

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. with Selectmen 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**

The agenda for Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES**

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

- Regular Session – June 15, 2018
- Regular Session – July 25, 2018
- Regular Session – August 20, 2018

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS**

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

Payroll Warrant	# 16	\$ 224,310.07
Vendor Warrant	# 17	\$ 81,347.62
Withholding Warrant	# 18	\$ 75,947.11

**APPROVED WARRANT**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 19	\$ 99,811.05
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**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).....	\$ 77.16
National Grid (service/Town Hall).....	\$ 1,430.01
Harry B. Harding & son, Inc. (printing STM/8-20-18).....	\$ 1,448.75

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

**Police Chief Contract**

The Board signed two copies of the contract between the Town of Halifax and Police Chief.

### Recycling Grant

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously authorized Garron to sign the contract between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Town of Halifax for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant.

### MBTA Parking Fees

The MBTA is revising their fees the parking lot fees. Seelig would like to suggest that the T make parking free on weekends if it is the main purpose of the T to get ridership up.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to have Seelig send a letter to the MBTA regarding free parking on the weekends.

### Talent Bank Forms

The office has received talent bank forms from Claudia Noble-Cotton, Adrienne McDougall, Samantha Spencer and Kimberly Kling. All have expressed interest in serving on various boards & committees.

### Fire Chief Contract

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to approve the contract between the Town of Halifax and Fire Chief.

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

The current issues have been corrected at the above address.

### Exit Interviews

Seelig has received a suggestion that the town begin conducting exit interviews.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously authorized Seelig to start the process of performing exit interviews.

## **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

### **Bob Demaggio – hazardous conditions on Monponsett**

Mr. DeMaggio came in this evening to talk with the BOS about the safety on East Monponsett Pond. To begin he stated that he lives in Hingham and has had a summer cottage on Paradise Lane for the last forty-four years. He is a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy so he is fairly comfortable and knowledgeable being around the water. What he wanted the BOS to know is that recently he hit an obstruction as he was going north on East Monponsett Pond and his wife almost got thrown off the boat. He continued to explain that the topography of the North end of East Monponsett is loaded with glacial stones all over the place but where they are is a good question. He thinks they do move – vertically, horizontally – and you never know where they're going to show up. He has spoken to the state, the town and the watershed authority and no one assumes any responsibility and he cannot understand that. The thing that bothers him is nothing is posted – there's not a sign, unlike West Monponsett which is "Department of Recreation" is well-posted. He does not expect the Coast Guard to come in and lay out buoys but he thinks in justice to the safety of the pond there should be at least a notice at the landing that boating and swimming is "at your own risk" or we're not responsible for obstacles in the water. He is only saying this because if something happens everyone's going to say it's the other guy's fault and at least it gives the Town some footing to say there are sign posted that there are obstacles in the water. He is asking the BOS if they think it would be prudent to post such signs.

Millias said that it sounds like a reasonable request assuming the state doesn't have jurisdiction but is wondering about the practical nature of it. He also said in the spirit of now having the sense of being put on notice, he thinks some notification should be posted as for the exact verbiage that will need to be determined.

Garron agreed and asked would this be because the lake is low this time of year, lower than it would normally be? Demaggio said that it does get a little lower on the north end of East Monponsett – you can see the heads of some of these boulders but where he was coming right up the middle you could not see it until you were on top on it. Garron said that they will take his suggestion under advisement and they appreciated him for bring to their attention and thanks him for coming it.

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

The office has received thank you notes from District Attorney Alex Zane for the work done by Chief Viveiros and Sergeant Sterling in connection with a fire investigation.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to send congratulation letters to both of them and that the letter from the district attorney be attached to the letters.

#### Council on Aging Building – OPM Services Contract

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved the contract with Vertex for its OPM work on the COA project.

#### Contract for Wildland Firefighting Vehicle

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to sign the contract between the Town of Halifax and Greenwood Emergency Vehicle for the Wildland Firefighting vehicle.

#### Andrews v. Halifax

The Zoning Board of Appeals has now provided the court with reasons for their decisions on this matter. Counsel for Andrews has asked for judicial review. No action is needed from the BOS.

#### Mandate Question

Seelig has sent a letter to the State Auditor's office asking if the expansion of the cancer presumption law for police officers and firefighters would be considered a State mandate. They have confirmed they have received the letter and will take it under advisement.

#### Stormwater Compliance Contract

While Seelig is waiting to get confirmation about funding from the Town, VHB has offered Halifax a contract in the sum of \$17,400 to continue the Stormwater work that GHD began. Various reports need to be filed to be in compliance with State and Federal regulations and then projects to improve storm and ground water treatment need to be taken on. Seelig has talked with Nolan and she is okay with using some of the Monponsett monies since the Stormwater Management plan would be mostly associated with Monponsett Pond. He is asking the Board to approve the contract contingent upon funding.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved the Stormwater Compliance Contract contingent upon funding.

### School Project – Certification of Substantial Completion

Scott Bancroft from Habeeb and associates has sent the Building inspector the *certification of substantial completion*. There is a place for Seelig to sign but he is inclined to do so as none of the door work had been completed. Seelig has sent a note to the Builder, Habeeb & Associates, the project manager and Vertex, regarding his concerns.

Garron asked when would the work be done and Seelig said for the door work, they are hoping to be done by the end of September and he thinks the windows and the siding should be done before then.

Millias wanted to clarify that there is going to be a second shift after school gets out and Seelig said that was correct and they will not be working when school is in session.

### Plymouth County Advisory Board Meeting

Plymouth County Advisory Board, have moved their September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Police Chief Interview Questions

Seelig said that the ICMA has put out an article about best interview questions for Police Chief when doing interviews he thinks this will give the Board some ideas where to start.

### Police Chief Assessment Center

Police Chief Assessment Center contract has been awarded to Badge Quest. Seelig has been in contact with them and right now the BOS needs to approve a job description. He think the only question to come up is the education requirement and said Roy is recommending that they put in a Bachelor's as a requirement, Master's preferred, but it's not an absolute, as the old job description did not have a Bachelor's as a requirement. Millias thought that it was a reasonable thing to have in there and Garron added especially since some of the officers that will be working for them will have those types of degrees and certificates.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to approve the job description for the Police Chief and have it include Bachelor's degree as a minimum requirement with a Master's preferred.

## **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

### **Housing Authority – filling a vacancy**

John McKeown, Executive Director for the Housing Authority, came in this evening requesting to fill a vacancy where a long-serving member and resident of the town, Lee Mulready, chose not to seek re-election and no papers were pulled. Earlier this evening the Housing Authority considered and voted unanimously to recommend Miss Paula Walker. The HA recessed with that decision and are now here to re-convene jointly with the Board of Selectmen to fill that vacancy. McKeown further said that Walker is a resident of the town and lives at Parsons Lane and at this point in her life she is looking to give to the community in which she lives. Also present with him is HA members Jack Mather, Richard and Patricia McCarthy.

Millias asked Ms. Walker if this is something she is interested in serving on and she said yes. Garron asked her why and she has worked all her life full-time and now is retired and is bored. She saw there was an opening and was curious. Garron sked if she was aware of all the responsibilities that are required if she was to become a member and Walker said she believes so and the training doesn't faze her. She is willing to do the work and give it one hundred percent.

Millias thanked her for stepping forward. It is a position that we need to fill and it sounds like you are the right person to do it and apparently the rest of the commissioners seem to feel the same way.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board and members of the Halifax Housing Authority voted as follows to appoint Paula Walker to the Halifax Housing Authority with a term to expire to May 18 2019:

Board of Selectmen	Troy Garron	yes
	Thomas Millias	yes
Halifax Housing Authority	John Mather	yes
	Richard Clark	yes
	Patricia McCarthy	yes

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

#### Police Chief Assessment Center (continued)

Seelig said that Badge Quest has sent what they call a ‘knowledge and skills list’ which they use to determine what exercises are going to be conducted during the assessment sector – there are four of them which are leadership, communication, problem analysis and decision making of principles. What they would like is advice about what other four characteristics the BOS would like added into the exercises. He has contacted Chief Broderick and gave him the same information that he has given to the BOS. A decision does not need to be made tonight but the Board could review them and get back to him and then he will get the information to Badge Quest.

Garron asked Seelig what he wanted from the BOS at this time and he said to narrow it down to a day for the assessment center this way here he could upload the ad as soon as possible, with a deadline for applications being Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Then the weekend after applications come in the Board could review them before their meeting on the September 25<sup>th</sup> and then that evening make a decision as to which candidates descend to the assessment center. Seelig said one of the things Badgequest was very specific about is not bring in people as a courtesy but only those who you are fairly certain you may want for the position this way here you are not wasting their time. He thinks five candidates is a good number.

He further said that the Assessment Center can be done during the week or on a Saturday and if a Saturday Seelig said it might be Columbus Day weekend.

Then after the Assessment Center is conducted the Board will have to decide who they may want to interview and schedule either day or evening times for the candidates. Seelig said if during the evening it should be on an off meeting night and should allow thirty to forty-five minutes for each interview. Millias thought the timeframe Seelig put forward made sense.

#### Mayflower Municipal Health Group Vision Plan

Seelig said that even though the current health insurance plan has some minimal vision coverage, Mayflower is prepared to offer 100% employee-paid extensive vision plan. He is recommending that Halifax not offer the plan as he thinks the Assistant Treasurer is over-burdened with the other health insurance plans that she is dealing with. He is recommending having a discussion with the Treasurer-Collector about adjusting the hours in the budget for FY20 that would then possibly allow this. MMHG maybe offering a high-deductible plan for FY20 which will require more work by Treasurer-Collector’s office as these plans require much more interaction with the employees who decide to participate in them.

Angels in America

*Angels in America* is a non-profit organization based in Middleboro and Bridgewater and would like to put up gold ribbons in every community to bring awareness for childhood cancer. The ribbons would go up at the end of August and remain until the end of September. They would like to put them up on the telephone poles, the town hall and the fire & police stations. Seelig stated that it is up to the Board to make the decision whether they want to give them permission to go ahead and do that.

Garron asked if we have had this type of request before and Seelig seem to think that there were a couple of occasions during the last decade and a half that this has been done at various times but it has been fairly limited.

Millias said that we do not own the telephone poles so we can't specifically give permission and Garron said were the poles are private property. He does not have a problem with tying a ribbon but thinks that permission for the poles should come from whoever owns them whether it is National Grid or Verizon or whoever.

Seelig asked if the BOS was okay to the three town buildings and he can then tell Angels in America them that if they want to do the telephone poles they need to contact Verizon and/or National Grid. Garron was okay with the town buildings.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to allow Angels in America to put up yellow ribbons on the Town Hall and Police and Fire Stations.

James Coughlin Resignation

Due to a personal issue Mr. Coughlin is not able to complete his training as a PI for the Halifax Police therefore has sent a letter of resignation to the Board.

Kestrel Lane & Highland Circle

Resident Joe Parmeggiani of Kestrel Lane would like to have more substantial barriers put at the junction between the two cul-de-sacs to prevent speeding by dirt bikes and quads. At one point there were rocks there but they have been moved around so that they can go full blast through the cul-de-sacs. Seelig has sent a note to the Highway Surveyor asking if he has more substantial boulders or jersey barriers but has not heard back from him. If the Board is okay with Seelig's suggestion he will recommend it to Hayward.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to allow Seelig to contact Highway Surveyor, Steve Hayward, asking him to place boulders or jersey barriers at the above mentioned location.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)****Evergreen Beverage d/b/a Twin Lakes Liquors – continuation of revocation hearing**

Seelig is recommending that the Board continue the hearing to two months from now as there have been no problems with the payments (for taxes that are owed) to the Treasurer-Collector.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to continue the revocation hearing for Evergreen Beverage to October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:45 p.m.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Stop Signs at Circuit & Laurel Street

Seelig has talked with the Highway Surveyor and he decided to not put up stop signs at that intersection as he says they don't meet the criteria under the manual of traffic control devices for four-way intersections.

Seelig understands a number of residents are upset with that decision so he would like to invite them in and the Traffic Safety Committee and also maybe get something from the State to explain if there is any possibility of getting stop signs put up there. He is recommending having everyone come in on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Trailer Permit

Seelig informed the Board that office has not gotten an application for the long-term permit for 674 Plymouth Street so we just see how things play out. McSherry has sent the homeowner a note saying that they need to get the permit application by the end of the month.

Bow Street Property

Seelig still needs to work on this.

Underground/Aboveground Gas Tanks – Highway Garage

Seelig needs to catch up on permitting for this project.

Fieldstone Farms Building Permits

Seelig needs to check with the Building Inspector regarding the building permits for the above mentioned property.

Davis Automotive – Tax Payments

Next revocation hearing is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Cranberry Drive Sidewalk

Seelig has not gotten an estimate from the Highway Surveyor about constructing a sidewalk between the two lobes of the road.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Peter Veneto - appt. - Central Ply. County Water District Advisory Board**

**Laurie Monahan - appt. - Central Ply. County Water District Advisory Board Alternate**

Cathy Drinan came in tonight to introduce Peter Veneto and Laurie Monahan to the Board as they both expressed interest in serving on the Plymouth county water District Advisory Board. She said that this was an important role but does not require a lot of participation throughout the year. Drinan continued to say that the Board meets two times a year and one important role they play is to appoint the three Commissioners. She is requesting that Peter be appointed as a member and Laurie as an alternate.

Garron asked Veneto why he wanted to be appointed and he said he lives on Silver Lake and has seen some things that have happened in the Water District. The ponds have been in pretty bad shapes and he would like to be involved in getting it cleaned up.

Monahan said that she lives right on East Monponsett, so she too has been watching to what has been happening. She realizes how hard it is to keep it clean so she would like to be a part of making it better.

Millias thanked them for volunteering as it is hard to get volunteers, especially engaged volunteers.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Peter Veneto to the Central Plymouth County Water District Advisory Board.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Laurie Monahan as the Alternate to the Central Plymouth County Water District Advisory Board.

The BOS thanked them and welcomed them aboard.

Road Opening – 67 Holmes Street

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2018-57 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in & 4' x 30' road cut trench to install new service at the above location.

Live Entertainment Permit – Salon Serenity

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2018-18 to Kelly McAndrews for live entertainment at Salon Serenity Day Spa on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Recycling Abatements

Moved Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to abate Bill #1290, #2510, #2156, #368, #204, #2630, #1442, #304, #742, #1542, #694, #869, #2337, #401, #1498, #700, #610, #728, #243, #1913, #2371, #2121, #2551, #359, #358, #1885, #626, #682, #2252, #1237, #1642, #2580, #2628, #1265, #1443, #2395, #2334, #2367, #1227, #2167, #1674, #2479, #2381, #2609, #112, #466, #615, #257, #86, #1820, #1712, #2023, #122, #2021, #945, #1014, #772, #2008, #1804, #876, #1459, #1427, #768, #989, #1552, #599, #318, #82, #2208, #674, #790, #2507, #124, #210, #2553, #60, #2624, #923, #2148, #2346, #1082, #399, #1013, #2631, #690, #2305, #2620, #96, #1477, #952, #1698, #1072, #2550, #1511, #1805, #661, #1320, #1441, #1033, #1713, #1697 and #2616, based on the fact that the office has received confirmation from their private haulers that they provide recycling service to the residents.

Seelig reminded audience at home that the deadline for filing abatements is the same as the deadline for paying the recycling bill which is September 5<sup>th</sup> and the office will need to have by that date.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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Thomas Millias  
Clerk

/pjm