

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday May 6, 2020 – 5:57 PM Via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator;

**GUESTS:** Clarence Fanto, *The Berkshire Eagle*; John Bresnahan

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with a reading of the Governor's directive concerning the changes to the Open Meeting Law in effect during the COVID-19 emergency.

**Request for Cemetery Burial:** John Bresnahan, representing the late Mrs. Rosin-Broker approached the Board with a request for permission to bury her next to her husband in the Richmond cemetery. The Board ascertained that all proper paperwork has been done and that Mr. Bresnahan has spoken with Steve Parsons, the Cemetery Superintendent. The deceased was a long-time resident of Richmond and the Board saw no reason to deny the request. Roger moved that the request for burial be approved. Al seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent. Danielle will send a formal letter of consent to Steve Parsons.

**Memo for Attachment to Sewer Bills:** Danielle posted the memo in its current form on the screen and the Board reviewed the wording. The memo is intended to explain that there was an error in calculation in last year's bill that set the amount too low. This year's bill reflects the actual amount due. After some discussion and minor changes to the language of the memo, Roger moved that it be approved as amended. Neal seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

**Discussion of Lack of Social Distancing at the Boat Ramp:** After hearing reports of large gatherings of people not complying with the social distancing rules at the Boat Ramp, Danielle spoke to the State Police about monitoring the area. They said there is not much they are able to do during the day, but they will include that area in their patrols at night. Neal spoke about the incident at the boat ramp where Tom Grizey tried to enforce the rules. Although he was grateful for Tom's intent, he asked that he be cautioned not to take on a role that is not his and that could put him in a risky situation.

**Lifeguards at the Beach:** Danielle reported that the Board of Health wants the beach open as soon as the Governor allows it. The discussion on the item in the Town Budget that provides salaries for lifeguards eliminated those funds. If there will be no lifeguards, it was decided that it would be unsafe to have the floating dock put in. It was discussed if that was the case then it would need to be removed from the beach area or chained.

Neal advised that he felt it would be wiser to fund the beach lifeguards in order to maintain a degree of safety for the increased use he believes the warmer weather will encourage. He will ask the Budget Advisory Cte. to look at that item again at their next meeting.

**Memorial Day:** Discussion of whether there will be a Memorial Day Parade or some other type of celebration. Usually, the Richmond School's Children Band, Chorus and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students lead the festivities, but there has been no opportunity for them to practice. The suggestion was put forth that the Memorial Service could be conducted without a parade. Roger will contact Joy Mullen, the Music Teacher, to ask her opinion. If Joy agrees to go have the children perform, the Board will meet again in emergency session to map out details.

**Selectmen's Matters:** Neal reported that Holly Stover, Joan Bartlett, Jill Pompei, Tammy Jervas and Cathy Baldwin are working on coordinating a plan to maximize the value of various food distribution services available to Town residents. Once that plan has been written, it will appear in the e-newsletter.

The suggestion that the Selectmen forgo their stipend this year was discussed. It seemed to the Board that it is too early to invoke such draconian measures at this time. If the situation worsens in the future, they can always arrange to do so at that time.

Neal pointed out that Alan's term as Chair of the Board of Selectmen will begin at the Town Meeting. That means he will be responsible to write the Memorial Day speech. Alan said he will write it whether or not the ceremony is able to take place.

**Warrants:** Danielle had emailed the warrants that she signed on behalf of the Board for their approval. Roger moved to approve the warrants as signed by Danielle. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer/Collector:** In response to a question of when the Treasurer/Collector will be returning to work, Danielle reported that she has consulted with the Workers' Comp. nurse who advised her that more may be known after the May 11<sup>th</sup> follow-up.

**Excise Bills and Mailing of Demand Notices:** Danielle reminded the Board that they had decided to waive interest and penalties on late real estate taxes in response to the COVID-19 emergency, but not waived for late excise tax payments as those had come due prior to the current situation. Now that she finally has access to the technology required to send out those bills, she asked for confirmation as to whether the late fees should be applied. The Board agreed that they should be, and that the Town should continue with business as usual wherever possible.

**Next Meetings:** The next meeting of the Budget Advisory Cte. will be May 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place May 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and adopted by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

Signed:

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Roger Manzolini, Chair