

BOARD OF SELECTMEN VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – 6:00 PM – Via Zoom

PRESENT: Al Hanson, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Roger Manzoloni, Selectman; Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Paul Lisi, Town Treasurer – Tax Collector

GUESTS: Ron Veillette, Con. Com.; Doug Bruce, Resident; Nar Ain Schroeder, BNRC; Jeff Morse, Resident; Ira Grossman, Resident, Dick Stover and Holly Stover, Residents; Christian Hanson, Balderdash

Al opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and requested that Neal Pilson read the Governor's order concerning the new rules for Open Meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 30, 2020 and October 14, 2020 Meetings of the Board of Selectmen: Neal moved that those minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded by Al and adopted by unanimous consent.

Public Comment on Proposed Auctioning of Town-Owned Properties: The issue was whether the Town should proceed with the sale of the indicated properties, with the exception of one at 0 Shore Road which the Conservation Commission has requested be put on permanent restriction to protect the body of water and endangered species living there. Roger so moved and was seconded by Neal Pilson who asked for a discussion.

Paul Lisi provided the background of the issue, answered questions about the correct procedure and requested a decision by the Board as to whether to go forward. There being no further discussion, and a motion on the table that had been seconded, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the motion.

Discussion of Boys & Girls Club Sewer Betterment: The issue was that when a piece of the property belonging to the Boys & Girls Club was separated and sold to an individual, the question of who will pay the Sewer Betterment taxes arose. The original arrangement for the Boys & Girls Club was that, in order to help them maintain their business, the Town would only create one EDU for the Club. The Club maintains that they are no longer responsible to pay the Betterment. The new owner of the piece of the property that had been carved out is responsible.

Paul advised that he will research the files at the Berkshire Registry of Deeds to discover the legal list of EDU's for the original property. If the list shows that there was originally only one EDU, he will consult with the Town Attorney about how the Board may go forward with creating a separate EDU for the recently purchased piece.

Public Comment: Doug Bruce asked what criteria the Town applies to the disposing of properties. Paul explained the two different processes for sale of properties legally acquired through non-payment of taxes and those gifted to the Town by individuals. He noted that, although there is no legal process for the Town to do so, Richmond has always been very transparent in its procedure and has held public

information sessions so that any of the Town Departments who might have an interest in acquiring a parcel as beneficial to their operation would have the opportunity to discuss it, just as the Conservation Commission did with the 0 Shore Road property, which they asked be left out of the sale in order to preserve it.

Public Comment: Doug Bruce said that he had not been made aware of the proposed sale although he sits on two of the Town's Committees. Paul made it clear that there had been public discussion of the proposed sale and that it was not incumbent on the Board to advise each of the Town's committees and boards separately.

Discussion of BNRC Parking on Perry's Peak: The issue arose from the increase in traffic and the overflow parking both on private properties and the Perry's Peak Road in order to access the trail in Hollow Fields.

Considerable discussion of the problem with Nar Ain explored the negative impact on the character of the area that increased parking and foot traffic has made. The discussion also covered what changes to the existing parking lot have been covered by permits and which have not. Nar Ain will forward to Danielle the unsigned application he has on file to expand the parking lot and create a driveway and access road. It was decided that the entire issue would be carefully looked at with the intent of "cleaning up" the paperwork and that no further work will be undertaken by BNRC until that is complete and further discussion can be had. Neal asked that the issue be included on the next meeting's agenda.

Award of Boiler Head End Work at Richmond Consolidated School: Danielle reported to the Board that bids for the work had been received and that CTC of Adams, MA had submitted the lowest bid. She also noted that Steven Soule had recommended that the contract be awarded to CTC.

Al moved that the Board award the contract for the Boiler Head End Work at Richmond Consolidated School to CTC of Adams, MA. Roger seconded and asked for discussion. Roger asked whether the money remaining in that budget would be sufficient to cover the cost of the remainder of the work to be done. He was assured by Danielle that it would.

Discussion of Implementation of Entertainment Policy: Danielle suggested that Richmond, like many other towns locally, adopt an entertainment policy which guides businesses licensed under Mass. General Law. She noted that under that law, businesses do not have the right to play music during their regular business hours without a permit.

The Board discussed reviewing an Entertainment Policy, which Danielle has created and will forward to the Board members. The Board will review the policy and address the issue at the next meeting.

Declaration of COA Van as Surplus: Danielle asked the Board to declare the COA van as surplus so that it can be sold and free up space in the garage for the storage of highway equipment since the van is used only once or twice a year at most.

Roger moved that the van be declared surplus. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Town Administrator's Report: Danielle reported on the status of the Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Safety Grant in the amount of \$29,000.00. A kick-off meeting with local coordinators was held to begin to put together a presentation for a meeting on November 5th with the Core Team, which consists of: John Hanson, Shep Evans, Peter Beckwith, Danielle Fillio and Steve Traver.

Timelines and schedules for public information sessions and webinars will be created. Danielle expressed some concern over the possibility of creating an overload of meetings and information.

Trick or Treat – Danielle advised that the field at the school will not work. She asked that the Town create something at Town Hall as she had already bought supplies to make up trick or treat bags: The plan was for the Fire Department to be there to hand out the goodies and that the Library would man two tables and she would have two tables.

There was a discussion of the best time for such a function, the result of which was that the Town Hall event would take place from 4:00 to 5:00 PM and that the hours of 5:00 to 7:00 PM would be for anyone wishing to do regular trick or treating in the town neighborhoods.

Danielle reported that the Housatonic Valley Assn. Storm Water Assessment is in process. The top priority will be sending data to UConn, who will create a list of priority projects. The grant includes the opportunity to move one program forward to a preliminary design that can be sent out for bid.

Danielle suggested that the Town apply for a second round of COVID-19 Care Grants to provide personal protective equipment for the Town Hall and the Library. Neal moved that the Board approve going forward with an application for a second round of COVID-19 grant monies. He was seconded by Roger and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Selectmen's Matters: Roger asked Danielle for the status of the periodic review and expenses report requested by the Finance Cte. and Select Bd. Danielle advised that she is working on getting everything updated and will advise Roger of the date when the report will be available.

There being no further business before the Board, Al moved to adjourn the meeting. He was seconded by Neal and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Signed:

Alan Hanson, Chair