

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018 - 7:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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

Roy wanted to update the home audience about the pick-up and drop off over at the elementary school for the upcoming school year.

With the above additions, the agenda for Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES**

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

Regular Session – July 10, 2018  
Regular Session – July 21, 2018

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS, COMMITMENTS & BILL**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 10	\$ 129,775.42
Payroll Warrant	# 11	\$ 221,383.22
Vendor Warrant	# 12	\$ 561,132.22
School Warrant	# 13	\$ 133,871.84
Withholding Warrant	# 14	\$ 76,639.76
Ambulance Commitment	# 8A	\$ 18,448.00
Ambulance Commitment	# 8B	\$ 85,883.00
Payable To: Halifax Post Office		\$ 1,002.49

**APPROVED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENTS**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 15	\$ 228,309.07
Mobile Home Park Fee	# 8	\$ 5,160.00

**APPROVED SELECTMEN BILLS**

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

National Grid (service/concession stand).....	\$ 56.29
National Grid (service/Town Hall).....	\$ 1,350.15
W.B. Mason (toner & rubber bands).....	\$ 420.98
STAM (Seelig/annual dues).....	\$ 30.00
Express Newspapers (ad/tax classification).....	\$ 42.00
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo (legal/July) .....	\$ 568.75
Brooks & Derensis, P.C. (legal/July) .....	\$ 4,561.67
Michael Gilman Esq. (legal/July) .....	\$ 231.00

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

Student pick-up & drop-off at the Elementary School

Roy explained that the traffic for the drop-off and pick-up during the school year is getting pushed down Route 106 and sometimes to the fire station, which has become a hazard issue should a fire apparatus need to go out on a call. The fire chief, police chief and Roy have talked with the principal and they came up with a solution to remove some dead some dead trees and then the highway department will grade the area. The plan is to start this next week if Garron and Millias were okay with it. This is not going to one hundred percent great but it will get the cars off the road.

Sgt. Benner - Classes

The Board received a letter from Sgt. Benner regarding his intention of attending courses in the police science and/or law enforcement field.

Bridge Reports

Reports from MassDOT for the Thomson & South Street Winnetuxet bridges and Thompson and Bartlett Brook bridge all show significant deficiencies. The reports have been forwarded to the Highway Surveyor with the hope that the engineers he uses will be able to come up with specifications for the necessary repairs.

Town Meeting Review Session

A meeting for the review of the STM will be on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Seelig has posted the meeting just in case there is quorum of the BOS.

ADA Grants

The application period is August 1, 2018 to October 1, 2018. The COA might be eligible.

MacDonald Industries – Landfill Solar Field – Site Visit

Marilyn MacDonald of MacDonald Industries has asked if the Board wanted to do a site visit before her coming in to do her presentation. Garron said that he has been on the property and Millias said that he is familiar with the property.

Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore of Laurel Street asked the BOS when they were on the property last because things have changed and Millias said last year and that it mostly has changed on the Bridgewater side.

The Board stated they can continue this discussion after the trailer permit hearing that was scheduled for 7:45 p.m.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Jan & Raymond Jacobs – temporary trailer permit**

Jan Jacobs explained that they had a fire in their home and they now are living in a trailer. Roy said that the request is for an extension for ten months and her niece said they have been told that it will take ten to twelve months to rebuild. Roy said that they can go with a ten month extension and if they need it for longer they can put in another request for an extension.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved renewal of Building Permit #18-154 for a temporary trailer to be used for residential purposes on property located at 23 Annawon Drive for a 10 month period.

#### **MacDonald Industries – Landfill Solar Field**

Millias said that they are hoping to have the presentation with MacDonald Industries on August 28<sup>th</sup> and that his understanding is that the landfill was never capped.

Salvatore said that it was already closed when they bought their property and they were told by a neighbor what had happened.

Garron said that they do not have the specifics at this time so they will have to wait for the presentation to see what is going on.

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

#### **Trailer Permit – Gordon Andrews – 674 Plymouth Street**

A sixty day trailer permit was issued from the Building Inspector on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the above address. Andrews has been advised of the process should he need an extension for the permit. If need be the extension should be filed with BOS office the beginning of September so that the temporary permit does not lapse before the expiration date (October 5<sup>th</sup>).

#### **By-Laws & Zoning By-Laws**

The by-law changes from Town Meeting this past May have all been approved by the Attorney General's office. No comments from the AG's office were received.

#### **75 Hayward Street – Violation of Zoning By-Laws**

The Building Inspector has notified the property owner at the above location of the violation of renting room & board. Seelig will follow up with the BI for the BOS next meeting (August 28<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Addendum A - Howland Disposal Services Inc.**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to sign Addendum A to the agreement between the town of Halifax and Howland Disposal Services Inc.

#### **Theresa Levenson – Resignation - Halifax Fireworks Committee**

The office has received the resignation of Ms. Levenson. The Board was sorry to hear of this but totally understands that she and Colleen (other member of the committee) have put in a lot of time to have this day and to do it with only two members is hard. They have done a wonderful job over the last few years in trying to bring the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event back to what it once was.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously accepted, with regret, Theresa Levenson's resignation from the Halifax Fireworks Committee, effective August 1, 2018 and send a letter to her thanking her for serving on the committee.

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

#### **Judy Rakutis – Appointment to OCES**

Ms. Rakutis said that she lived in Halifax as a child then moved away and came back here three years ago. She has always loved the town and wanted to come back some day so here she is. She also wanted to be closer to her daughter who lives in East Bridgewater. Garron thanked her for volunteering.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously appointed Judy Rakutis as the representative for the Town of Halifax to the Old Colony Elder Services, term to expire June 30, 2019.

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

#### **Board of Health – Door Request & Additional Training**

The Board of Health is requesting that a dutch door or window be installed to replace the current door due to a recent incident. They also would like additional training for employees to deal with hostile incidents. Seelig recommends that the BOS request that the Building Committee have such door installed and ask the Police Chief about additional training.

Chief Broderick said that he can schedule more training but the quickest thing is to pick up the phone and dial 911 and that people need to get past the stigma of calling 911. If you feel threatened then you should call.

Millias asked about a panic button and the chief said he is not a fan of it and it has to go through dispatch also so dialing 911 is just the same and quicker. You can dial 911 and put the phone down and the dispatcher will hear that something is going on and send someone over.

Roy said that they can talk more about this with the Building Committee as they are coming in later.

#### **Family Medical Leave**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to grant Dave Swanson's request for Family Medical Leave beginning July 16, 2018, with an anticipated end date of August 31, 2018.

#### **Family Medical Leave**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to grant Sandra Nolan's request for Family Medical Leave beginning August 13, 2018.

#### **Brian Cook – Crystal Lake Drive Property**

The office has not seen any correspondence from Cook since the last BOS meeting. Seelig recommend that Cook send any material to Attorney Mayo and Mayo has not mentioned anything coming in. A relative to Cook, Alex Cook, has asked if any correspondence has come in within the last three weeks and Seelig told him nothing has been received.

Flagging Rocks on Monponsett Ponds

The office has received a complaint about rocks and obstacles in the ponds and was inquiring about having them flagged. Seelig is looking into this. Chief Broderick was in the audience and said that he does not think Halifax has the authority to flag rocks and that it would fall under State. He continued to say that if someone wants to mark one that is front of their house he/ his department are not going to stop them. Roy added that the town does not want to be responsible for not marking everything.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)****Robert Bergstrom – Mudfest – November 2018**

Bergstrom stated that everything is going to be the same as in the past. He is requesting to down size on the police details from six to four as there tends to be a little less of a crowd then it was from the first two or three events. Chief Broderick said that he can work with him on that asked him to come in a week before the event with his numbers and if they are down they can adjust the number of officers needed.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to issue a one day Live Entertainment Permit for the Mudfest event to be held on Sunday, November 11, 2018, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All stipulations are to remain in place except for the number of detail officers, which will be discussed with the police chief a week before the event.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Junk Furniture – 105 Circuit Street

This issue has been resolved

Police Assessment Center

Seelig provided the BOS with his rating of the three firms (BadgeQuest, MMA Consulting & Ryan Strategies) that have submitted proposals for the assessment center.

Roy stated that they have worked with Badgequest for their Sergeant assessment Center and thought they did fine. She added that Seelig recommends MMA Consulting.

Garron thinks the last assessment session they had for the Sergeants went great and Millias agreed.

Chief Broderick said that BadgeQuest is a local firm and they know the conditions and added that he has not heard of any complaints about them.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously awarded the Police Assessment Center contract to BadgeQuest, Inc.

Monponsett Pond Funding

The State Legislature overrode the Governor's vetos for funding for Monponsett Pond. Seelig is going to follow up to confirm the amount of money available and purposes.

Junk Cars – 24 Cherry Street & 65 Colby Drive

Seelig is recommending that Board instruct him to inspect the above properties and if more than one vehicle remains that he can issue fines notices. Each owner has been notified twice about the problem (by regular mail & certified).

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to allow Seelig to issue fines to the owners at the above locations for having more than one unregistered vehicles on the property.

#### School Repair Project

The documents will be available tomorrow.

#### Road Cut – 368 South Street

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2018-55 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in & 4' x 35' road cut trench to install new service at the above location.

#### Road Cut – 435 Holmes Street

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2018-56 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in & 4' x 45' road cut trench to install new service at the above location.

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

#### **Municipal & School Building Committee**

##### *Dutch Door*

Roy began by saying that the Selectmen received a request from the Board of Health to have a dutch door installed. Bert Gaynor asked why and Roy said for safety issues should someone come at them in the office. Gaynor then asked if we were going to do this for all the offices and Millias said as a whole this is something that needs to be looked at as we are talking about making some moves and easing up some of the office space upstairs, not so much moving people out but maybe getting some of the filing cabinets out if we make a switch – it might be easier to just build a little half wall than destroy the door and then get people piling up in the hallway.

##### *Handicapped Ramp*

Roy then asked if they were going to pass over the Article for the ramp and John Campbell said they were going to fix the boards and suggested putting it on the capital plan because to put up a new ramp is a lot of money. Roy said that this request came in because we almost had somebody hurt themselves a couple of times on the ramp and has now become a safety issue. She then said that if you change something on the ramp it then will have to be brought up to code and Millias added now that the town is aware of the deficiencies in the ramp the town could be at risk if not brought up to code. Roy said if we pass over this article and we have an engineer come in and they say “you need to address this” we won't have any funding in place to get it done before spring.

Campbell said that they need to get prices and an actual an engineer involved and tell them what exactly is wrong with the ramp. Millias said that he knows Scott's been trying to get somebody to come down and make an assessment of it and added that he does not think they have enough time to bring this to the STM (August 20<sup>th</sup>) so if it becomes an emergency then they may have to look at something else. Roy said that as long as people can say it is completely safe, because we have people that use it on a daily basis. She continued to say that if they put some money aside then they are protecting the town but if they want to pass over it then she is fine in doing so but wanted on record that she did not want to pass over the Article.

*Senior Center*

Roy began by saying that she is sure everyone is still in shock when the numbers came in for the Senior Center. Last night they met with the Finance Committee and the architect and OPM were there. They talked about the difference in the price of the project and then adding on the soft costs making it about 1.5 million dollars short that was needed for the project.

Campbell said that we have the OPM to assist us in getting these bids to the town's people properly and they came in last night with the figures and it blew him off the chair. He knew they were going to have to pay the OPM but had no idea it was that kind of money. Millias said that was his reaction too and what personally annoyed Millias was the fact that he said they plan on being there for nine months so that number should have been tossed around a long time ago.

Campbell said they were given a spreadsheet but it was primarily the early charges for different figure heads and the 'clerk of the works' – if we're going to use a 'clerk of the works' for three days a week or we could use him five days a week, we had those figures, but we didn't have the figures that the OPM was part of the charge and he never mentioned it the whole time.

Millias said the total for the soft cost is \$500,000 and Campbell explained that \$250,000 is on a contingency and \$250,000 would be for the OPM and testing. Testing would be the tiles in the kitchen (for asbestos) and the "rubble" foundation.

Roy also was shocked by the soft cost and asked if the two million dollar number included the soft cost and Campbell said if they were told that the architect would be roughly six percent of the total project price they would have known but it was never mentioned until last night.

Roy said that the Town Accountant had done some calculations and if we tried to shove it within the levy it would put us in a really tough financial position. The two reasons three hundred thousand dollars is left on table is that the town does not want to burden the taxpayer for the full levy and the other is that we like to keep that money for an emergency. She continued to say that each member of the Finance Committee personally felt they could support the project, but they could not support it within the levy and they recommended that we debt exclude the one point five million.

Millias said the problem with that is they cannot do it at this Special Town Meeting (August 20<sup>th</sup>) because as Roy said she did not think they could since they didn't put the residents on notice to make that substantial change to the Article. Another thing Millias mentioned was that they cannot bond it if they are not comfortable with it.

Gaynor asked if the grant money was still available from the State and asked if it was \$200,000 plus another \$50,000. Roy asked if they were putting in for another year and she thought that money was tied to a certain fiscal year and not sure if it was still available. She asked Burt Gaynor about this grant money as he was working with Senator Brady and Gaynor said that he can check on it.

Millias stated that the Town has sold some property that we might be able to use to help offset some of the cost but even that would require a two thirds vote. Roy said to Millias' point we were already trying to identify different sources to make this happen.

Millias said that they have gone down this road so many times and they have to find a way to make it happen.

Roy said that debt exclusion makes it more challenging but she does not know any other way of doing it. She said that this this is important to all of us but we can't think with our hearts as we have to stay with the way that we budget so that we don't put all the services at jeopardy if something should happen. She said that it will cost the average taxpayer a hundred and fifteen dollars per year for the entire 3.5 million dollar project.

Garron said a resident asked him why don't we use the actions that were taken to do the school project as a blueprint to do the Council on Aging – these are questions need to be asked.

Campbell said that the school project was boosted up a million dollars a week before Town Meeting and Millias said that was for the fire suppression and Roy said yes the fire suppression got doubled. She explained that the fire suppression system has really been difficult because that figure went from five hundred thousand then to a million and then nobody bid for it which is why the project didn't get done, so that is still on the table and needs to be paid and we had secured that within the levy. She added that school is starting so that construction will not start until next spring which puts off the bidding process.

Roy said that the BOS is meeting with the new Moderator, Dennis Carmen, and they are going to discuss what can and cannot be done. She stated waiting is only going to cost us more and pointed out that a couple years back it was going to cost three million to put up a brand new senior center and to do it today that figure would probably be double. So economically we should do it right now because this is what we have on the table and if we wait it is only going to cost more.

Roy asked where do we go from here and Millias said they really are going to have to do their homework and go into the Town Meeting with the best recommendation they can think knowing it may be the passed over until there is another Town Meeting. So if that was to happen Roy said they would need to talk about how soon another Town Meeting can be set up seeing as special elections are coming out.

Millias said that the Finance Committee was pretty adamant that they would only support it if we went for the debt exclusion but on a positive note from last night's meeting, Roy said all four members of the Finance Committee personally support the project.

Millias then said all we can do is present it in the best fashion possible and ultimately it is going to be up to the voters who show up. He suggested that when explaining the Article just go over the general history of how long we have been trying to do it and not get into the details as it can go on forever but if asked by all means we will answer.

Campbell asked the Board if they thought it was a good idea posting the bids on Facebook at this particular time and Roy said that Seelig asked if it was okay and she thought it was a good idea reason being is we have had a lot of activity on Facebook about the Senior Center and seeing he was going to be away for a couple of days he wanted to be proactive as he knew people would be asking for the information. Garron said that it was the right thing to do as people needed to know before Town Meeting.

Roy said that we are going for the three million (total amount of the project) even though we already had two million approved.

Millias was very upset with the whole ordeal and said that the architect misled everybody all along and the committee was pretty clear about the direction they wanted to go and he just went off on his own anyway. This makes everybody look bad and we all went into this with the best of intentions.

The Board thanked the Building Committee for coming in.

### **Fire Chief Viveiros**

#### *Contract for Ambulance billing*

Viveiros has put out a request for quotes and has received proposals from four ambulance billing companies. Three of the companies them collect 4% and the other one collects 2.75%. The company he is recommending is Comstar (collects 2.75%). Attorney Mayo said that because the total number of the contract would be over fifty thousand we can only do a two-year contract.



He said both the Town Accountant (Nolan) and Treasurer-Collector (Adduci) are on board with how it will work with the bank accounts.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously authorized the Chair, Kim R. Roy, to sign the Business Associate Agreement and the Comstar Agreement with Comstar.

*Contract for Wildland Firefighter Vehicle*

Viveiros also went out to bid for a forest fire truck and only received one bid, which was from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles out of Attleboro, in the amount of 131,946. He feels good about this price as they allowed up to \$150,000. They are going to be re-using the tank that was on the old forest fire truck as there is nothing wrong with it.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, at the recommendation of Chief Viveiros, the Board unanimously accepted the bid for the forest fire truck and executed the contract with Greenwood.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

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Thomas Millias  
Clerk

/pjm