

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING**Wednesday November 6, 2019 – 6:00 PM – Richmond Town Hall, 1529 State Road**

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

ABSENT:

GUEST: Mr. Peter Cohen, Pres., Richmond COA; Mr. John Zick, Chair, West Stockbridge COA; Mr. Steve Parsons, Cemetery Superintendent; Mr. Tom Grizey, Electric Wiring Inspector/Sewers; Rabbi Ivan and Ms. Deborah Caine.

Mr. Manzolini called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Cemetery-Discussion of Winter Burials, Cemetery Bylaws and Burial Request: Mr. Manzolini advised Mr. Iván Caine that the Board has read his letter and he wanted to make it perfectly clear that the cemetery is open to all Richmond residents and does not discriminate on any basis

Mr. Manzolini said that he wished to discuss the way the Town conducts the business of the cemetery and how it could be made better. Ms. Fillio reported that she and Mr. Parsons, the Cemetery Superintendent, discussed the added cost to having a burial in the winter, which is usually worked through with the funeral home and the burial company. Mr. Manzolini questioned whether the issue was the cost, he felt it was accommodating individuals' specific preferences for the way the burial is conducted. The issue was with the timing of the burial, which according to Mosaic Law cannot be delayed.

Mr. Parsons noted that he has been following the practice of keeping the cemetery closed in the winter for the past 30 years. Mr. Manzolini paraphrased the note from Mr. Parsons to say that although the practice has been not to do winter burials, if the family is willing to incur the added costs for a winter burial, it can be done. A discussion of what is entailed in plowing out the parking lot determined that, unless it is done on a regular basis, it can be a very big undertaking.

Mr. Manzolini concluded that the best course of action would be to work with each individual family to determine what accommodations are needed and to try to provide them. Mr. Pilson noted that he wished it to be clear that that kind of accommodation will be made for any family who requests it. Ms. Fillio will draft a new set of rules to be included in the paperwork associated with the cemetery. There was a discussion of the possible cost of the additional work needed to provide a winter burial that resulted in Mr. Pilson suggesting that some portion of that extra expense be picked up by the Town. Mr. Manzolini suggested speaking to Atwood to determine what the typical additional cost for a winter burial might be.

Mr. Parsons asked how he was to proceed when requested to do a winter burial by the funeral home. Mr. Manzolini suggested that he advise the funeral homes that our practice has been that the cemetery is closed in the winter, but if the family insists on burial in the winter, we will accommodate them.

Ms. Fillio introduced a letter from the Dalzell family asking for the Board's approval for their burial in the Dalzell family plot at the Richmond Cemetery on State Road following cremation. This approval is required as they are not currently residents of the Town. Mr. Manzolini moved that the Board approve their request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pilson and carried by unanimous vote.

Municipal Building Committee – Recommendation for Designer Selection: Mr. Manzolini noted that Ms. Pat Callahan, Chair of the Municipal Building Committee, had been expected to make a recommendation to the Board. In her absence, Mr. Manzolini noted that the Committee met last week and interviewed the three candidates for Designer. The candidate from Chicopee was ranked number 1, the firm from Boston was second and EDM was third in ranking. The Committee is recommending that we proceed with the firm from Chicopee.

Mr. Pilson moved that the Board select the firm from Chicopee to work with the Committee and the Town. Mr. Manzolini seconded that motion. Mr. Manzolini said that the decision to accept Chicopee was based on the presentation they made, which although not as professional as the one from the Boston firm, felt more comfortable to the Committee. The purpose of the ranking was to allow the OPM, should he be unable to negotiate an agreeable fee, to move to the next ranked candidate. A vote was then taken on the motion on the table, which was carried by unanimous consent. Mr. Peter Cohen commented that the decision of the Municipal Building Committee was unanimous and that they favored the Chicopee company because they felt that they would do the best job presenting it to the Town.

Discussion of Possible Combined West Stockbridge and Richmond COAs: Mr. John Zick, Chair of the West Stockbridge Council on Aging, came before the Board to answer any questions about the possible merger of the two towns councils on aging. Mr. Manzolini asked who had suggested this step. Mr. Zick explained that Mr. Emmett Schmarsow, Director of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, said that the Councils on Aging in small towns should get together to better serve their communities. He noted that Ms. LeBeau, Director of the Richmond Council on Aging and he had been working cooperatively for a couple of years in providing conferences and social events for which the costs have been shared equally.

Mr. Manzolini asked whether there was anyone opposed to this move and both Mr. Zick and Mr. Cohen were able to advise him that the committees of both COAs are strongly in favor of the merger.

Mr. Hanson asked for a definition of the scope of the combined COAs. Mr. Zick responded that he would expect that Ms. LeBeau would become Director of the COAs for both towns. The Boards would have to decide how the details would work out. He noted that the Board of

Selectmen of the Town of West Stockbridge is in favor of this move. Ms. Fillio explained that what the Board was being asked to do at this meeting was to vote in favor of the concept of combining both councils on aging. Then Ms. Fillio, Ms. Marie Ryan, the West Stockbridge Town Administrator, Mr. John Zick and Ms. Phyllis LeBeau would meet to work out the mechanics and draft a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Zick raised the issue of the two towns cooperatively purchasing a large van that would enable them to schedule trips for members of the combined COAs. This would be one of the details needing to be worked out.

Mr. Manzolini moved that the Board approve the concept of combining the Councils on Aging in the Towns of Richmond and West Stockbridge, details to be determined later. Mr. Pilson seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2019: Mr. Manzolini commented that on Page 3, 5th paragraph the final sentence should be amended to read, "Mr. Manzolini said that once a source of noise cannot be identified, that noise will be assumed to have come from Balderdash Cellars, whether it actually did or not." That amendment will be made.

Mr. Pilson moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2019 as amended. Mr. Manzolini seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Sewer Matters: Mr. Tom Grizey reported that some alarms went off and the multi-rod had to be cleaned as it was coated with dirt and not operating correctly. Mr. Manzolini asked Mr. Grizey if he had been able to identify the source of the 35,000 gallons of water. He replied that he has not been able to but has determined that the cover at the Boys Club needs to be cleaned out as it is situated below the surface and water runs over the top of it and runs down. Mr. Pilson asked Ms. Fillio to have Mr. Peter Beckwith, the Highway Superintendent, take care of that. That's one aspect, there might still be someone pumping out their system. Mr. Grizey checked on several he knew had done so previously but did not find the cause of the overflow.

Route 41 and Dublin Rd. Intersection – Work Done and Final RSA Report: Ms. Fillio reported that she had provided copies of the Road Safety Audit to the Board. The work has been completed: the guardrail has been installed and the berm has been cut very far back. Ms. Fillio suggested that thank you letters to Mass. D.O.T. and all others who were of great help in this project be sent. Mr. Manzolini agreed that would be appropriate.

Mr. Pilson asked whether all the proposed work has been done, which he was assured was Ms. Fillio's understanding. Mr. Hanson advised the Board that he has received complaints about the guardrail that has been installed on the northeast corner of the intersection because it blocks the sightlines to the north from Dublin Rd. The guardrail is so tall that it blocks that view for the average passenger car. Mr. Manzolini suggested that a separate letter be sent to advise the State D.O.T. of this problem. Ms. Fillio will draft that letter or make that phone call.

A member of the audience noted that he would very much like to see the same device that slows traffic on the Dublin Road installed on Summit Road. The Board will mention that idea to Mr. Peter Beckwith, Highway Superintendent.

Veterans' Day Proclamation: Mr. Pilson moved that the Governors' proclamation that Veterans' Day be November 11, 2019 be incorporated with the Minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted by unanimous consent. See attached.

Town Administrator Report: See Attached

Reminder that the Town's Winter Parking Ban is now in effect from Nov. 1 – April 1. No on-street parking is allowed.

EDM still on schedule to present recommendations and cost estimates to the Board at the next meeting on November 20th. Mr. Manzolini will be unable to attend that meeting but will receive the report via email. No action by the Board will be required at that time. Mr. Pilson requested that the agenda make it clear that estimates will be presented and discussed at that meeting. There was a discussion of how the decision process will look.

The Environmental Eco-Genesis will be at Town Hall tomorrow to begin taking samples from the building.

The new ambulance has been ordered. The short lag in timing during the Town Administrator Transition has been resolved and it is now back on track. The current ambulance is out of service for repairs.

Fire Engine 2 is out of service due to an explosion of the water tank. Ms. Fillio is working with the tank company and the insurance company to get repairs done as quickly as possible. The cost of repairs has been estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Discussion on private roads and what keeps them private and what the town is responsible for under the bylaw regarding temporary repairs to private ways. Mr. Beckwith and Ms. Fillio have been doing research into the question. (See attached for results of that research). A discussion ensued about whether Shore Road is a private way or a private road open for public use and what degree of maintenance the Town has been doing on that road. Mr. Manzolini asked what the correct answer should be to a resident stating that the public can only use that road when invited. Mr. Pilson said that the correct answer is that the public can access that road at any time. Ms. Fillio said that the purpose of the research was to determine whether the Town is responsible for clearing out the culverts. Mr. Tom Grizey said that the Town is responsible to maintain the one at Beach Rd. but not for the others.

Selectmen Matters: Mr. Neal Pilson reported on some complaints he has heard from residents on East Rd. that the pothole situation has gotten quite serious and that there are undoubtedly others as well. He expressed his hope that the Highway Dept. can address those issues before snow falls and covers the potholes, which will create the possibility of damage to cars passing


over them. Ms. Fillio said that the Highway Dept. is working on repairing gravel roads. They are waiting for an assessment on the grater, which is not working efficiently. After that they will begin work on Friday.

Next Meeting Dates: November 20, 2019, December 4, 2019, December 18, 2019. These dates were chosen and agreed upon to accommodate the winter holiday schedule.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Signed:

 12/4/19

Mr. Roger Manzolini, Chair