

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018 - 7:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen Thomas Millias, Kim R. Roy and Troy E. Garron present.

The following business was discussed:

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board as well as those attending tonight's meeting stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

The agenda for Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved the following Selectmen Minutes:

- Executive Session – January 23, 2018
- Executive Session – February 13, 2018 - second session

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENTS**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following warrants and commitments:

|                      |      |               |
|----------------------|------|---------------|
| Payroll Warrant      | # 74 | \$ 348,848.57 |
| Vendor Warrant       | # 75 | \$ 191,483.84 |
| Withholding Warrant  | # 76 | \$ 125,930.29 |
| Ambulance Commitment | # 2C | \$ 33,878.00  |
| Ambulance Commitment | # 2D | \$ 30,610.00  |
| Ambulance Commitment | # 2E | \$ 1,717.00   |

**APPROVED WARRANT**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following warrant:

|                |      |              |
|----------------|------|--------------|
| Vendor Warrant | # 77 | \$ 90,483.46 |
|----------------|------|--------------|

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| National Grid (service/concession stand).....           | \$ 16.60    |
| National Grid (service/Town Hall).....                  | \$ 2,371.96 |
| Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP (audit yr. end 6/30/17)..... | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Sullivan tire Kingston (4 tires/BOH).....               | \$ 767.95   |

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**Monponsett Pond/Brockton Scope of Work

In the letter of comment sent to Camp Dresser McGee (CDM) of the draft Scope of Work to be done in connection with the Resource Management Plan for Monponsett Pond Seelig mentioned the need for specific rather than general goals, a detailed timetable of the work that is to be done as part of the Scope, stronger and more certain language in connection with the tasks that are to be undertaken, and the need to widen the Scope to include all possible measures that could be taken to improve the water quality of Monponsett Pond instead of limiting it to diversions to Silver Lake, control of the culvert between West Monponsett Pond and East Monponsett Pond, and sending water downstream via Stump Brook and the dam controlled by Brockton. The next step is for CDM and DEP to come up with a final version of the Scope of Work.

395 Plymouth Street

The Building Inspector has sent the owners of the building at 395 Plymouth Street (the red farmhouse) an enforcement order stating that the property had not received the necessary permits to allow six dwelling units on the site. The owners have indicated that it is likely that they will either appeal the order to the Zoning Board of Appeals or file for any necessary special permits and/or variances to allow six dwelling units on the property. The BI will give them a reasonable amount of time to do this.

Halifax Fireworks

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously affirmed Kim Roy signing the contract, on behalf of the Town, with American Thunder for the Fourth of July fireworks display.

Site Plan Review/J & V Auto Sales

The Planning Board has started the site plan review process for the proposed business at 320 Monponsett Street. The Board of Selectmen will, at some point in the future, hold a hearing on the Class II (used cars sale) license. However, given what happened to the property with the previous owner, Seelig thinks stricter language concerning the landscaping and maintenance of the property is needed. The Planning Board is accepting comments until March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ambulance Rates

In keeping up with the industry the Fire Chief is requesting that the Board approve the changes to the ambulance rates, increasing them by 3%.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the following list of ambulance fees, effective March 1, 2018:

| SERVICE                        | FROM          | TO            |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Basic Life Support (BLS)       | \$ 1,205      | \$ 1,241      |
| Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1) | \$ 1,950      | \$ 2,009      |
| Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2) | \$ 2,150      | \$ 2,214      |
| Mileage                        | \$32/per mile | \$33/per mile |

Zoning By-Law Committee

Alan Dias came by and asked if the Zoning By-Law Review Committee could be re-instituted. Seelig mentioned to him the challenges of the committee meeting. Millias thinks Dias would be great on the committee. Seelig will put a note out the committees to see if anyone would like to get this committee reenacted.

Special Permit - 413 Plymouth Street

Nova Machine and Design is interested in moving from its current location at 500 Industrial Drive to the Hollywood Classics property at 413 Plymouth Street and needs a special permit to do so. The business is a CNC machining company that produces small precision mechanical components that are sold commercially to other companies. It does not engage in retail sales or walk-in type business. The ZBA hearing is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> in case the Board has any comments.

Fieldstone Farm Show Dates for 2018

Initial dates for well testing for the first show are coming up along with the application for the “large event” permit from the Board of Health. Seelig has sent a reminder to Clawson and Attorney Taylor and also reminded them that the BoH is still waiting for a letter confirming the agreement (reached in April 2017) between the BoH and Clawson and Attorney Taylor concerning the well testing.

Leonard Teceno - Appointment - Capital Plan Committee

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously appointed Leonard Teceno to the Capital Planning Committee, with a term to expire June 30, 2018.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS****Burrage Pond – Elm Street – DFW proposal**

Joan Pierce from Fisheries and Wildlife came in to inform the Board that her committee has had a meeting and they are committed to purchasing the land, subject to Town Meeting. DFW does not have the money for this fiscal year but will have it next fiscal year but will do the appraisal this year. If some projects don't follow through they might have the money to buy the property this this fiscal year.

Roy asked what if the appraisal does not come in with the figured offered and Pierce said the Town does not have to accept. Roy then asked what if it comes in over and Pierce said the town will only get the \$250,000.

Seelig said that he will continue to work with town counsel on this and will need to check with the Attorney General's office to see if they we need to go out to bid or not and if it needs to be accepted at Town Meeting.

Pierce stated that Seelig will hear from her before any appraisal is done and asked if he would keep her posted with whatever information he may need. The Board thanked her for all her efforts.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Chapter 61A Land

John Grew, the trustee for the Sanborn Revocable Trust, has notified the Town of his intention to sell several parcels (roughly over 90 acres) in the southern part of Halifax that currently has Chapter 61A designation. Seelig has notified the departments and requested comments. The parcels are large enough that there may be good reasons for the Town to be interested for both open space and municipal purposes. Since the intent to sell is not based on an offer, if the Town was interested in one or more of the parcels, it would need to have the land appraised first.

Seelig has talked with Pierce about this land and seeing as she was here this evening he asked her if there was a land purchase grant program and she said yes there is and with your open space plan you can conceivably qualify for matching funds.

She added that she knew of some other conservation entities that they work with who are very interested in the Winnetuxet River in general.

On behalf of the Town, Seelig would like to contact some non-profits that might be interested in purchasing and he would like to place a holder for Town Meeting. The Board was fine with Seelig's intentions.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

#### **Jack Cocio – South Shore Community Action Council**

Mr. Cocio, CEO of SSCAC came in this evening as he wanted to share with the Board information about the Council and some of the benefits that the residents of Halifax receive directly from them. He briefly touched upon the following services provided for 2017:

- fuel assistance - winterized 125 homes - help with replacing heating systems.
- low income, heat assistance for individuals – approximately 350 residents – they were able to receive approximately \$150,000 towards their heating bills this past year.
- tax assistance - 18 households - returns are done free of charge. In 2017 600 tax returns done by volunteers.
- food distribution center - distributed 152 pounds to Halifax homes - in the summer they buy food from local farmers.
- \$285,000 in service dollars was expended in 2017 on behalf of Halifax residents nothing on administrative costs.

He is asking that an article be place on the warrant and said he would be willing to speak on it at Town Meeting or to any board of committee if needed to. Roy said that his article is on the Capital Plan but money is tight this year so Halifax might have to tweak the figure. Cocio said they put in a specific number but whatever the intention of the town is fine as any amount will help.

Seelig said that he is welcome to attend Town Meeting but explained that we do the articles by lottery so his article could be the first thing that comes up or it could be the last and further said we could very well be there for two nights if we do not get through all the article the first night. He added that the Finance Committee may want to invite him to come in beforehand as we have gotten three or four of these types of articles this year.

The BOS thanked him for coming in and for all the work the council does.

### **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**

#### **Dog Park**

The group of Halifax residents interested in a dog park has asked whether an article could be placed on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting because approval of such an article is required for obtaining a grant for funding the design work of a dog park. Seelig wrote Sue Vogt with the following a starting draft of an article:

*To see if the Town will vote to approve the use of property owned by the Town of Halifax for a dog park, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen for the use of any particular property, subject to obtaining any necessary permits from agencies and departments of the Town and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that no Town funds shall be used for the “hard construction” costs of such a facility and that the facility shall be build only if private donations in an amount equal to 10% of the “hard construction” costs are received, and that the Town shall provide maintenance of the facility if volunteer organizations fail to provide maintenance or take any other action thereon.*

He is waiting to hear back about whether the group wants to pursue this. The group is not advocating a particular site but may be interested in the Town property behind the water tower. Seelig wanted to inform the BOS of this for comments and questions.

Roy was not keen on the following wording:

*and that the Town shall provide maintenance of the facility if volunteer organizations fail to provide maintenance or take any other action thereon.*

She stated that keeping up with the buildings we have now is more than enough not to mention that we do not have the resources to take this on. She further said that HOPS fundraised in order for them to reach their goal and no town funds will be used to maintain the site. Roy said that the dog park is a great idea but it needs to be funded 100%. She suggested that maybe they come before the BOS so that they can explain about the funding.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

#### Stacy Varao – Appointment to Holidays in Halifax Committee

Ms. Varao has expressed interest in serving on the Holidays in Halifax Committee. Garron asked her why she wanted to volunteer and she stated that she is new to the area and wants to become more involved with the community. She is passionate about the Christmas holiday so this is right up her ally. Millias said that volunteers are always welcome and Garron added that she does not live in town but is willing to serve on a committee in our town and thanked her for that.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously appointed Stacy Varao to the Holidays in Halifax Committee, with a term to expire June 30, 2018.

### **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**

#### Oak Street - Speed Limit Sign

After a resident requested that speed limit signs be put up on Oak Street, Seelig went out to Oak Street to take a look. He did not see any speed limit but did see “Thickly Settled” signs at each end. He notified the Traffic Safety Committee and told the members that he would recommend that the Board of Selectmen vote to replace the “Thickly Settled” signs with the hybrid signs that include “Thickly Settled” along with the 30 mph speed limit and the citation from the Massachusetts General Laws. He has not heard back from any of the members. He is recommending that the hybrid thickly settled 30 mph signs are put up.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved replacing the existing “Thickly Settled” signs with 30 mph speed limit signs with “Thickly Settled” posted within the sign, west bound on Oak Street at the Plympton /Halifax line and east bound on oak Street at the intersection of Oak & Holmes Street.

#### Metro South Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon

The luncheon will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Bridgewater State University. Seelig, Millias and Garron will be attending.

#### Chapter 70 Lawsuit

The Worcester School Committee had indicated an interest in joining the Brockton School Committee’s lawsuit concerning Chapter 70 funding. Seelig is not sure if Brockton is seeing the same problems as us or if the grievances from these two communities coincide with all of our concerns (charter school funding, special education, general Chapter 70 support), but it might be worthwhile to inquire so he would like to contact the Brockton School Committee and find out

more information about the lawsuit and if they're looking for funding. Roy is willing to work with them and Millias encouraged him to look into this.

#### MassGIS - 911

MassGIS has sent a note out to the cities and towns about ensuring that parcel mapping information and address information is being sent to them. Halifax has been doing the first, but had not been doing the second. The Assessors are working on this.

#### Chapter 90 Funding

The State has released the distribution amounts for Chapter 90 funding for FY2019 (\$269,439 for Halifax), but this funding is contingent upon approval by the Legislature and the Governor. There will be an article on the warrant for the ATM. The Highway Surveyor and Town Accountant have been notified of this.

#### Selectmen's Policies

Seelig has revised the policy and has given the BOS a copy of the revisions. Both Millias and Garron have not had a chance to look them over but will.

#### Special Town Meeting

Moved Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to open the warrant for the May 14, 2018 Special Town Meeting.

#### Marijuana - Recreational Business – Changed to Commercial District

Seelig received an inquiry about submitting a petition article to change the zoning to allow recreational business in the commercial zoning. He is not sure if the petition will be filed by March 1<sup>st</sup> (deadline for the Annual Town Meeting). Garron asked if we voted industrial zone for this and Seelig said yes but it can be brought to Town Meeting to change it to commercial. Garron is not interested in changing it.

#### Zoning By-Laws

Seelig is still working on this with the hoe to have something by March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to recess at 8:29 p.m. for five minutes.

Board reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

#### **Robert Bergstrom - Live Entertainment Permit - Mudfest**

The Board asked Bergstrom if anything has changed from the last event (November 2017) and he said no. McSherry said the only thing that did change was that there will be no amplified music after 5:00 p.m. (November event was until 6:00 p.m.). Roy read the stipulations listed on the permit that was issued in November 2017.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to issue a one day Live Entertainment Permit for the Mudfest event to be held on Sunday, June 10, 2018, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)****FY2019 Budget**

At last night's joint meeting between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen no decisions were made but there was plenty of discussion about various priorities and alternatives among the department heads, employees and residents. Seelig was happy that SL reduced their budget by \$291,000 from their earlier proposal; \$200,000 of it was in salaries and insurance. Seelig hopes that another community will buy into the \$200,000, Halifax will have to come up with another 35,000, which is doable. Roy said that this is not a level service budget and stated that Paula Hatch did advocate for our town. Roy was not sure why Halifax's other two member were not there but she was extremely disappointed. She did say that there was a representative from Plympton but she was not sure where they stood on this and added that there does not seem to be an appetite that the number will be lowered, which will put us in a very difficult predicament.

Seelig went through the attached FY2019 budget scenario (made an official part of these minutes).

Seelig wants to maintain the same level of service we have now based on the number of people we have and the hours they work. Roy said that something has to give and that we may need to make tougher decision next year. She added that we have supported SPED for fifteen years but now something has to give.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)****Kimberly Mahoney – Dog Hearing**

At 8:45 p.m., in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157, Millias opened a hearing to address an incident where a dog owned by Kimberly Mahoney bit an individual on the left arm. The hearing was held at the request of the Board of Selectmen.

The following individual was present and sworn in by Notary Public Pamela J. McSherry:

Kimberly Mahoney                      Dog Owner

*Roy*

So you are the owner of the dog okay perfect thank you. According from the statement from Noreen the victim said that the dog was loose and barked at him when he crouched down and bit him on the left arm in front of the Silver lake convenience store. The dog owner said he got loose when the metal tether snapped. So as Noreen explains to me the owner Kim works at the liquor store. The dog broke its leash and ran to the liquor store and was outside. When a patron came in front of the liquor store the dog was barking he bent down and then the dog lunged on him and bit him in the arm and Noreen also explained that dog did not have a dog license nor was that dog vaccinated for rabies, which is not a very good thing.

*Mahoney:* Right I know.

*Roy:* So perhaps you could give us your explanation of the whole event.

*Millias:* Before we go any further are you in fact a resident of the town?

*Mahoney:* Yes

*Millias:* I just want to establish that.

*Mahoney:* I live next door.

*Millias:* I assume you were close.

*Roy:*

I do believe Noreen wrote you a citation for not having the dog licensed or having a rabies vaccination.

*Mahoney:*

**(inaudible)** I walked over the store to buy something and the dog ... I had put her outside as I was going to the store because she had already broken her other cable. I haven't bought a new one yet so I put her outside on her leash and attached it to a pole I have outside so she could use the bathroom and she got outside cause she was in the house all day and I think she saw me walk over to the store and just kind of freaked out and because she already scared because she knew she wasn't supposed to be off the leash cause she knows she not supposed to be off her leash she saw somebody and panicked and he crouched down and try and call her over and she just was scared. I don't know. She has the tendency to be a barker and come across as mean but she just trying to protect the kids and the house so I'm questioning why she did it. Why I don't have the shots is just her behavior when she's around other people outside house since I've had the baby who is now one in half it's changed. She got really protective of my son and now she's just very protective. Anybody that walks by she barks and makes a lot of noise but typically I never let her out of the house or off the line. She's **(inaudible)**

*Roy*

Well first of all it's irresponsible to have a dog that's not vaccinated it's the law and if you're gonna have a dog then you need to license the dog and take care of the dog and make sure that other people are protected from that dog.

*Mahoney:* Right

*Roy*

And if you're dog exhibiting those sort of behavior it is your responsibility as a dog owner to get the dog training so that the dog does not have that behavior because now we have victim who has been bit by a dog that hadn't been vaccinated properly. So that is not a good this for this community and you had a dog that previously broken it's leash yet you left it alone and it broke a leash a second time. That is irresponsible behavior on your part.

*Mahoney:* The second time she didn't break she like ...

*Roy:* It doesn't matter she got loose.

*Mahoney:* Okay

*Roy:* There's no excuse for it.

*Mahoney:* Okay

*Roy:* At all

*Mahoney:* I understand that.

*Roy:* I have little patience for this situation let me tell you that.

*Mahoney:* Okay

*Roy:* I would have the dog euthanized. That's what I have to say.

*Millias:* What was the recommendation from the Animal Control Officer?

*Roy:*

Well the animal control officer was not exactly thrilled with the way that the dog had exhibited. She had noted that the dog could be quite aggressive and was not comfortable with the dog's behavior and had certainly said that if we were not going to do something about this dog that this dog would need to have a kennel built that had a top and everything built around it so that the dog could not get out on any for any reason. I'm really bothered by this I really am very bothered by this.

*Millias:* Where do we go from here I guess is ...



*Roy:*

Well I've stated what I think but and Noreen said you know ... Do you have a kennel are you planning on making a kennel?

*Mahoney:*

I have an outside kennel I just don't have piece of fence for the fourth side and I don't own the place I rent and I'm in the middle of trying to move so I had no intention adding on to anything because I won't be there much longer.

*Garron:* Has the dog got his rabies shots at this point.

*Mahoney:*

I didn't was waiting to see what was going to go on with this meeting in particular and I have been speaking with a woman that works at the vet and I told her after this I would contact her to make arrangements to bring her in after-hours so it wouldn't be too much for the dog or for the people that work at the vet. I have a muzzle and I bought a new line its solid chain from Tractor Supply its nice as opposed to the one she was so that she can't break it. I have no intention of her getting off the line again but ...

*Garron:* Has the dog ever bitten anyone before other than this time?

*Mahoney:* No

*Garron:* No one in your house no visitors?

*Mahoney:*

She's gotten aggressive and snappy but she's never actually bit somebody. I think her in her own mind because she knew she wasn't supposed to be off the line she knows she would be in trouble for doing something like that but she freaked out and panicked and bit the first person that she came in contact with. She's typically afraid of men in general why I don't know I think it was ... her mother was aggressive and I didn't realize that it would be passed down to the dog.

*Roy:*

And have you sought to have any kind of training to address this aggressive behavior since you have a one and half year old?

*Mahoney:*

The behavior like I said recently got worse as the baby got to about one and the dog officer said that when the dog hits about two which she recently had that's when they come into their own and to just keep an eye on it and its really like I said its really it not towards the baby. If you see her with the baby you would think that like they were best friends they're inseparable. He can go in her food while she's eating and she doesn't ... she's not like that with anybody in the house it's just other people.

*Millias:* How bad was the bite? I don't see the packet.

*Garron:* Nothing said. It says he went to the hospital but it doesn't say how badly the bite was.

*Millias:* And what was the breed of the dog?

*Garron:* Pitbull apparently.

*Mahoney:* Rottweiler, German Shepherd and I guess Pitbull and Boxer.

*Millias:* Good size dog.

*Roy:*

And again I will go back to the training if you have a does that shows those aggressive behaviors the responsibility of trying to tame that so that other people are not affected by it.

*Mahoney:*

This is just my second dog so just I haven't really this is my first real experience with any dog being aggressive second dog. Second dog my other dog was a beagle and wasn't like that so I just didn't realize that I should be doing that.

*Roy:* So do you have friends and family come over and does the dog bark at them?

*Mahoney:*

Not to my family she'll bark and they she leave everybody alone right after she kind of lets her presence be known. People she doesn't know she gets like that but I don't have a ton of people in and out of the house.

*Roy:*

Right but it must be pretty bad for a dog that barely two years old to be so aggressive that you can't bring the dog to the vet. That's pretty aggressive.

*Mahoney:* I was afraid of how she would be around other dogs.

*Roy:* Right

*Mahoney:* Now I'm afraid of how she'll be around people and other dogs but ...

*Roy:* Right

*Mahoney:* She's

*Roy:* That's a problem don't you think?

*Mahoney:* I agree.

*Millias:* That's a red flag ya.

*Mahoney:* I know but she's part of the family now it's hard either way. I don't know.

*Garron:*

Well you got you got a choice to make. You can make a decision here if we have the right as a Board if we consider dog dangerous and unfortunately we don't have the dog officer here you know I have heard what conspirators says but you got to determine whether or not because if the dog is getting agitated at two years old and it does bite somebody serious enough to might wind up losing more than that and you might end up being sued. Changes a person if he does catch rabies and have to go through the shots and stuff. There's a lot of things that comes with that. Now have you had the dog since it was a puppy?

*Mahoney:* Ya six weeks. Like I said I when I first ...

*Garron:* You have had it for six weeks?

*Mahoney:* No when I had her since ...

*Garron:* When she was six week old.

*Mahoney:*

Her mother the dog's mother was like growler bite bite but I didn't think that emotional trait could be passed down to the puppies and I've seen other dogs of her liter that weren't also like that so I just think she happened to be one of the ones that got that trait passed down. But like I said inside the house with everybody in the house you'd think she was a regular dog but nobody else is going to see that but us everybody outside is going to see her being vicious and mean.

*Roy:* And that's what we have to worry about too.

*Mahoney:* I know.

*Roy:*

Not just inside your house but we have to look at the liability of it we don't do something and somebody in our community gets hurt then we have ourselves to look at because we didn't do anything to stop the behavior and to me it doesn't seem like you are interested in getting training or restraining other than a chain.

*Mahoney:* I am interested if I knew it will change her.

*Roy:* But you don't think that maybe it will?

*Mahoney:*

I don't know I wouldn't like I said it's my second dog. I don't know. I think she has the potential to be a good dog ya if somebody can break her of that.

*Roy:* Right but she needs somebody with experience and dealing with breaking that behavior.

*Mahoney:* Right

*Garron:*

One of the problems you have is that is the dogs been isolated for such a long time hasn't dealt with strangers or acclimated to people being around and other things and has a tendency to be territorial no what happens with that.

*Mahoney:* Right

*Garron:*

And unfortunately if she's two years old that's a stage that it would take a lot of training to break the habits.

*Mahoney:* Right

*Roy:* And you're not and you don't seem interested in really doing much about a kennel.

*Mahoney:* For the time being I guess I'm trying to move like as soon as possible so I'm not ...

*Roy:* What is as soon as possible what's the time thing?

*Millias:* Kennels are horrible too there not necessary a fix.

*Mahoney:*

She has an indoor kennel a crate and like I said outside she has a three sided one and there's a gate that closes it from her ever going to the street if she's on a chain so I'm and I have a muzzle for her now that I put on her before she goes outside or if anybody comes in the house and its one that is like a cage so it gives her about an inch and a half of space before ... she can't like bite anyone she just she'll just bark.

*Roy:* So how often do you bring her outside?

*Mahoney:*

She goes outside to use the bathroom about twice a day since the quarantined. I use to leave her outside on the line for a couple of hours a day but since she's been on quarantine it's down to like five to ten minutes at a time two or three times a day.

*Roy:* And do have to be outside with her when she's out there?

*Mahoney:* According to the quarantine ya.

*Roy:* Yes have you been?

*Mahoney:* Yes

*Roy:* Okay and then how many more days do we have of the quarantine?

*Mahoney:* Its four months so I have at least three and a half months left.

*Roy:* And do you expect to be moving ...

*Mahoney:* By the time four months is up yes.

*Roy:* Are you leaving town?

*Mahoney:*

Depends on what I can find that can fit my family I have five kids. So it's been and with the dog it's been actually that's even harder but we're just trying to find some place that takes pets and that's big enough for my kids that I can afford.

*Millias:*

I remember when I decided to run for selectmen I was approached by somebody who had been a long time selectmen and he said how much do you enjoy dog hearings and in truth the dog hearings are really you would think that they would be easy but they're not. They're hard but they are kind of clear cut. I'm concerned about this animal it's a large animal it can do a lot of damage. Maybe you don't have the capacity to do what you need to do with this animal. I'm not asking I'm thinking through it. How comfortable are you keeping this animal?

*Mahoney:*

I ask myself because of its jeopardizing my ability to find a place and I don't worry that she'll bite one of the kids I do worry that she would bite somebody else but I feel like I can control her and myself and I could do the training.

*Roy:* But with five kids you're busy.

*Mahoney:* Right that's the only thing.

*Roy:* Are you really going to be able to dedicate your time to it. See that's the thing.

*Garron:*

Well the thing is is this you're looking for a place to move to if the landlord finds out that you got a vicious dog because most people will find it's a vicious dog or tends to bite the got other tenants and stuff then they got a liability.

*Millias:* They're going to have a problem with their homeowners' policy too.

*Mahoney:* And a lot of places prefer that you insure the dog on your own (**inaudible**).

*Roy:* Yes true.

*Mahoney:*

I've considered it I haven't looked into it but I've considered doing that before moving just to avoid the issue but insuring a dog that has already bitten someone is probably tough.

*Millias:* Yes there is ... it starts to get cost prohibited.

*Roy:* So your plan is for the next three and a half months to keep the muzzle on him or her.

*Mahoney:* When people come around and when she's outside ya.

*Roy:*

So you're part of your process is that you are the only the kids don't bring the dog out to the kennel correct?

*Mahoney:* They have they can.

*Roy:* Okay

*Millias:* How old are the kids we're talking about?

*Mahoney:* The ... I have my twelve year olds there twins they've done it they can control her

*Roy:* Since the bite have they done it?

*Mahoney:* Not as often but ...

*Roy:* They have.

*Mahoney:* Every once in a while ya.

*Roy:* I don't feel comfortable with a twelve year old handling the dog - bring the dog outside.

*Mahoney:*

I can limit that to when I'm at work our ... I work right next door I can make sure she only goes out when I'm there.

*Roy:*

Only because this is what I'm thinking we haven't made a decision yet we're trying to kind of work out different things but my concern is you're at work your twelve year old goes to take the dog out they're kids.

*Mahoney:* They don't unless I give them instruction to. They won't just do it.

*Roy:*

No I understand that but I'm saying you know they're gonna try to put the muzzle on the dog then they're gonna try and bring the dog out and if the dog has any chance to get to you then that's where the dogs going and then we have another situation.

So I don't I mean I'll look to see what Noreen said for recommendation but I mean in these kinds of cases you know control over the dog is number one and knowing that that dog is being watched by an adult because it does have aggressive behavior is very important in this situation and I would not feel comfortable having your children being responsible to bring the dog outside.

*Mahoney:*

My other two kids are seventeen and eighteen not that that makes a difference but if one of the kids takes the dog out it could be that too. I could make it so there's no kids taking the dog out period.

*Millias:*

I would be okay with all of it if we had an enclosed kennel.

*Roy:* Ya

*Millias:* I think that's one of my big problems.

*Mahoney:* I can do it like I said.

*Millias:* I understand there's a financial commitment there but they are portable.

*Roy:* I'm surprised the victim isn't here tonight.

*McSherry:* I sent him a letter. It didn't come back.

*Roy:* Have you spoke to him? I know that he ...

*McSherry:* No. I didn't send it certified. I'm not required to do that.

*Millias:* Medical report

*Roy:* I don't have a ... did you see how badly ... okay could you ....

*Mahoney:*

He had a almost like a half inch gash maybe quarter inch gash over there but there was like there was blood coming down so it could have been bigger or smaller. It was punctured on his arm.

*Roy:* Yes cause he ... according to the victim he the dog leaped on him.

*Mahoney:* Well he said ya he said he crouched down.

*Roy:* And knocked him over yes.

*Millias:* That probably didn't help the whole situation.

*Mahoney:* No (**inaudible**)

*Roy:*

So the initial report from Noreen states reports he was bit by a dog went to the hospital and they advised him to contact the Animal Control Officer. He did she logged all the information then the Animal Control Officer Callahan was called by victim saying he was bit in front of the 655 Monponsett and that the dog owner works at the package store. She had left a message for you (indicated Mahoney) with no response and then she texted the Animal Inspector who said she would call in and finally ACO Callahan interviewed the dog owner and the dog owner said that Riley her brown two year old Pitbull Shepherd mix snapped her cable and came to her place of work. The dog owner stated that the dog was not licensed or vaccinated. So it doesn't really say how many stiches. It was enough that he went to the hospital.

*Millias:* Well especially when you don't know whether the dogs been vaccinated.

*Roy:*

Right so I think the dog has to be quarantined. Is it forty five days or it is four months. You're saying four months.

*Mahoney:*

She told me four months. Ten days before they even make any recommendation to have her licensed or vaccinated but she said you can go have her licensed but you have to go to that meeting so I figured I would wait until after I come here.

*Roy:* Right because you have to have a vaccination in order to receive a dog license.

*Mahoney:* Oh really.

*Roy:*

So that's the process. Most owners would bring their dog to the vet have them vaccinate it and then obtain a dog license through our Town Clerk office.

*Garron:*

We still don't know at this point in time whether or not he contracted rabies the dog had rabies. That's what the ten day expands for.

*Roy:* Yes

*Garron:*

Gestation period to see whether or not the dog in fact was had rabies or disease or questionable change that's why you can't get a vaccination until after the ten days.

*Mahoney:*

Well she contacted me after the ten days was up (**inaudible**) and she didn't show any signs. I don't know about the guy. I mean she doesn't have rabies. I haven't heard anything further about him.

*Garron:*

As much as anyone can make a decision tonight I really want to hear from Noreen about how long that going to be and her recommendations so I can make changes. I mean my first gut reaction is that build a kennel top and bottom and muzzle and the only person dealing with it an adult and giving her every warning that if the dog is found runs loose again or bites again put it to sleep.

*Millias:*

I'm kind of on the same page. I want to see a total secure kennel and I want you personally to be responsible for taking this dog in and out. The weathers gotten better now so the dog can stay out if you're at work I'm thinking.

*Mahoney:* No I don't leave her out without ...

*Millias:* In the kennel?

*Roy:* I wouldn't. I'm sorry to interject with you.

*Millias:* Oh no no no I'm saying if she has to ...

*Roy:*

I think this dog because this dog has such aggressive behavior I don't think that it should be alone outside even in a kennel.

*Millias:* Okay that's fair.

*Roy:* Especially because at least for the four months he's she's on dog arrest.

*Mahoney:*

Okay so as of right now add a fourth side to. I have a chain link enclosure like I said is three sided if I added two more posts I can enclose it in on four sides it would be about six feet high maybe five in a half feet high.

*Roy:* Noreen also wanted the top.

*Mahoney:*

The top on it would be I don't know how to do it but I'm sure I could find a way to put a top over it.

*Millias:* Stretch a chain link over it or something.

*Mahoney:* It's a really big space I can maybe make it smaller.

*Garron:*

Construction wire you can get construction wire the construction wire what do you call it a mesh Tom, construction wire what is it the mesh solid piece they put down for concrete.

*Millias:*

You got gardening fence there's chain link that's relatively cheap. You could stretch it across and tie it off. I'd probably want to see chain link cause it is a little smaller. Kennels are tough too because they can dig.

*Mahoney:* Right

*Millias:* and get under.

*Mahoney:* I can keep her on a chain and keep her inside the kennel.

*Roy:* I'm going to back to I think you're in over your head with this dog I do.

*Mahoney:* I don't think ...

*Roy:* That's my personal opinion.

*Mahoney:* Well

*Roy:*

Because if you had control of the situation the dog would be vaccinated and the dog would have a license and the first time the dog broke the chain it wouldn't be loose the second time. That's my opinion. And you need to understand the situation and how serious it could have been.

*Mahoney:* I understand.

*Roy:* That person could have been mauled to death.

*Mahoney:*

I don't see her potential to do that. I do see her potential she got scared and she shouldn't bite period.

*Roy:* Thank you. There's no excuse for a dog to bite.

*Millias:*

Maybe that's the answer maybe it sounds like your life would be a whole lot simpler without the dog honestly as distasteful as that may sound to you but especially when you talking about trying to rent and bring the dog. I know if I was the landlord the last thing I want is somebody with a dog especially a large dog that might have the tendency to be aggressive regardless of whether your carrying insurance or not. If somebody gets bit they go after everybody and that includes the homeowner whether you have a policy or you don't have a policy.

*Roy:*

Yup. I mean we could continue it for two weeks but in the meantime have the dog have muzzle until the two weeks and not be left outside except you with him all times to potty twice a day then go right back in.

*Garron:* That a good idea.

*Millias:* Ya I'm good with that.

*Roy:* Because I'm inclined to euthanize but ...

*Mahoney:* Should I pursue licensing and getting her vaccinated now?

*Garron:* Yup

*Mahoney:* Ya

*Millias:* Well

*Roy:* That's the rule we can't tell you not but it doesn't mean it's gonna save her.

*Garron:*

And the dog must be under your control at all times when it's outside or inside. If you a going to continue to putting the muzzle on but the dog has to be licensed and vaccinated that just the policy and the rules.

*Millias:*

I'm kind of into unless you can have the resources to get the dog trained as well it's almost like wasting your money to ...

*Roy:*

So you have time to in the next two weeks to research finding a trainer that can come in or write a statement of their plan to train the dog so that when we re-meet in two weeks with the Animal control Officer we can see how realistic the plan is.

*Millias:* Or you come up with some other plan.

*Mahoney:*

The only other thing I found online is that getting a dog fixed which it sounds to me something that would only work with a boy dog but getting the dog fixed would also calm the dog down. It didn't specify it said spayed or anything so I wonder if that would be helpful on top of training and I would just have to look into how much that would be and if there someone to come to the house.

*Roy:*

So I would take the next two weeks to find out about ya now as Tom suggested to you that kennel to have a top and be fully secured and I would contact a trainer and see what that entails and the cost of that and the time that it takes to train a dog because it's one thing to hire a trainer is another thing to have the time and the energy to do the homework to make sure that the dog is trained.

*Millias:* And the expense of it.

*Roy:*

It's a lot it's a lot with that many ... I know I raised a family a large family it's a lot. I mean I'm lucky I have a dog that is ya know easy going but you know she doesn't always sit when she suppose so I understand the energy that it takes to do that but in this case you have an aggressive dog.

*Garron:*

Kim if I may got to do some sole searching you got the kids you got family you got to decide which comes first.

*Mahoney:* I know.

*Garron:*

Difficult it's difficult anytime. I've been a dog owner my whole life and I know how it is just to put dogs down that reach that point but at the same time you got to come to the realization that the kids are going to be there a long time so the dogs are always be there. Can always get another dog.

*Mahoney:* Ya I know. I've considered a lot of things just ...

*Garron:* Okay well ...

*Roy:* You'll have couple of weeks to think about it.

*Mahoney:* Okay

*Roy:* And we will too.

*Seelig:*

Do does the Board ... I know you're going to continue the hearing to 8:15 on March 13<sup>th</sup> is the Board giving any specific orders for the next two weeks?

*Millias:* The dog should be in your control at all times.

*Garron:* Muzzle

*Millias:* As far as the kennel goes while the dog out trying to do her thing ...

*Roy:* She with her at all times.

*Millias:* Ya you're with her all the time.

*Roy:* And the muzzle must be worn outside and when guests come over.

*McSherry:* Muzzle needs to be worn when?



Roy: When outside and when guests come to the house.

Millias:

Dogs are funny creatures. I had on that was incredibly aggressive outside if you were coming on the property not off the property but once you were in he was fine but they're always unpredictable - the bottom line. No matter what their behavior has been it can always flash.

Roy: Cause you wouldn't have predicted that he would have broken the thing right?

Mahoney: Right

Seelig: So 8:15 on March 13<sup>th</sup>

Garron: Sorry you had to be here.

Mahoney: What?

Garron: I'm sorry you had to be here.

Mahoney: That's alright.

Roy: I'll make that motion.

Garron: Second

Millias: All those in favor?

Millias: Aye

Roy: Aye

Garron: Aye

### **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**

#### **FY2019 Budget (continued)**

With the Board's approval, Seelig would like to go to the Finance Committee with the first scenario and then present the second scenario. He will contact his colleagues in the other two towns. Roy is bothered that the school gives them a *first draft* because Halifax does their budget with that draft. She is impressed by the SL school but this is the year of the need not the want and is asking that they maintain what they have. Millias said you need to find balance and cannot sacrifice the whole community for one cause.

Seelig is happy to send the "*A budget*" to the SL school committee. Roy thinks the proposal is fair and asked how do they present the 1% wage increase to the school and Seelig said the proposal includes the 1% for the school but they (the school) are obligated to pay the 2% so they will need to see where they can cut back 35k. Roy asked if the 1% was fair and Millias said it's not but if it is all we can do than it will have to be.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

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Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm