

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday April 29, 2020 2:00 PM – via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Clarence Fanto, *The Berkshire Eagle*

Roger opened the meeting at 2:00 PM with a reading of the Governor's Directive on the changes to the Open Meeting Law that are in place during the COVID-19 emergency.

**Approval of Minutes:** Roger moved that the minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting of the Board of Selectmen be approved as amended. Neal seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous vote.

**Appointment of John Ryan to the Board of Registrars:** Roger moved that John Ryan be appointed to the Board of Registrars in order to meet the three-person rule. Neal seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

**Update on Town Hall:** Danielle reported that everything will remain status quo at least until May 18<sup>th</sup>, which is the date to which the Governor extended the stay-at-home order. Danielle noted that the only complaints she has received from townspeople about the closure of Town Hall has been that the third quarter taxes were not posted on the website so that it appeared that people owed two quarters even if they had already paid the third quarter. The reason for that was Danielle's inability to access the Unibank account to make those postings. She has since obtained that access and is in the process of posting third quarter payments. Explanations to the people who had complained elicited understanding of the situation. Tax payments have been received as usual.

**Discussion of Town Caucus:** Danielle reported that the use of the school parking lot to accommodate voters in cars using an FM transmitter through the car radios was tested yesterday and found to work perfectly. The moderator and two additional people of his choosing will be equipped with microphones to make the motions and second them. The vote will be made by people raising their hands out of their car windows. A battery-powered megaphone will be on hand as a backup for any electronic glitches. Peter Beckwith will be on hand to direct the parking of the cars, which will be separated by about eight feet.

A discussion of the ways to make sure the greatest number of townspeople will have the information of how the caucus will take place included putting it on Facebook, on the town website, in the e-newsletter and sending out a robo-call on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May as a reminder.

Neal pointed out that with the Town Caucus accomplished on May 9<sup>th</sup>, that will allow the Town Elections to take place on the date set and, since that date is after May 18<sup>th</sup>, it might be able to

be a walk-in vote, although the six-foot of separation rule likely would still apply. In that case, the school gym could be set up with chairs an appropriate distance apart with the leaders of the meeting on the stage. Danielle noted that elections are now being permitted to be done as mail-ins to reduce the number of people attending.

**Selectmen's Matters:** Al raised the issue of complaints received about a logging operation on Sleepy Hollow near Swamp Rd. Paul Greene, the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer, has advised the property owner to seek a Permit from the Zoning Board.

Two other properties that have elicited complaints about large numbers of unregistered vehicles are on Lower West Street and Lower Dublin Road. Paul Greene will be given specific directions to these properties and asked to deal with the situation.

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next meetings are scheduled for May 6, 2020 and May 20, 2020. Both dates were acceptable to the Board.

There being no further issues before the Board, Neal moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Al and approved by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Signed:

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Roger Manzolini, Chair