

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018 - 6:00 P.M.
GREAT HALL

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Swearing in of Police Chief Joao Chaves

Roy began by thanking everyone for coming this evening to be a part of the swearing in of Halifax's new Police Chief, Joao Chaves. She stated that Chief Chaves brings with him lots of experience in the law enforcement field and briefly touched upon all the accomplishments he has achieved. She further said that the Board of Selectmen is confident that they made the right choice Chaves will be a great fit for the department and our community.

After being sworn in by the Town Clerk, Barbara Gaynor, Chief Chaves said a few words.

The Board continued their meeting downstairs in Selectmen Meeting Room.

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.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – September 25, 2018

Regular Session – October 9, 2018

Regular Session – October 23, 2018

AFFIRMED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENTS

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

Vendor Warrant	# 41	\$ 36,254.85
School Warrant	# 42	\$ 264,812.70
Payroll Warrant	# 43	\$ 390,155.00
Vendor Warrant	# 44	\$ 4,711,563.37
Withholding Warrant	# 45	\$ 147,032.82
Vendor Warrant	# 46	\$ 386,233.21
Ambulance Commitment from 10/8/18 – 10/28/18		\$ 159,985.70
Ambulance Commitment from 10/29/18 – 11/11/18		\$ 59,976.60
Ambulance Commitment from 11/12/18 – 11/18/18		\$ 59,045.50

APPROVED WARRANTS

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

Payroll Warrant	# 47	\$ 380,928.32
Vendor Warrant	# 48	\$ 402,519.60
Withholding Warrant	# 48	\$ 135,143.74

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).....	\$ 54.11
National Grid (service/Town Hall).....	\$ 1,041.62
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo (legal/October)	\$ 1,025.00
Brooks & Derensis, P.C. (legal/October)	\$ 4,419.95

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Eagle Scout Ceremony

There will be an Eagle Scout ceremony for Frankie Rabuffetti on Sunday December 2nd at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church. Seelig will make up a certificate. Roy stated that she cannot make it but Garron said he will make an effort to go.

Late Night Train Service

A group of South Shore communities is looking for letters of support for a program that would have the MBTA run a late train on all three South Shore lines. Seelig is in favor or writing the letter.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support for the late night train program.

Contract - Fuel Storage Tanks - Highway Barn

Moved by Millias and second by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to award the contract to Boston Green Fuel for the removal of underground storage tank and construction and placement of new aboveground storage tanks and associated infrastructure and systems at the Highway Barn.

Monponsett Pond Level

Due to recent rain the level of the pond has risen. Brockton has opened the dam more and resumed diversions.

School Renovation Project – Fire Suppression System & Shades

Moved by Millias and second by Garron, the Board unanimously approved the proposal from Habeeb & Associates Architects for the rebidding of the Fire Suppression Upgrades Project at the Halifax Elementary School.

Moved by Garron and second by Millias, the Board unanimously approved proposal request #14 from Lambrian for the installation of window shades.

Electronic Voting

Seelig is going to start contacting firms that offer to rent electronic voting systems for Town Meeting. He stated that this will save time and encourage more people to attend.

Lakeville Animal Shelter Contract

The Town of Lakeville has signed the agreement. Copies will be forwarded to the ACO, Police Chief and Town Accountant.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Davis Automotive - Continuation of Revocation Hearing

Ms. Davis is back on schedule with her payment plan at the Collector's office therefore Seelig is recommending that the Board rescind their vote revoking their Class II license that was taken on November 5th. He also recommended continuing the hearing to January 22, 2019 at 7:45 p.m.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to rescind their vote taken on November 5th revoking Davis Automotive's Class II license and continue the hearing to January 22, 2019 at 7:45 p.m.

Evergreen Beverage d/b/a Twin Lakes Liquors - Continuation of Revocation Hearing

Mr. Murphy is back on schedule with his payment plan at the Collector's office therefore Seelig is recommending that the Board continue the hearing to January 22, 2019 at 7:45 p.m.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to continue the hearing to January 22, 2019 at 7:45 p.m.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Wage & Personnel Hearing

The annual meeting will be on January 9th. The deadline for proposed amendments is December 26th.

Twin Lake v. Leslie Levy

Apparently Ms. Levy is in arrears in paying her condo bill at Twin lakes. The town is listed as a defendant as Ms. Levy also owes the town back taxes. Attorney Mayo has been notified.

Surplus IT Equipment – Police Station

Moved by Millias and second by Garron, the Board unanimously declared fifty-eight (58) items from the Police Department surplus.

407 South Street

The above property has been foreclosed on by the town. Attorney Mayo has started eviction proceedings against anyone living on the property. The occupants will have until December 15th to leave the property. If additional action is needed Mayo will continue with the process.

Class II Name Change – RG Automotive

Richard Greene would like to change his business name from RG Automotive to RG Automotive, Inc. A hearing is not required and the abutters do not need to be notified.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously accepted the name change request submitted from Mr. Greene.

Election Day at Elementary School

Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to contact Silver Lake Regional School District about either closing the Halifax Elementary School or holding a professional day for all November elections seeing as there were parking problems at this last election.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to SLRSD regarding alternate options for the school for future election days.

Fitzgerald Garden Donation

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to send Mr. Fitzgerald a thank you letter for his kind donation to the Fitzgerald Garden.

Resignation – Thomas Fitzgerald – Beautification Committee

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to send Mr. Fitzgerald a letter thanking him for serving on the Beautification Committee.

Fall Clean-Up

The Beatification Committee wanted to thank those who participated in the fall clean-up day. They stated they had over twenty people who took part in this. The BOS also thanked everyone for coming out.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Margaret Compton-Severance – dog hearing

At 7:45 p.m., in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157, Roy opened a hearing to address an incident where a dog owned by Margaret Compton-Severance, bit an individual as they were patting her dog. The hearing was held at the request of the Board of Selectmen.

The following individuals were present and sworn in by Notary Public Pamela J. McSherry:

Margaret Compton-Severance	Dog Owner	24 Cherry Street
Barbara Hassett		11 Nathaniel Way, Marshfield
Noreen Callahan		Animal Control Officer

ACO Callahan:

Basically we had a dog bite at 24 Cherry Street and that happened on 10/18/2018. We had a visiting nurse. The dog owner had the dog where it was supposed to be which was in a kennel. Which was in a cage. The dog owner did everything correctly. As they were getting ready to leave the visiting nurse ...

Hassett: Excuse I am not a visiting nurse I'm a caregiver.

ACO Callahan:

Caregiver ya know was consoling the dog and reached in and that's when the bite occurred.

Hassett: Ya

Roy: Okay

Hassett: It was my fault it was not the dog's fault.

Roy: Okay

Compton-Severance:

She wasn't consoling the dog. The dog was sound asleep with his back turned. I was taking my mother out to a doctor's appointment it was 12:45 in Kingston. I had gone into the bathroom for a minute. She's never had any contact with this dog. She's only been to my house a couple of times.

Hassett: No that's not true. I've (inaudible)

Garron: Excuse me.

Compton-Severance: No

Garron: Excuse me one at a time.

Hassett: Okay

Compton-Severance:

She's never had any contact with the dog what so ever. So why she would be going over to a sleeping dog and know the dog was sleeping cause the dog cries and howls when I leave and I was leaving. So she was supposed to be walking my mother out to the car. My mother uses a walker there's wood floors. I couldn't understand why I wasn't hearing the walker coming out. There was no bark there was no sound of the cage rattling nothing. Why you're saying good-bye to a dog which is what she said not that she was consoling the dog. She told everybody that she was patting the dog good-bye who's sleeping in his cage. I come out of the bathroom cause I'm hearing no noise of the walker coming out. She' over by my sink with a dry paper towel wrapped around her hand and said that the dog bit her. I'm baffled. The dogs locked in his cage. I offered to wash it I said I had hydro cleanse, bacitracin she wouldn't let me see it. She wouldn't wash it. She said I'll just take another paper towel. I finally forced at least some band aids on her. Then we go out to the driveway and I tell her not to help with my mother but clearly she fine because she is still helping with my mother in getting her in the car. Then she gets in her own car and I keep waving her out of the driveway and she won't leave and she supposedly injured. There's no blood there's just paper towels wrapped around her hand and I don't believe the dog bit her. But even if he did bite her I'd like to ask you if your sleeping in your bed and a stranger reaches in and hits you on the back or touches you on the head you're probably going to swing or do something and I don't think you can hold a dog to a higher standard.

Garron: Could I cut you off could I cut you off at this point. She just said it was her fault.

Compton-Severance: But I don't want my dog to have a bite on his record.

Garron: But but

Hassett: I don't know why there was so much to do over this anyway. It was just a dog bite.

Garron: Did you have to go to the hospital?

Hassett: Yes I did.

Garron: Were there stiches?

Hassett:

No they don't stich a finger and its fine as you can see. Just deep and it bleed a lot. That's why I wrapped the paper towel. I rinsed my hand under the faucet first... first of all let's go back to the beginning. The dog was not sleeping when I saw the dog the dog was very nervous and upset because we were leaving and I understand that I have a dog of my own. And so I love animals and so the dog was ya know I could tell the dog was anxious. So I was trying to console the dog. I don't know where that came from she said I was trying to console the dog not saying good-bye to the dog.

Compton-Severance: She said she was patting the dog good-bye. I believe it's in that report.

Roy: I don't think it matters. I think what matters is that she put her hand in the cage.

Hassett: I did.

Roy: And she's taking ownership for that and ...

Hassett: All of a sudden. She was helping her mother go out and I went back and just (inaudible)

Garron: What type of actions what type of actions would you like to see happen?

Hassett: Excuse me.

Garron: What action would you like to see happen?

Hassett: What action was what?

Garron: With this board. What action would you like to see from this Board tonight?

Hassett: I don't want any action.

Millias: I don't think she was here for that.

Garron: Well well ...

Millias: I understand you're trying to get it on record.

Roy: So its policy that every time there's a bite and it's reported ...

Hassett: I understand

Roy: by a health agency then we have to hold the dog hearing.

Hassett: I understand that.

Roy: So and I understand your concern that your dog would have a bite on its record but

Compton-Severance: I don't think he bit her. Do you have the medical records?

Hassett: Yes it's at the South Shore ... Plymouth Hospital

Compton-Severance:

Why aren't they here because I don't believe she bit the dog and I just want to tell you why I'm upset about this. She came a half hour late and proceeded to tell me about a scam she was running with a car accident where somebody.

Garron: Excuse me

Compton-Severance: Rear rendered her.

Garron: This has nothing to do with the dog bite

Compton-Severance: But I was telling you this a ...

Garron: I understand that but we need to stick to points.

Compton-Severance: Person who likes to sue people, likes to sue people.

Roy: Okay so that has nothing to do with this.

Hassett: I am not suing anybody.

Compton-Severance: Well you can't because I came out of the bathroom and caught you.

Roy: Okay so I don't want to interrupt you but I think that we to ...

Hassett: I don't sue people.

Millias: This is beyond the scope.

Roy:

This is beyond the scope of this hearing. We don't get involved with lawsuits we get involved with the safety of the community when there is a dog bite.

Millias: It appears that the owner did not do anything incorrectly. The dog's not at fault.

Hassett: No

Millias:

It's clear the person who was injured isn't looking for us to do anything. I don't see where we need to put any kind of a bite on this dog's record.

Roy: Yes Right so we'll put ... we'll make a motion to have no action.

Hassett: Ya

Roy: Do I have a motion?

Garron: So moved

Millias: Second

Roy: All those in favor

Roy: Aye

Garron: Aye

Millias: Aye

Richard Goulart - Area 58 - Possible Live Coverage of Meetings

Goulart came in this evening to talk to the Board about the possibility of their meeting going live. What they need to do is to dedicate an IP address that will allow them to do it, which he has already talked to Cesar about. Going live will allow Area 58 to record it from here as it is happening back at the studio also the meeting are turned around faster. The question he had for the Board was whether or not they wanted to go live. Garron said in other words instead of Tuesday night's meeting being played on Thursday it may come out on Wednesday and Goulart said that was correct, making the process much quicker. It also allows them to tape it in two places so if some reason a tech is unable to get to town hall for the meeting it can be recorded back at the studio. Millias said so it is recorded in both places and Goulart said that was correct. Goulart said being live in this setting might actually get more people to come in. He was not sure whether that is something the BOS wants and further said that if someone was to see it at home they then could come in to make a comment. Millias was not sure if that was a great idea.

As for Town Meeting, Goulart said it does not make sense because people could sit at home and watch it. He said Plympton has brought it in and Carver has been live for years. Not to mention this can give Area 58 the ability to go live on any meeting held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Roy asked what happens when they take a break and Goulart said they would cut the sound off and put up a graphic. He said they are working with teaching videographers how to use the graphics so by the time it leaves here it could be re-adjusted and ready to go. She said that if it is easier then she is fine with it.

Seelig did not know if the Board is saying yes to 'live' as in right then and there or if they are saying make the connections so the data gets there earlier than it used to. Millias did not think it made a difference meaning taping here and playing in a day or two or going live.

Goulart said with having the connection in place other Boards could choose to go live if they want to - it would be matter of flipping the switch.

Garron asked if the BOS would make the final decision whether it goes live or whether or we just tape it without any changes and Goulart said yes.

Millias then asked if they would be doing that for every meeting or would they have a policy live or not live and Goulart said correct.

Garron said that there are times when the Board needs to get information out quickly so being *live* would be a good idea.

Roy said she was fine going live and Millias pointed out that it isn't like the meetings are edited so it doesn't really matter. She asked if it cost the town any more money if we do it and Goulart said no.

Millias said speaking of cost at some point he would like to see a break-down of the entire budget for Area 58 – what we're doing and what the contribution is here because he thinks a lot of people don't understand how it gets funded because Comcast does a pretty big job of making it very obscure on their bills. Goulart said he can get that to him and added that at the end of next month they will be voting this year's 2019 budget and he will get it to him.

Goulart suggested that they roll it in to get it set to go live then the Board can decide what they want to do therefore it will make it easier on his staff for programing.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to have Area 58 make the connection but not to go live yet.

Steve Hayward - Cemetery Fees

Roy explained that it has been a number of years since these fees have been looked at and at this time some need to be adjusted to make sure they are in line. Therefore Steve has done some research and he has a proposal of new fees for the Board to review.

Hayward said for residents he increased *lots & graves* from \$125 to \$175 and now has rates for non-residents. He also changed the winter hours for burials: Monday through Friday after 1:00 is \$200 and then the compressor is separate because they don't always have to use it.

Garron asked how do our rates compare to other towns and Hayward said we are still pretty low

Roy the asked if he felt comfortable charging enough and he said yes.

Roy: Okay. Anybody have any questions?

Millias did not have any question and Garron was fine with the figures.

Moved by Millias and second by Garron, the Board unanimously approved fee schedule presented by the Cemetery Superintendent for the Cemetery Department, effective November 27, 2018.

Hayward said due to all the plantings people are putting on the graves he is requesting that plantings from the owners get approval from him.

Moved by Garron and second by Millias, the Board unanimously voted that each new planting needs to be approved by the Cemetery Superintendent.

Hayward presented the Board with Rules and Regulations for the Halifax Central Cemetery that he would like approved.

Moved by Millias and second by Garron, the Board unanimously approved to adopt the Rule and regulations for the Halifax Central Cemetery presented by the Cemetery Superintendent, effective December 1, 2018.

Hayward informed the Board that he has talked with High School about making some rustic signs for the different sections of the cemetery so that people know where the graves are they want to visit. The town will just have to get the material.

Hayward mentioned to the BOS that has not forgotten about the wall but there has been too much going on. Also he would like to open a 40x50 section of the field for new burials because we are almost out of space for lots. This will be right next to the double deeps; the area where he previously showed the Board where the cremation garden is going to go.

Moved by Garron and second by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to allow the Cemetery Superintendent to open up a new 40 x 75 foot section of lots located next to the double deep lots.

Hayward then wanted to talk about the Pine Street Bridge. He stated that he has talked to the company he hired about getting a grant, which they are in process of. Two towns are going for the grant and they are on round five. He is waiting to see if Halifax gets it but MassDOT wants something done now. The plans alone are between \$175,000 and \$200,000. Roy asked where he would get the funds for that and he said he will have to use part of the Chapter 90 money.

Millias and Garron were in awe with the price for the plans and Garron said it didn't cost that much to build the bridge. Millias asked if it was because we have not done this before and there are no plans for it and Hayward said yes.

Hayward said wanted to talk with the bog owner because basically the bridge is there for them to get rid of their water when they flood the bogs. Maybe they could help us do some of the work or pay for some of it. He is not sure if they legally could do that. Millias suggested that maybe they could help with the design end of it.

Seelig said there is nothing saying that they cannot provide some money and Garron said that we cannot force them.

Hayward was told if they get the grant, which can go up to \$500,000, can be put towards the bridge but we don't know what the total cost of the bridge repair is going to be. He said that he could go online and find plans that someone else has used but will have to see if we can actually do something like that legally. He further said that they use to use it for a private contractor to make fixes here and there but again is it legal. Millias said that there are proprietaries so you would have to pay some kind of a fee.

Millias said the reason why it is pricey is because they must have to do some geological work and also it depends on how busy certain firms are – they throw numbers up against a wall. Hayward agreed and said that he just talked to this one because they worked with him on the grant but he plans on talking to a couple of other ones to see what they have for prices.

One last thing Hayward wanted to mention was that is that they hired a driver for Recycling truck. She will be working with the Highway Department two days a week. Previously she was a bus driver then she went to Republic. When she found out she had the job she went to a class to get her hoister license.

The Board thanked Hayward for his efforts and applauded him on doing a great job.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Contract - Sally Port Roof - Police Station

Moved by Roy and second by Millias, the Board unanimously affirmed signing the contract between the Town of Halifax and E5 Builders for the Sally Port Roof at the Police Station.

Contract - HVAC Units - Police Station

Moved by Roy and second by Millias, the Board unanimously affirmed signing the contract between the Town of Halifax and Healthy Air Solutions for the new HVAC Units at the Police Station.

Inspection List for License Holders

The following locations have been assigned to each Selectman to do annual inspections:

LOCATION TO INSPECT	ASSIGNED TO
BR's Monponsett Inn	Roy
Country Club of Halifax	Roy
D's Grille 58	Millias
Halifax Mobil	Garron
Happy Dragon Restaurant	Roy
Harmony Two Liquors	Millias
Lindy's General Store	Garron
Lyonville Tavern & Restaurant	Millias
Twin Lakes Liquor & Convenience	Garron
Unit 5 Bar, LLC	Millias

Recycling Abatements – Received after Deadline

Moved Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to deny the request for an abatement for Bill #1953 based on the fact that it was received after the deadline date.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

 Thomas Millias
 Clerk

/pjm