interest in the School Committee seat. Mr. Palardy's letter of interest was recently forwarded to the School Committee Chair. A joint meeting with the School Committee is planned for July 27th. The ZBA appointment shall be posted on the July 13th Selectmen meeting agenda.

Mr. Pruhenski advised the Board that the wheelchair will be delivered to the DPW garage this Thursday. Relative to the COA a reminder that one week's notice is needed to schedule a ride will be posted in the COA newsletter.

Mr. Pilson was pleased to relate that the recent COA sponsored luncheon/lecture event was well attended. Partnering in the future with the West Stockbridge COA for shared services may be a possibility. The topic of shared services will be discussed at the next Long Range Planning Committee meeting scheduled for July 19th at 7:00 p.m. Other topics the LRPC intends to address include exploring sustainability and shared services options for the RCS, Town Hall, Library, a community center and the COA; updating the Richmond brochure and discussion of affordable housing and soliciting input from townspeople through a series of public forums.

Mr. Pruhenski reported to the Board that his attempts to contact Jeff Daigle, Board of Assessors Chair by email and telephone were unsuccessful. He did speak to Mrs. Daigle who stated that Mr. Daigle is out of town on business.

Mr. Grizey informed the Board that the Elm Rd. pump was clogged by a cleaning cloth necessitating pulling and repairing the pump. The clog damaged the capacitor and relay switch. Parts on hand were used to make the repair and replacement parts have been ordered. Describing the labor and expenses involved in making the repair and in an effort to prevent a future issue he asked for the Sewer Commissioners permission to redistribute the sewer user notice to the 20 households served by the Elm Rd. pumping station. He intends to intercept professional and private housecleaners if possible and give them the notice as well. The Board gave Mr. Grizey permission to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Roger Manzolini, Chairman

