

**MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**1529 STATE ROAD**  
**August 26, 2020**  
**Hybrid meeting, in person & zoom**

**Members Present:** Alan Hanson-Chair, Neal Pilson, Roger Manzolini

**Others present:** Danielle Fillio- Town Administrator, Peter Beckwith-Superintendent DPW, Angela Garrity-Clerk, Alison Cole., Peter Miller, Leslie Breeding, Christian Hanson, Miles Garfinkle, Ed Fechner, Ron Veillette

Alan Hanson opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

**Sally Kellogg- Cemetery Plot Request**

The Kelloggs requested to speak before the board to request the ability to purchase burial plots at the town cemetery and then at some future time be buried in the town cemetery. There is a cemetery plot purchase requirement that one lives in Richmond for 10 years. Mrs. Kellogg's parents are buried there and she grew up here prior to moving away and they have now returned and this will be their final place of residence. Roger Manzolini stated that Mrs. Kellogg's family is part of Richmond's history and he would be honored to make a motion to allow them to purchase burial plots in the Richmond Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

Danielle Fillio stated that she would send the information about the Kelloggs purchasing of town burial plots to Steve Parsons, Cemetery Superintendent.

**Approval of Minutes from July 22, and August 12, 2020**

Neal Pilson made a motion to approve the minutes from July 22, and August 12, 2020. It was seconded by Roger Manzolini, passed unanimously.

**Approve and Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

This item is to be continued to the next selectmen's meeting, for the addition of another item to the warrant.

**Discussion of Town Beach and Boat Launch regarding Labor Day Weekend**

The selectmen had previously decided that it would be good to have some security at the town beach over the Labor Day Weekend based on their experience during the July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend. At the previous meeting the Selectmen had requested Danielle Fillio to check on cost and availability of hiring either State troopers or County deputy sheriffs for the job. Danielle Fillio informed the board that with State Police you have to request a special detail and there is a minimum of 4hour shift or an 8hour shift. The cost per hour is over \$50. She did check about the deputy sheriffs and they are more expensive. Since no lifeguards will be on duty over the holiday weekend the Board felt that someone with authority and training should be stationed there.

The board discussed the number of cars that should be allowed but with-out any exact number yet decided and after that no more cars or people would be allowed, until other cars left.

The members recommended that there should be someone on duty for 4 hours on Saturday, Sunday and Monday Sept.5,6&7, the hours they would prefer are 2pm to 6pm with the beach then closing at 6pm. Alan Hanson said that you really have to ask the state police if these hours are okay. There was some discussion about if there was money in the budget for this and it was decided that there was.

Neal Pilson made a motion to authorize Danielle Fillio to contact the State Police and put in a request

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for a special detail for 3 days for a 4hour shift each day from 2pm-6pm. It was seconded by Alan Hanson and passed unanimously. If she is unable to get the State Police detail then the other option would be to have two boat monitors overseeing the beach during those hours. They would use their cell phones for communicating back and forth with each other.

Danielle Fillio stated that at the last Richmond Pond Association meeting they asked her when the beach officially closes and Neal Pilson stated that it closes after the Labor Day Weekend.

**Appointment of Harvey Keisch to Conservation Commission**

Neal Pilson stated that he knows Mr. Keisch and feels that he would make a good addition to the Commission. Ron Veillette (Conservation Commission Chair) stated that he recommended him to the board for appointment. Neal Pilson made the motion to approve the appointment, it was seconded by Roger Manzolini and passed unanimously.

**Update from Cable Advisory Committee**

Neal Pilson gave a little background about the forming of the committee and stated that it is only an advisory committee and cannot make decisions on their own. Neal Pilson then asked Ed Fechner (Co-chair of the committee) to speak on the subject. He stated that at this time there are 550 subscribers to Charter Cable, that the town's agreement with them expires in January 2021. The cable advisory committee had put out a questionnaire to Richmond residents asking what they are looking for in a new contract, what they like and dislike concerning their cable. The committee is now going over the responses and putting all the information together. There will be a public hearing sometime in September. There really isn't very much to negotiate in a new contract. You can sign up for either a 3year contract or a 10-year contract and the committee is leaning towards a 10- year contract recommendation since it would keep the monthly costs lower. There are projects that the committee would like Charter to pay for initially and then over the 10 years the subscribers would be charged the initial monies that Charter invested in the projects.

The committee is discussing the idea of a town channel on the cable tv. There are several local channels that Pittsfield has and maybe Richmond could take on of those or if we got enough subscribers Richmond could get its own channel. TV equipment would be bought for the school and town hall. The initial wiring would be the Town Hall and School but the Library and Fire dept. have also requested to be connected. Students could learn how to produce programs in school and the town could televise its meetings.

Mr. Fechner stated that land line phone service thru Charter could be possible but subscribers might have to get new numbers, the 698 exchange is owned by Richmond Telephone. The committee is checking both at the utility level and state level if Richmond Telephone still has the sole rights to 698 exchange since they have been taken over by sveral different companies over the years. If subscribers could keep their 698 exchange then they could qualify for Spectrum's bundle of phone, high speed internet and cable tv option which would save them money. The committee is looking into the possibility of some grant money to help offset the price of doing these projects. One is from the Richmond Cultural Council would help defray some of the costs of setting up the system in the school. Neal Pilson stated that there could be

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grant money for setting up the library and for the school from other sources. The town could possibly cover some of the cost of setting the system up in townhall if it is considered a town enhancement project. The subscribers would be responsible for all other incurred costs. There was a question about whether the channel could be streamed since many residents and especially new ones only use streaming services and they no longer rely on cable for their news and programs. Danielle Fillio stated that they can be streamed but at this time not live-streamed. The ability to live stream meetings and events will be available at some point. Charter has given the committee a copy of the renewal contract to review. Normally it is given 120 days from when the contract ends. The committee is requesting from the state an additional 120 days, they feel Charter will not have issues with that, the contract in place will just be extended for an additional 120 days. At the committees next meeting, which is on Sept17,2020 a state representative will be present to help explain and answer questions about the details of the contract. The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

**Website Posting Guidelines**

There had been a request for the website to be one of the official posting spaces for the agendas. Danielle Fillio explained to the board that after she spoke with the individual about the problems that have occurred with getting items posted on the website, he no longer felt it should be one of the legal posting sites but wanted to have a notice added to the website stating that. Angela Garrity, town clerk, spoke about how she has had difficulties in both getting onto the website and in uploading information onto it. Agendas have to be posted 48 business hours prior to having a meeting and if she wasn't able to post it on the website then the meeting would have to be cancelled. Angela Garrity spoke to other town clerks and the only town that at this time has their website as one of the 2 legal sites is Great Barrington and they have had issues with that and are considering not having it as a legal site. She and Danielle Fillio stated that the agendas are posted on the website as quickly as possible. Neal Pilson stated that he doesn't have a problem with keeping the system the way it is, one agenda posted in the glass case outside townhall and one posted on the board inside town hall as long as the agendas are posted on the website as soon as they can be. Roger Manzolini stated that this issue was previously discussed and his prior decision to keep things the way they are still stands. Rick Bell stated that he hasn't had any issues getting on to the website, but that he hasn't tried to upload information onto it.

**Balderdash Noise Concerns**

Alan Hanson stated that the board members have gone to listen to the noise level since the complaints were made. Leslie Breeding stated that the noise was so loud the previous weekend that a neighbor called the State Police. She did remark that the sign encouraging train conductors to blow their horns was taken down. She thanked the selectmen for that. Roger Manzolini stated that Balderdash took the signs down without being asked to by the selectmen. She told the board

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that she is not happy with them having a sound evaluation company come this year to monitor the noise levels since this is not a typical year for the crowds that are at Balderdash during a non- covid summer. She stated that the residents would like to speak with the monitors prior to them starting the job.

Alison Cole prepared a statement about the numerous communications and their dates she has had with both the Select Board and Balderdash.

Neal Pilson stated that the board has gotten two proposals from sound monitoring companies and that they plan on discussing the proposals in this meeting. The proposals both include the need to get a baseline of what the ambient noise level is, anything that brings the noise level 10 decibels above the ambient level is considered too loud.

Alison Cole requested that the town tell Balderdash that they cannot have music on Sundays. Neal Pilson explained that right now they are within their right to have music on Sundays based upon their current permit. The Board will be having a permit review in September and comments from residents will be taken into account prior to issuing any modifications to their existing permit.

Some of the residents stated that they felt Balderdash has acted in bad faith about the level of their music and Christian Hanson(owner of Balderdash) stated that he has not acted in bad faith and that he would tell the board when they will have music scheduled so that those are dates that the monitoring can take place. Alan Hanson asked Christian Hanson if he planned on hiring a sound monitoring specialist and he said he did have plans in the future to do that but not at this time. Alan Hanson stated that he is not really comfortable with using tax-payers money for the monitoring. Neal Pilson stated it isn't his first choice but that he feels the town needs an independent company to do the monitoring not one that Balderdash hires.

Neal Pilson made a motion to authorize Danielle Fillio to engage one of the two companies that put in proposals to advise the board on what steps or provisions they could suggest for noise abatement which could be written into the Balderdash permit for next year. Roger Manzolini seconded the proposal and it passed unanimously.

**Town Administrator 1-year review**

This item is to be on the next agenda

**Approval of IMA for joint Paver with West Stockbridge**

Danielle Fillio stated that this is the same IMA that the town has for the Excavator the only wording change is the word Paver for Excavator. The cost to the town was \$4,000.

Al Hanson asked where it will be stored during the winter. That decision will be made by the two DPWs.

Roger Manzolini made a motion to approve the IMA, it was seconded by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

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**Town Admin Report**

Danielle Fillio stated that the board needs to make a motion to accept the bid of George Daniels for the purchasing of the surplus ambulance. Neal made the motion, it was seconded by Roger Manzolini and passed unanimously.

Danielle Fillio stated that Chief Bullet has requested the board to appoint John Ryan as a Richmond Constable. Roger Manzolini made the motion to approve John Ryan as a Richmond Constable. It was seconded by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

The logging property issues on Sleepy Hollow road- the town lawyer stated that the bringing in of logs from other properties is not allowed under the farm business regulation.

A junk car letter that was scheduled to be sent to a property owner on Jolindy Road will not be sent since the owner and the town are trying to work the matter out.

**Selectmen Matters**

Roger Manzolini-none

Neal Pilson-none

Alan Hanson

He asked if anyone knew what was happening with the Fire Trail restorations that the residents on View Road were upset with.

He also asked about the Hazard Mitigation grant. Danielle Fillio stated that we have the Hazard Mitigation grant and are still working on the Vulnerability Grant.

**Warrants**

Neal Pilson made a motion to have Danielle Fillio sign the warrants. It was seconded by Roger Manzolini and passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Neal Pilson stated that this item should be on every agenda as one of the first items after personal items are dealt with.

Rick Bell informed the board that there is a clause in the website contract that after 3 years there can be a free upgrade and that the board should look into it.

Danielle Fillio stated that on Sept.23, 2020 at 6p.m. there will be a drive-in special town meeting.

Alan Hanson Made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

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Alan Hanson-Chair

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Date