

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners
September 20, 2016 Minutes
Town Hall, 1529 State Road, Richmond, Massachusetts

ATTENDING: Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson; Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator
Absent: Alan Hanson; Katherine Zahn, Town Secretary
Others Attending: Andy Kay; Dick Stover; Debbie Boland; Pete Killeen; John Mason; Doug Bruce, Berkshire Natural Resource Council; Pat Mullins, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Wendy Laurin, Affordable Housing Committee; Gerald Coppola, DPW Superintendent

Mr. Manzolini opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. and stated that the meeting is being recorded.

The Board considered making appointments to the Sewer Advisory Committee. The SAC was originally comprised of five members and those appointments expired in 2010. There are five open seats now on the SAC and four applicants were present this evening. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to appoint the four applicants, Andy Kay; Dick Stover; Debbie Boland and Pete Killeen to the Sewer Advisory Committee for a three year term.

The Board discussed a vacancy on the Council on Aging; currently six of the seven total seats are filled. Christopher Doyle expressed interest in the vacancy. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Manzolini seconded and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Doyle to the COA.

Doug Bruce of the Berkshire Natural Resource Council appeared before the Board this evening to discuss a request that wooden guardrails be installed along the newly paved section of Lenox Road and to discuss a matter of signage. He provided the Board with a letter, copy attached.

Mr. Bruce referred to the current Lenox Road construction project and requested the Board consider installation of a "watch out for hikers" sign along the roadway westerly of the Olivia's Overlook trailhead. He stated that the BNRC had asked the Board about this in the past and noted that now is a good time to consider BNRC's request considering that the road rebuilding project is underway. Installation of a yellow 12 x 12 sign 200' easterly from Olivia's Overlook parking lot, near the Lenox Road and Lenox Branch Road intersection, is proposed. A similar sign is expected to be placed along Lenox Road westerly of the parking lot as well. Acknowledging the vehicular and concomitantly the pedestrian traffic Mr. Bruce stated that BRNC is considering installing a "hikers watch out" sign along the trail as well. The Board expressed support of the signage and Mr. Bruce expects to file an application for signage that is compliant with Town bylaw. Placement of signs would be done subsequent to completion of the road construction project and Mr. Bruce expects to coordinate this with the DPW.

Mr. Bruce related that guardrail replacement is slated in Richmond as part of the Lenox Road construction project. While acknowledging safety as a priority the BNRC requests that the replacement guardrails be something that doesn't detract from the natural scenery in the area rather than the standard shiny guardrails typically used. The BNRC requests the Board consider exploring alternative materials. The Board related that State standards must be complied with. Mr. Mason referred to the section of Rockwell Road in Lanesboro traversing Mt. Greylock that the State rebuilt a few years ago. The new guardrails along the entire roadway, inclusive of areas

adjacent to drop-offs, are a wooden system with metal bars in the back. Mr. Mason shared some photos of the guardrails. He pointed out that the State used these guardrails recently and submitted same as an example of an alternative and a possibility for consideration. Mr. Mason did not know if these guardrails meet required standards.

Mr. Pilson asked if Lenox was aware of this style of guardrail; he related that the Board received notice from the Lenox DPW that a waiver of liability from Richmond (holding Lenox harmless) would be required if the standard steel guardrails were not used. This could come into play in the event of a lawsuit against Richmond. Mr. Manzolini stated that he has no issue with BNRC looking into alternative materials but it may drive up the cost and would be funded by chapter 90 monies. Mr. Pruhenski confirmed that the guardrail replacement in Richmond will not be funded by Richmond's Chapter 90 funds; Lenox is funding the guardrail replacement in Richmond. Mr. Pruhenski noted that the Richmond DPW is not involved in managing the (guardrail aspect) of the project. Mr. Bruce related that according to Shawn VanDuesen, Lenox DPW superintendent, Lenox will pay for the guardrail system installed in Richmond, specifically the guardrails materials that Richmond selects. There may be an issue when engineers certify the materials. Mr. Bruce asked if Richmond DPW was looking into alternative guardrails, he pointed out that he would need advice on technical information such as the length required and that he intends to keep Richmond DPW "in the loop". Mr. Manzolini stated that he had no issue with BNRC proposing something but liability is a concern. Mr. Pilson added that safety issues are a concern; presumably steel rails provide the most protection. He suggested that the BNRC set up a meeting with Lenox DPW and that he would attend. Mr. Bruce related that the Lenox DPW Superintendent told him to "find out what Richmond want and we'll do it." Mr. Pilson agreed to check and see if any steel guardrails have been installed along Lenox Road. The Board advised Mr. Bruce to pursue the matter.

Ms. Mullins and Ms. Laurin appeared before the Board this evening to discuss continuation of an agreement. A proposal from BRPC regarding assisting the AHC through the end of the calendar year was provided for the Board to review. Mr. Pruhenski clarified that if the Board chooses to continue the consulting agreement the appropriation from Town Meeting would be used to fund the contract. Ms. Mullins explained that AHC meetings had ceased and now are ready to commence again. Ms. Laurin confirmed that it would be helpful for the AHC to continue working with BRPC. There are vacancies in the AHC and the Board agreed to post the vacancies and consider recommendations to fill the vacant seats.

Mr. Pilson related that efforts are being undertaken to accelerate the work of the LRPC and, assuming approval of the BRPC consulting agreement expenditure, he requested that a report/recommendation from the AHC be ready by the end of the year. Ms. Mullins stated that this is part of the proposal. A meeting to allow for public input is planned.

The Board reviewed the contract. Mr. Manzolini asked if the work would continue in the event that funds run out. Ms. Mullins replied in the affirmative. Mr. Manzolini noted that output (in the form of a report) is not specified in the contract. Ms. Mullins explained that funding was needed to continue meetings in order to discuss and prepare such. She clarified that the report will be presented to the Selectmen in writing. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the contract and Mr. Manzolini executed same.

Mr. Pruhenski presented the Board with a contract in the amount of \$5,407.50 for a video production developed through the efforts of the LRSWG. Mr. Manzolini confirmed that this was the contract discussed at the previous Board meeting and executed same.

The Board reviewed the request of the Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club for a one day license for the annual chili and chowder event at Camp Russell to be held on Saturday, September 24th. Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Manzolini seconded and the Board approved and issued the license.

The Board reviewed the request of Bartlett's Orchard for a one day license for an event at Camp Russell held on Saturday, September 17th. Mr. Manzolini noted that a decision was made in an administrative capacity to issue the license prior to this evening's meeting. Mr. Pilson approved the issuance of the license

The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 24, 2016 meeting, Mr. Pilson made a motion, Mr. Manzolini seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Manzolini signed same.

Mr. Coppola presented the Board with Chapter 90 documents. He related that paving projects are slated for Swamp, Summit, Sleepy Hollow, Monument Circle and Osceola Notch Roads. Mr. Manzolini signed the funding documents.

Mr. Pilson explained to Mr. Coppola that the BNRC also proposed road and trail signage installation. Mr. Coppola confirmed that he is familiar with the proposed "ironwood" road guardrail system but had not known about the proposed placement of trailside signage. He remarked that the standard steel system is probably the better option for the roadway. He requested that clarity regarding who is paying for what is needed. He related that no compensation has been paid to Richmond for assisting Lenox with the water line work and confirmed that the work was not actually billed. He suggested that whoever agrees to pay for the work should order the signage.

The Board thanked the DPW for replacing the stop sign on Sleepy Hollow Road.

Mr. Manzolini opened discussion of an electricity contract for the Town. Mr. Pruhenski provided price quotes from Hampshire Energy Group and Proton Energy Group reflecting terms of 12, 24 and 35 months. He noted that given the volatility in energy costs the contract pricing quotes are only good for 48 hours. PEG offers the lowest price of .0839 for the 12 month term; HEG offers the lowest price for both the 24 months at \$.0917/kwh and a 36 month term at \$.0931/kwh. \$.1217 is the current contracted price with Hampshire; this two-year term contract expires in November. Mr. Manzolini suggested going with the 36 month contract with HEG.

Mr. Pruhenski pointed out that the landfill is zoned for a solar array. He spoke with a company who visited the landfill site and did some initial site work. Yesterday the company contacted Mr. Pruhenski and confirmed that the site is suitable for a 1 megawatt system. The company would own the array, the Town would purchase power from the company and the Town could sell excess power to a neighboring community.

Mr. Manzolini stated that he would like to pursue the Town owning or leasing the system. Mr. Pilson pointed out that the Town does not receive a federal tax benefit. Mr. Manzolini pointed out the benefit of revenue produced by such a system. He added that he would be interested in a proposal if the Town is offered free power. Given the feasibility of a

solar array installation on the site Mr. Pruhenski asked the Board to consider a contract with a term for less than 3 years. Mr. Manzolini urged Mr. Pruhenski to continue discussions with the company. Mr. Pruhenski would like to invite the company in to talk with the Board and will pursue discussion. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to enter into the two-year term contract with HEG at \$.09176 /kWh. Mr. Manzolini executed the contract. Mr. Pruhenski will deliver the contract tomorrow.

The Board discussed recognition of the Town's eldest resident, Marie Truran. The Board plans to attend a birthday party on September 25th at 750 Lenox Road and plans to present the cane and a plaque to Mrs. Truran at 3:00 p.m. The Historical Society holds the cane and the plaque with all honorary recipients names thereon at the Library. The cane is given and held by the recipient and at a suitable juncture must be returned to the Library for the next recipient. Mr. Pruhenski contacted "Smitty" Pignatelli's office to request a certificate of recognition from the Governor's office but has not received a response.

The Board discussed a project for dredging/hydro-raking of the Richmond Pond canal. The Richmond Pond Association discussed the matter at their last meeting. Solitude, a weed management company, did a site visit and estimates the cost of hydro-raking between \$51,000.00-\$57,400.00 for removing the first 6" to 1' of sediment and associated vegetation. This estimate does not include permitting, material handling or removal. Mr. Coppola related that a permit would be required from conservation and DEP for hauling and storage of the material. Discussion ensued concerning options for hauling away the material. He added that in the past a cutter was used to trim weeds.

Mr. Pruhenski related that the project would require an engineer, the filing of a NOI and associated permitting. He noted that dredging is a more lengthy process for which no estimates were obtained. Mr. Pilson remarked that all the small ponds in Town are affected by silt and vegetation including those used for fire protection. He suggested that Solitude be asked if there is a grant program for saving the ponds and canal. Mr. Manzolini considered a non-binding request to get feedback of public opinion about funding the project. Mr. Pruhenski suggested that effort from the RPA would be needed. The Board requested Mr. Pruhenski to pursue options and to continue discussions with the RPA to see if they would entertain shared costs.

The Board opened discussion of a contract with Anteris for replacement of computers and service contracts. Mr. Pruhenski related that the server needs to be replaced soon. Negotiations have resulted in an estimate of \$8,925.00 to purchase a new server; this estimate includes licenses, data transfer, off-site backup and 30 hours of labor. Currently, budgeted funds are insufficient to purchase the server outright. An option is to enter into a three year lease at a \$281.00 monthly payment with an early payoff option. The estimated \$1,192.00 interest over the three year term will be less if paid off earlier. An option is to request the payoff at a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Manzolini made a motion, Mr. Pilson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve entering into a lease agreement for the server with Anteris. Mr. Pruhenski expects to provide the Board with an estimate for replacement of computers at the next meeting.

There were no warrants for the Board to sign this evening.

The Board opened discussion of sewer matters. Mr. Grizey reported that recalibration of the sewer pumping equipment was done earlier this week. Mr. Pruhenski commented that the bill for the calibration was paid today. Inspections stickers were affixed to the equipment and remain in place for inspection by the City of Pittsfield. Mr. Grizey related that before the cold winter weather sets in a bioxide application will be needed at the Camp Russell pumping station. Mr. Grizey will make arrangements for delivery and the Town will be billed for the service. He noted that materials to replace a rusting pipe have been received and the repair will be done soon. When queried Mr. Grizey confirmed that the radar meter reads the velocity of the water going through the pipe. This meter was recently replaced. To become better acquainted with sewer operations Mr. Pilson and Mr. Manzolini requested that Mr. Grizey give them a tour of the pumping stations.

The Selectmen meet jointly with the LRPC on September 22nd and meet solely on September 28th. *will*

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Manzolini".

