

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Friday April 5, 2019 – 3:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

APPROVED

PRESENT: Mr. Neal Pilson, Chair-Richmond Board of Selectmen; Mr. Roger Manzolini, Selectman; Mr. Alan Hanson, Selectman; Mr. Mark Pruhenski, Town Administrator; Mr. Peter Skorput, Selectman; Mr. Doane Perry, Selectman; Mr. Bernie Fallon, Chair-West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen; Mr. Mark Webber, West Stockbridge Town Administrator

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Ms. Claudia Ryan

Mr. Pilson opened the meeting at 3:00 PM with introductions for the record and an explanation of the purpose of the meeting, which was to continue a discussion of whether the towns of Richmond and West Stockbridge wish to go forward with a plan for a shared Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator. Mr. Pilson provided a short history of how the plan came to be and the changes in the situation that have occurred since that time.

The two boards each expressed their thoughts on the desirability of going forward with the idea of a dual administration either immediately or perhaps keeping the plan in mind for some time in the future. Several ideas were discussed about how the process might play out for either a shared administrator or two independent administrators. The discussion reflected an openness among the two Board's members for the possibility of finding a candidate that both towns would have confidence in as being able to handle a combined administrative position.

The consensus was that any final decision should be delayed until several issues have been resolved; the outcome of the discussion at Richmond's Annual Town Meeting of the concept of a shared administrator and the quality of candidates being interviewed. Mr. Pilson suggested that each town plan to go forward with interviews with an informal understanding that should either one encounter a candidate they felt would have the requisite experience and competence to administer both towns, it would be that town's decision, whether or not to pursue the dual administrator plan. The importance of continued communication between West Stockbridge and Richmond as the interviews proceed was agreed upon.

The consensus of the meeting was that there is a working understanding between the towns as follows: both towns will post job opportunity ads and proceed independently but will stay in contact with each other as the interview process goes forward. As interest in specific candidates for a possible dual role develops, that information will be shared and discussed.

Mr. Pruhenski asked the Richmond Board of Selectmen if they wish to have him post the ad next week. He was advised to go ahead as the feeling was that the process should move forward as quickly as possible. He then requested direction on the salary that should be offered. The West Stockbridge ad, which has already been posted, indicated a salary range of

up to \$70,000 with flexibility in scheduling. Mr. Pruhenski will draft Richmond's ad, which will be placed on the Agenda for the Richmond Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th. A decision on the final wording of the ad will be made at that meeting.

One final issue was raised concerning the Richmond Ambulance Service. It was noted that there has been a major improvement in the staffing of the service and in the response rate in the last year and congratulations and thanks were expressed. It was noted that County Ambulance has advised Richmond that they are no longer in the position to be the Service of Record for the Town. It was, therefore, a very good thing that the Richmond Ambulance Corps has increased as it has.

There being no further business before the two Boards, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal Pilson", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Neal Pilson, Chair

Richmond Board of Selectmen