



HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023; Virtual Meeting

Introductions. T. Matuszko opened the meeting at 9:01am, announced it was being recorded and that any member of the public could do so upon informing the Chair, which several did; being held under Mass virtual meeting provisions; and asked each ROR representative to introduce themselves and state the community they represented. This was done. Attending the meeting were the following Committee members:

Channing Gibson, Lenox Representative
Robert Jones, Lee Select Board & Representative
Steve Shatz, Stockbridge Representative
Rene Wood, Sheffield Select Board & Representative

and: Tom Matuszko, BRPC
Melissa Provencher, BRPC
Lauren Gaherty, BRPC

Public in attendance: Clarence Fanto, Joshua Bloom, Peg Brion, Janice Braim, Anne Langlais, Jesse Pier, Sage Radachowsky, and two unidentified persons.

Review of minutes of April 13, 2023 meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by . R. Wood, seconded by S. Shatz, and approved 4-0 on a roll call vote.

Review of Open Meeting Law (OML) Complaints.

- **OML complaint filed by J. Bloom regarding ROR Municipal Committee meeting of 4/13/23 meeting.**

T. Matuszko went over the specifics of the complaint filed by J. Bloom; all Committee members had copies of it. He reviewed legal counsel's review of the specific complaints as follows: 1) no public comment allowed at the meeting. Counsel: Public comment is not required under the OML. 2) no recording done of meeting. Counsel: OML does not require a meeting to be recorded. 3) the Committee did not take the action the complainant requested to rescind an action approved at the 3/27/23 meeting. Counsel: the Committee should await guidance from the Division of Open Government regarding the steps it took in response to his prior complaint rather than take additional action.

T. Matuszko noted that sometimes public comment is allowed and sometimes not; that sometimes the meeting is recorded and sometimes not.

T. Matuszko requested a motion to authorize BRPC and its legal counsel on behalf of the Committee to respond to this OML complaint filed by J. Bloom. R. Wood made this motion, which was seconded by S. Shatz and in a roll call vote was approved by C. Gibson, S. Shatz, and R. Wood with R. Jones abstaining. The motion passed 3-0-1. In the middle of this motion, R. Jones made a motion to allow J. Bloom to speak on his complaint for transparency purposes. The motion died for lack of a second.

- **OML complaint filed by A. Langlais regarding ROR Municipal Committee meeting of 4/13/23.**

T. Matuszko went over the specifics of the complaint filed by A. Langlais and that all Committee members had copies of it. He reviewed legal counsel's review of the specific complaints as follows: 1) no public comment: Counsel: Public comment is not required under the OML and 2) no recording was made of the meeting: Counsel: OML does not require a meeting to be recorded. T. Matuszko noted that sometimes public comment is allowed and sometimes not; that sometimes the meeting is recorded and sometimes not.

R. Jones made a motion to allow A. Langlais to speak on her complaint for transparency purposes. The motion died for lack of a second.

T. Matuszko requested a motion to authorize BRPC and its legal counsel to respond on behalf of the Committee to this OML complaint filed by A. Langlais. R. Wood made this motion, which was seconded by S. Shatz and in a roll call vote was approved by C. Gibson, S. Shatz, and R. Wood with R. Jones abstaining. The motion passed 3-0-1.

- **OML complaint filed by J. Braim regarding ROR Municipal Committee meeting of 4/13/23.**

T. Matuszko went over the specifics of the complaint filed by J. Braim. All Committee members had copies of it. He reviewed legal counsel's review of the specific complaints as follows: 1) no public comment: Counsel: Public comment is not required under the OML and 2) no recording was made of the meeting: Counsel: OML does not require a meeting to be recorded. T. Matuszko noted that sometimes public comment is allowed and sometimes not; that sometimes the meeting is recorded and sometimes not.

R. Jones made a motion to allow J. Braim to speak on her complaint for transparency purposes. The motion died for lack of a second.

T. Matuszko requested a motion to authorize BRPC and its legal counsel on behalf of the Committee to respond to this OML complaint filed by J. Braim. R. Wood made this motion, which was seconded by S. Shatz and in a roll call vote was approved by C. Gibson, S. Shatz, and R. Wood with R. Jones abstaining. The motion passed 3-0-1.

There was no other business.

A motion to adjourn was made by S. Shatz, seconded by R Wood, and approved 4-0 on a roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted by

Rene Wood,
Sheffield's Representative

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Agenda 4-13-23
- Open Meeting Law Complaints from Joshua Bloom, Anne Langlais, and Janice Braim
- Email from M. Provencher, BRPC, dated 5/1/23 at 2:53pm re: zoom meeting logistics and documents for meeting