

Board of Selectmen/ Sewer Commissioners Minutes
Wednesday September 17, 2023
Zoom Only

Members Present: Mr. Hanson-Chair, Mr. Pilson, Mr. Manzolini

Others Present: Danielle Fillio (Town Administrator), Mr. Stover, Ms. Bird(Health Agent), Ms. Mayer, Ms. Donovan, Mr. Fanto, Mr. White(EMT coordinator), Mr. Miller, Ms. Markowitz

Mr. Hanson opened the meeting at 6:00PM

1. Approval of August 9th minutes.

Mr. Pilson made a motion to approve the August 9th, 2023, minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hanson and passed unanimously by roll call vote. The vote for approval of the August 23, 2023, minutes was postponed to the next selectmen's meeting.

2. Richmond Shores Interprint Trailer Truck discussion Ms. Fillio stated she heard from Mr. Stankowski about his inquiry to the state DOT. He stated that he was told that the DOT does not get involved with signage for private business, so they will not put up any signs directing trucks to Interprint coming off the highway. Mr. Stankowski suggested to Ms. Fillio that maybe the state would work with the town. Mr. Pilson stated that the signs the town has put up just aren't working and that something needs to be done. He suggested the signs be larger and that they have more information on them. They need to have the height and size of trucks that can pass through the roads, maybe with larger signs that have the maximum height and size appropriate for those roads the truckers will pay more attention to them. He stated that he had samples from other towns of their signs, he admitted that the signs were not 100% effective, but nothing would be except for putting up a blockade into the roads. The Selectmen agreed to have a get together to look at signs from other towns and try to come up with the wording and signage that would be the best for Richmond. Mr. Miller asked if he could be present at the meeting, he lives in the Shores.

3. Appointment of new Fire Fighter EMT

Mr. Pilson stated he read the applicant's application and that she seems very experienced and has very good credentials. Mr. White spoke on her behalf since she was unable to make the meeting. He stated both he and the Fire Chief think she would be a great asset to the department. Mr. Hanson made a motion to appoint Ms. Tanelle Ciempa as a new Fire Fighter/ EMT, it was seconded by Mr. Pilson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. West Stockbridge Marijuana Farm affecting Richmond Residents

Ms. Mayer spoke on behalf of the residents of Dean Hill Road, Baker Street and Cross Road. She stated that the smell and eye irritants produced by the Farm is making outdoor life for residents of those roads almost impossible. She stated that the growers don't seem to have any odor controls in place. Mr. Pilson stated he spoke with town counsel after his conversation with Ms. Mayer. Town Counsel informed him that the Town doesn't have any standing to bring an action or to appear on behalf of its residents in a legal situation. He stated the town can support its residents but cannot force or sue the Town of West Stockbridge. He did state that he would make the concerns known to the West Stockbridge Selectmen. He requested Ms. Fillio to obtain the special permit that West Stockbridge issued for the farm for the residents to read to make sure that all the permit stipulations are being adhered to. Ms. Fillio stated that Ms. Ryan(West

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Stockbridge Town Administrator) told her that the West Stockbridge Board of Health was looking into the issues that MS. Mayer discussed and that they will be holding a meeting about it. Ms. Fillio suggested that Ms. Mayer contact Ms. Ryan. Mr. Pilson stated he would also attend the West Stockbridge meetings. He suggested that the residents should contact our local state officials.

5. Town Center discussion-

Ms. Fillio stated she would have the final payment information at the next meeting. Ms. Fillio stated that they are working on the final touches and that the plan is for the movers to come on October 3 to start moving from the old town hall to the new town hall. Mr. Manzolini stated that the town now has control of the building. He stated that approximately 300 people came to the two open houses for the new building. Ms. Fillio stated she would like to close the town hall to the public Thursday September 28 and the first week of October because of all the boxes create a dangerous space for residents to try and navigate around. The Selectmen requested that if people come in on Thursday to pay a tax they are allowed. Ms. Fillio stated that of course that would be allowed. She will send out a notification that the building will be closed to the public.

6. Discussion of Status of Board of Health (Valerie Bird)

Ms. Bird stated that the 5-member board is now down to 4 members with several members possibly going to leave the board. She suggested that the town could have a 3-member board which many of the smaller towns in Berkshire County have. They could also be appointed members to allow for members from other communities. The Selectmen could eliminate the board and take over its duties. She stated with the Alliance handling most of the Board of Health issues for the town there really aren't a lot of issues that the board must deal with. Mr. Manzolini stated he would like it on the next meeting agenda following a board of health meeting. Ms. Bird suggested that they consult town counsel.

7. Appointment of Ted Piontec as second Alternate Wire Inspector

Ms. Fillio stated that our full-time wire inspector has been in the hospital and there is no known point when he will return. He suggested that Mr. Cooper be the alternate and have his name and phone number be given out if someone calls for the wire inspector's information. Issues have come up because on the website we have the name of a different person as the alternate wiring inspector and many residents have been calling him. It was decided that the town could have all 3 people be alternate wiring inspectors. Mr. Pilson made a motion to appoint Mr. Carl Cooper, Mr. Ted Piontec and Ryan Barzousky as alternate wiring inspectors as of July 1, 2023, it was seconded by Mr. Hanson and passed unanimously.

8. Setting date of Special Town Meeting

Ms. Fillio explained that the solar bids are due back by the 13 of October, so the meeting needs to be set with enough time for the bids to be opened and discussed but still fall within the 30 days which the bids are good for. She has set the meeting for Monday October 23, 2023. The warrant was posted on October 10 without the actual bid amounts since they haven't yet been

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opened. Mr. Hanson made a motion to have the Special Town Meeting on Monday October 23, 2023, it was seconded by Mr. Pilson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. 2024 Appointment- Deferred to another meeting.

10. Discussion of restarting Long Range Planning Committee

Mr. Pilson stated that for several years there was a long-range planning committee but with the emphasis on the new building they stopped having meetings. He stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to reestablish the committee. Mr. Manzolini stated he would like to see a review of town bylaws, the annual town reports and look at things the town does to see if they can be done better and more efficiently. He also stated that a suggestion box is something that residents have requested. Mr. Pilson stated he has the list of past members and contact them but would open it up to other residents who might want to join. Mr. Pilson asked the other members for their go-ahead on the project.

11 .Public Comment

Mr. Stover stated he did not know that there were receptacles for shoes and clothing at the DPW site until he went there. Ms. Fillio stated the information about them had been sent in several notices to the residents. He asked MS. Fillio when the town wants the refrigerator that is being stored in the Church. Ms. Fillio stated the end of the first week of October. Mr. Stover asked about the appraisal of the old town building. Ms. Fillio stated that the appraisers are working on the final report and that issue will be on the Special Town meeting and that the town cannot accept a bid lower than then the appraisal.

12. Town Administrator Updates.

Ms. Fillio stated that moving is taking place on October 3, up and running on the 10th. Training on the keypad system will happen on the 14. The next meeting, which will be October 11, will be either in person only or zoom only since the AV System is not yet up and running. Mr. Manzolini stated that the meeting should be in person at the new town hall.

13. Selectmen Matters:

Mr. Pilson: None

Mr. Manzolini: He asked Ms. Fillio who will over see the keybox in town hall. The flagpole key is still on the pole and needs to be removed and stored in a keybox. He asked for an update concerning the legal proceedings with Hollow Fields. Mr. Pilson is the selectman who has been involved with monitoring those. He stated that he has been keeping track of cars at the parking area and has found very few so there is no longer an overuse of the parking lot with a spillover to the road. The town is not taking an active roll in the mediation process except to make sure that residents have access to Hollow Fields. There is still the unresolved issue of the status of Perry' Peak Road.

Mr. Hanson: He spoke with the Chair of the West Stockbridge Selectboard about participating in a Regionalization of Services Committee, the towns of Lee, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge are on the Committee. The items that might be discussed are large item purchases and other items that could help

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defer costs for an individual town. The selectmen asked Ms. Fillio to contact the Chair of West Stockbridge selectboard to obtain more information and say the town is interested in participating.

Mr. Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM, it was seconded by Mr. Pilson and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Hanson-Chair

Date

Mr. Pilson

Date

Mr. Manzolini

Date