

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Monday May 6, 2019 – 10:00 AM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road

APPROVED

PRESENT: Mr. Neal Pilson, Chair; Mr. Alan Hanson, Selectman; Mr. Roger Manzolini, Selectman (via conference call); Mr. Mark Pruhenski, Richmond Town Administrator; Mr. Robert Markel, Interim Town Administrator – Buckland/Shelbourne Falls, MA

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Mr. Paul Lisi, Town Tax Collector; Ms. Claudia Ryan, Admin. Assist.; Ms. Angela Garrity, Town Accountant; Ms. Phyllis LeBeau, Richmond COA Director

Mr. Pilson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and requested that those present identify themselves. (See above)

Town Administrator Position – Update and Discussion re Transition/Interim: Mr. Pruhenski advised the Board that, in an effort to slow down the process of hiring a new Town Administrator and avoid any need for a rushed decision, he contacted Mr. Bob Markel, currently Interim town administrator for the town of Buckland and asked him to meet with the Board for a preliminary discussion.

Mr. Hanson asked Mr. Markel to provide some background on his experience as a Town Administrator. He has lived in Massachusetts all his adult life. He taught at AIC in Springfield and then at Westfield State. He has served seven terms on the City Council and then as Mayor of Springfield for two terms. He has served as Town Administrator in Norfolk, CT and then in Ipswich for almost eight years. After retirement from Ipswich, he has been doing short-term, work as an interim Town Administrator; in Northfield, in Templeton for 2.4 years, in Southampton, then in Becket and now in Buckland/Shelbourne Falls. The hiring of a permanent town administrator in Buckland is imminent, which will leave Mr. Markel free to take on the duties of an Interim Town Administrator just at the time Mr. Pruhenski will be leaving.

There was a discussion of Mr. Markel's availability and other pertinent details such as the number of days/hours he would be able to offer. The consensus was that 3 days / 20 hours a week would be adequate to fulfill the duties of the position, including evening meetings. The question of what compensation the position would offer included the information that Mr. Markel is currently earning \$60.00 per hour on a contracted hourly rate, no benefits and no paid time off. A discussion of the hourly rate will take place among the Selectmen at a later date.

Mr. Pilson went over the current issues facing the Board of Selectmen to give Mr. Markel an overview of how the Town operates and asked Mr. Markel to attend the Annual Town Meeting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday May 15th at the School, which he agreed to do. Mr. Markel was able to match his experiences in the towns he worked for with the issues Richmond is facing. The

Selectmen all agreed that they would be comfortable going forward with arrangements with Mr. Markel.

In response to Mr. Markel's inquiry about Richmond's relationship with West Stockbridge, Mr. Pilson referenced the concept under consideration of Richmond and West Stockbridge sharing a Town Administrator if an appropriate candidate were to be found.

Mail / Sign Warrants: Signatures were obtained as required.

Unanticipated Items: Mr. Pruhenski advised the Board that after this meeting was posted, he received some rebates and abatements that require signatures.


Mr. Pruhenski noted that the Richmond Pond Association has asked the Board to fill out an application to addle Canada Goose eggs in Massachusetts, which is done through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mr. Pruhenski has completed the application for the Town-owned properties by the Pond and was requesting the Board's approval. Each owner of property included in the process is required to complete and sign an application for that property. After some discussion and approval by the other Board members, the application was signed by Mr. Pilson as Select Chair.

Mr. Manzolini advised the Board that he expects to return to Richmond about Memorial Day. Mr. Pilson advised him that there still was no concrete plan to provide a Color Guard. Mr. Pruhenski said that Chief Traver was working on having the Sheriff's Office attend the parade and if they do so, they have agreed that they would march as a Color Guard. Several other options were discussed.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Pilson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Signed:

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

Mr. Neal Pilson

Chair