

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday August 1, 2019 – 3:30 PM – Richmond Town hall, 1529 State Road

**PRESENT:** Mr. Roger Manzolini, Chair; Mr. Neal Pilson, Selectman; Mr. Alan Hanson, Selectman; Mr. Robert Markel, Interim Town Administrator

**ABSENT:**

**GUEST:**

Mr. Manzolini opened the meeting, noting that it was primarily for the purpose of reviewing the approval of a driveway permit at 1013 Dublin Road.

Mr. Manzolini reported that he has not heard any objection to the driveway permit, and it was his understanding that Mr. Peter Beckwith, Highway Superintendent, had no issue with it.

Mr. Hanson asked whether the driveway would be installed on flat ground or on a hillside. His concern was to determine if the driveway would create a dangerous driveway entrance coming down a steep hill. There was a short discussion of the topography of Dublin Road that resulted in the consensus that, especially given the fact that Mr. Beckwith expressed no concern about the location of the proposed driveway, the Board had no objection to the permit.

Mr. Manzolini, therefore, moved that the Board approve the driveway permit. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous consent.

**Unanticipated Topics:** Mr. Markel brought to the Board's attention an item that he received too late to include in the agenda, but that needed tending to quickly. The Berkshire County Kid's Place is asking for a one-day pouring license for their fund-raiser on August 10, 2019.

Copies of the application were distributed to the Board members for review. Mr. Neal Pilson moved that the application be approved as requested in the application, dated August 1, 2019. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous vote.

**Town Administrator Updates:** Mr. Markel advised the Board of the documents included in the packets prepared for them: The Minutes of July 24, 2019 – which will be included on the agenda for approval at the August 14, 2019 meeting; an update on the Open Meeting Law Complaint; The final "Cherry Sheet" numbers – looking at "choice in"/ "choice out" for the schools. Choice In revenue is very significantly higher than choice out, which is around \$84,000; Choice in is well over \$300,000, which says good things for the school. The town is attracting a lot of people in and not losing that many students to other systems.

Mr. Pilson had a question on the Open Meeting Law Complaint – he had understood that the issue had been addressed and it is over. Mr. Markel agreed that it does look as if that is what has happened.

Mr. Markel reported on an update from the Fire Chief, Mr. Steve Traver, that the Constable is refusing to surrender his pager and radio, claiming that he bought both devices. The Chief brought in a list of the devices owned by the Fire Department, based on serial numbers. It is clear from that list that the devices in question are owned by the Fire Department. The Constable received the letter sent by the Town Administrator which he advised Mr. Pilson of in a phone conversation. This issue is at an impasse.

Mr. Markel also sent the Board members electronic copies of invitations to a meeting of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Berkshire Selectmen's Association. There was no action required on this item.

**Approval of Minutes of the July 24, 2019 Meeting:** Mr. Manzolini moved that the revised version of the minutes be approved as read. Mr. Pilson seconded the motion, which was carried by unanimous vote.

**Issues to be relayed to Ms. Danielle Fillio:** Mr. Markel reported that he has put together a packet of information for Ms. Danielle Fillio, the new Town Administrator, which he will go over with her on Monday morning. It contains all the issues that the Town is currently involved in:

Mr. Markle has set up inbox folders on the email system, which he will show her how to access. There will be a training session on obtaining CORI reports and one for the Code Red system. The Fire Chief is coming in for the Code Red training, however, the Highway Superintendent will be occupied on the road and will be unable to make it in that morning. The question of a master list of the people who have keys to the building was raised. Mr. Manzolini will ask Mr. Mark Pruhenski, former Town Administrator, about the existence of that list.

Mr. Pilson said that he thought the Board should review the exact circumstances of the fatal accident that occurred on Dublin and State Roads. The Board has managed to address two other critical intersections in Town quite satisfactorily. The residents seem to be happy with the signage both at Lenox and Swamp Roads and Lenox and Lenox Branch Roads. While the Board cannot do much on a State Road in terms of signage, he felt the Board should look at Dublin Road and see if there is some incremental signage that could warn drivers of the limited sight lines at those intersections. There was a discussion of possible solutions that resulted in a decision to contact the State DOT for help with this issue.

Mr. Pilson noted that Mr. Beckwith is expected to provide the Board with a plan to upgrade some of the gravel roads that created the worst of the mud problems last spring. Despite the history of the Town's reluctance to pave gravel roads, when the public safety is involved something may need to be done to alleviate the problem.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM

Signed:

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Mr. Roger Manzolini

Chair