

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2017- 6:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m. with Selectmen Troy E. Garron, Thomas Millias and Kim R. Roy 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 Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**MINUTES**

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

Regular Session – November 22, 2016  
Regular Session – January 10, 2017

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENT**

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

Payroll Warrant	# 83	\$ 348,366.85
Vendor Warrant	# 84	\$ 195,717.60
Withholding Warrant	# 85	\$ 129,749.75
Ambulance Commitment	# 3C	\$ 42,279.00

**APPROVED WARRANT**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 86	\$ 179,795.61
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Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills dated March 28, 2017:

National Grid (service/concession stand).....	\$ 17.97
National Grid (service/Town Hall).....	\$ 1,699.63
CNA Surety Direct Bill (bond/Tax Collector/Adduci).....	\$ 835.00
CNA Surety Direct Bill (bond/Treasurer/Adduci).....	\$ 525.00
The Vertex Companies, Inc. (professional services/Halifax Elem. Sch.).....	\$ 2,550.00
Mary Ellen Shea (arbitrator/Hal. Assoc. Police Patrol).....	\$ 2,164.10

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

***Jennifer Choate – Dog Hearing continued from March 16, 2017***

At 6:30 p.m., in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157, Garron opened the continued hearing to address an incident where a dog that was on Jennifer Choate's property bit an individual on the left arm while she was at your home. 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:

Noreen Callahan                      Animal Control Officer

*Garron:*

We continued, the Board agreed to continue this hearing until such time as we heard from you and the Animal Inspector and there was something about knowing a place to place the dog that would be useful and not having to put it down, and I wanted to hear that before we made a decision.

*Callahan:*

I need to know whether the dog is going to be placed in, like a police dog – do we have anything set up for that Bobbi?

*Choate:*

I do have a gentleman by the name of Vic Hall who was willing to take him, that his experience in behavioral situations as well as high drive/high energy dogs.

*Garron:* What does he do for a living?

*Choate:* That is what he does.

*Garron:* That is what he trains the dogs?

*Choate:* Correct.

*Garron:* How long has he been in business?

*Choate:* I'd be guessing, but as long as I can remember knowing him – ten years.

*Millias:* Where's he located Jennifer?

*Choate:* He's in Delaware.

*Garron:* We're crossing the lines – is this a federal case then?

*Callahan:*

Not as far as – the Animal Inspector isn't concerned. She indicated to me that that is fine. I mean, I agree with her, I wasn't there under the circumstances of the bite, yes it was a serious bite, I would not recommend him being placed in a home with a family, but if he was going, the way the dog was described to me as an alpha dog, a high-drive dog, and if he was trained to be a police dog, that would be the perfect profession for that dog. As far as being a family dog, I

couldn't see that. I couldn't see the dog being placed back into a home with family, not after this.

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*Garron:*

You see, the only issue I have is that we have no way of knowing whether or not when the gentleman receives the dog whether or not he's going to give him to some family or sell to somebody as a watch dog or something. I just have a real problem without knowing the history, telling the history of the animal.

*Callahan:*

I can understand that but I can also understand that the people that raised the dog and they had no incidents. When the dog went into a different family or a different situation we weren't there, we don't know what transpired, if, for a bite like that to occur. It seems rather odd to me.

*Garron:* Yes, I'm sorry?

*Mr. McCarthy:* We were the original owners.

*Garron:* Yeah, I remember you – you and 'Chubbs'

*Mr. McCarthy:* We had the dog and with this, we never had any issues at all... ever.

*Mrs. McCarthy:*

And a two-year-old and a ten-year old and a thirteen-year-old and a fifteen-year-old, I mean never had an issue.

*Mr. McCarthy:* Not once.

*Roy:*

I understand that, but Bobbi is an expert in these kinds of dogs and if she, like I don't think that she could have provoked, I think it just happened, I don't know that you could provoked it in any way, I mean, you're around dogs all the time. My biggest concern is for the liability of the Town in the sense of we agree to have this dog live, we send it to Delaware, that person as Troy said gives it to a family or it interacts with another person and – it was a vicious attack, this was just not simply a bite, this was a vicious attack and what kind of liability have we put the Town in?

*Mrs. McCarthy:*

Doesn't it put the liability on him though if he takes in, knowing full well the circumstance?

*Roy:*

It would have to be an iron-clad document that, again, I don't even want to spend a penny on this of the Town's money to have an attorney even look at it. You know our tax, our residents pay a lot in taxes and I don't even want a penny going towards this. I really don't, we've already spent a lot of money on things lately and I just... I feel badly, I love dogs, I really do, it's not a good decision for me to even think about having a dog euthanized but this was a vicious attack and we are under no obligation to find a new home for it. If Bobbi, if you want to do that, it's your animal, but at this point I would want to euthanize the dog.

*Millias:*

I think it would be way too difficult to try to get some confirmation as to who's going to take the dog, if in fact they actually want the dog, any kind of sign-overs and you know accepting responsibility in any fashion to at least to protect the Town from any potential come-back. I don't know how all that transpires, I don't know how that happens with any guarantee. Can I ask

you a question? Has this person indicated they would actually take him or is this something that he's thinking about, or ...

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*Choate:*

No, he confirmed that he'd actually take him, but I do agree as much as I believe in him – what he does and would like the dog to have a chance in the right situation, there still is the same thing, we're thinking the same thing you guys are, and I think the world of this man, I trust his capabilities, but we also feel the same way – it's a horrible situation.

*Roy:*

We talked a lot about his physical condition, you know, the whole testicle, ascended testicle, I don't even know if that's the right term, but do you think that's what could have triggered this kind of an attack, is the physical ...

*Choate:*

It could be part of it; it's definitely not the whole situation.

*Roy:* But you said that he even showed some aggression before this toward other dogs?

*Choate:* Yes, very aggressive towards other dogs absolutely.

*Roy:*

Do you think it's because sometimes, like I went to adopt a Bassett Hound from a shelter one time, no, no, they're really easy going dogs a Bassett Hounds. My husband goes over and hey buddy how are you and he bit him and they said that he had something they called kennel, kind of like they're in prison but they're not use to being, not that you, like they're in a new environment and they don't really know, do you think that was because of it? Cause it was a new environment and surrounded by all those dogs and maybe it wasn't used to it? Like do you think it got that, whatever they call that – have you ever heard of it?

*Choate:*

I do, yeah, absolutely. I understand what you're saying. I think that the dog, that part of the dog's issue I'm concerned, is that he did not have any socialization.

*Merlini:*

I imported a two-year old female from Czechoslovakia she got off the plane – like she knew we were best friends. So a stable dog is a stable dog.

*Roy:* Okay

*Garron:* What's the Board's wishes?

*Millias:*

I personally hate to put down the animal, but I'm not looking at a whole lot of other options that I think are really viable. I'm willing to listen to any if someone can give me some guarantees.

*Roy:*

Well can I ask Noreen, like I know we haven't done that since you've been here – we haven't had such a severe dog bite, we haven't been in this kind of position really. Have you in your other positions ever had something similar or like do you feel that this dog would be okay, like you haven't really done an evaluation on him.

*Millias:* It's so subjective.

*Callahan:*

It really is. I mean it's up in the air, that's why I stress the fact that I wouldn't put him into a home with a family, children, cause we don't know. We don't know. I don't know the dog; the dog's only what, thirteen months old, fourteen months.

*Roy:* Have you been able to evaluate him?

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*Callahan:*

Just from behind the glass and that was one initial time and, you know that's where I saw the dog. I wanted to look for any clinical signs whether he was ill or whatever and from what I saw he looked like a healthy, young dog.

*Roy:* Did he show any aggression toward you?

*Callahan:*

Well, he was in a room that I don't think he was familiar with, and yeah, he was jumping up, he wasn't really overly aggressive, but he barked, he was wondering why we were there, he was obviously an alpha dog and he was ready to take charge. I don't know whether he's coming into his own or whatever, I mean just by the mannerisms of the dog when I initially saw him, it only takes a few moments, he looked like a very, you know, powerful, you know, alpha male to me, you know. It's like you have to have the right people around that dog to control him, and it just seems odd to me, I don't, if I wasn't at the bite, if I saw the bite, and I saw exactly what transpired, I could give you a little more insight but by not, you know.

*Roy:* Did you talk to the victim?

*Callahan:*

Yeah, actually that, yeah, I mean it was a horrendous bite, it was, you know and it just seems out of context that just from what the family members are saying and, it just seems, unless that dog snapped.

*Roy:* Well, that's what I mean it obviously

*Callahan:* You know

*Roy:* Snapped although it showed non-aggression toward people prior to this, right just aggression toward other dogs, Bobbi?

*Choate:*

Anybody that got in his space, one of the girls had peeked in at him and he didn't, he didn't

*Roy:* He was angry?

*Choate:* yeah

*Roy:* Before this, before the bite? Before the bite, had he shown that, or is that after the bite?

*Choate:* That was before that.

*Roy:* So that was before that.

*Choate:*

But that was, I didn't think anything of it at the time and that was his space and he was being the alpha-dominant, you know, it was his space, so he, I didn't look at him at that moment as being anything but normal dog in his space saying 'hey'.

*Roy:*

So have you ever had a dog that had this kind of behavior – obviously you haven't had a bite like that cause we haven't seen you on a bite at all, but – have you ever had a dog that exhibited that same alpha-male personality, like, was it normal?

*Choate:* What I saw happen in the bite – I’ve never seen that.

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*Merlini:*

No this was not what it was. I’ve been like I’ve said I’ve been bit before when a dog is, basically screaming ‘back off’ – I’ve been around them my whole life. This was unprovoked, nothing, I was sitting in a chair like I’m sitting right now, he came from that door and tore into me; broke my arm, ripped my arm apart - you saw the pictures – bit me in the foot, and it was in two seconds.

*Millias:*

Regardless of what this Board may or may not decide about euthanizing the dog, let’s say we decided to, we didn’t have any decision, what would you – what would you do? At the end of the day it’s still your dog. If we decided not to euthanize him, what in fact would you do?

*Choate:*

I mean I’ve reached out to Vic Hall as an option to consider, to talk about with Katie, I mean, I don’t want the liability down the road myself either as much as the Town doesn’t.

*Millias:* Yes, that’s why I’m asking, cause it ...

*Choate:*

I’m an advocate for (inaudible) trying to save everybody, but I guess I’m being faced with a situation I’ve never been in.

*Garron:*

Well, you’re playing ‘Russian Roulette’ and what we’ve got maybe only one round in it, you may have two rounds in it, but either way it could kill ya and I have raised dogs my whole life – I love Shepherds their my favorite. One of my Sergeants, a 3-legged – the 3-legged dog came from the Korean War and we raised puppies from him, but at the same time, if you’ve got a maverick. I just don’t feel comfortable at all sending the dog someplace to a person I don’t know, I don’t know whether or not he can live up to his ‘statements’ and I don’t know what he’s going to do with the dog. I just hate to take somebody else down the road and get hurt by the dog because he’s left living. I can’t walk away from this without saying seeing I hate to see the dog euthanized, and I don’t want to, believe me, ‘cause I’m the last person to say that. The last time I had to do this because a dog ripped a 3-year-old’s face off, okay? So, that’s what I visualize to me this dog goes into this guy’s house, he’s got the kids, something around.. we all make mistakes. I just don’t feel comfortable with allowing the dog to continue and I don’t know how the rest of the Board feels.

*Millias:*

At first it was, it was interesting to me that somebody who trains dogs for that purpose and then I’m saying to myself how unfair is it to ship him out of State and potentially turn him loose somewhere else to ... if I hadn’t seen the pictures of that bite, I may have a different opinion, but that was about as bad as I’ve ever seen, and I’ve seen a few. I would probably have to go along with the sentiment about putting the dog down.

*Garron:*

And believe me, I sympathize, I really do, with the McCarthy’s and what they’re going through, but I have to look at the whole picture and even though it was one incident, that’s one vicious incident.

*Millias:* It wasn’t a nip, it was, it was the ugliest picture I’ve seen.

*Garron:* Kim?

*Roy:* I'll make a motion that we order the dog to be euthanized.

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*Millias:* I'll reluctantly second it cause I really feel terrible about it.

*Roy:* No, we all feel just awful, but ...

*Garron:* Any further discussion? All in favor?

*Garron:* Aye

*Roy:* Aye

*Millias:* Aye

*Roy:* So we still cannot do that until the quarantine is period is over.

*Seelig:* There is also a ten-day appeal period

*Roy:* Yes. Who appeals – anybody?

*Seelig:* Well the person who owns the dog.

*Roy:* Okay.

*Garron:* And we're looking, from the looks on the face, that's not going to happen – an appeal.

*Merlini:* No.

*Choate:* Too many ...

*Roy:* Sorry, I know

*Merlini:*

I feel the same way, what if he does go to someone and he trains him and then he gives him to someone else and it happens to them?

*Garron:* Okay, how do we want to work that? When are we going to have the dog euthanized?

*Roy:* After the ten-day

*Garron:* After the ten-day period.

*Roy:* Which is ten days after the normal quarantine Charlie or

*Seelig:* Ten days after your decision tonight. Whichever happens last, the quarantine or ten days.

*Roy:* So the forty-five days is I think meant the beginning of April?

*Choate:* The 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Seelig:* The ten days would be after that.

*Garron:* So we're talking the fifteenth, tax time.

*Roy:* No, no. Ten days from today.

*Seelig:* Yes.

*Roy:* That's what he meant, so

*Garron:* Okay, sorry that it had to be that decision; I know I heard you loud and clear.

*Callahan:* I agree.

*Roy:* 3 4 5 6 7 oh, wait a minute, 8 9 10 – the 7<sup>th</sup>

*Merlini:* The 7<sup>th</sup>

*Choate:* The 7<sup>th</sup>

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*Roy:* Who does that, do you?

*Garron:* You're all set Noreen. Have a good night.

*Roy:*

Thank you Officer McDonnell. And do we have, like; she sends a letter from the Vet, is that how it works?

*Seelig:*

Yes, cause that's what we've done in other cases when we've set up hearings and the owner has already euthanized the dog, even before the hearing.

## **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

### **Animal Inspector**

The Board of Health has re-nominated Tracy Noland as Animal Inspector for a term from May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2018.

### **Board of Registrars**

The Republican Town Committee has submitted the following nominees for a seat on the Board of Registrars:

Jo-Ann Andrews

Jessica Andrews

Andrea Cogan

The Committee recommends that Jo-Ann Andrew be re-appointed.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to re-appoint Jo-Ann Andrews to the Republican Town Committee, with a term to expire March 31, 2020.

### **Audit/Representation Letter**

Moved by Millias and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the representation letter in connection with the audit of the financial statements for the Town of Halifax.

### **Talent Bank Form**

Richard Gilcoine has submitted a talent bank form showing interest to serve on the Conservation Commission and as the Fence Viewer.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Richard Gilcoine as the Fence Viewer, term to expire June 30, 2017.

### **Heron Road**

There will be an informational hearing for the acceptance of the above street on April 11<sup>th</sup> and then a formal one on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Peter Annis of 4 Heron Road has problems with the transition from the road surface to his driveway and has informed the Planning Board of this.

### **Commercial Development**

A Douglas Aronson of the Calkain Companies in Ft. Lauderdale inquired as to what types of retailers are needed/missing in Halifax.

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Seelig told him that the Town had not conducted any market studies or surveys and that he was inclined to let property owners and business owners make their own decisions given that folks continue to open pizza parlors despite the prevalence of pizza.

### Health Insurance

Mayflower Municipal Health Group approved a split rate increase with a 16% increase for the traditional/legacy plans, an 11.5% increase for the rate saver plans (slightly higher deductibles and co-pays) and a 7.4% or 9.6% increase for the benchmark plans. The reason for split is because of claims and drug costs. Most of the participants from the Town are in the traditional plans (aside from Medicare). The split was because of losses between revenues and expenses in the traditional plans. The rate saver and benchmark plans are holding their own. There will be a rate decrease the first six months will but will increase after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Training Sessions

Seelig has scheduled two Harassment Prevention workshops on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and a customer service training for June 7<sup>th</sup>. He is trying to make sure that all employees attend the harassment training and is not as concerned about all attending the Customer Service workshop.

### Unsung Heroine

The deadline to nominate anyone is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Chapter 90

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to sign the Chapter 90 final report form.

### Burrage Pond Dam (not the Brockton Dam)

The MA Office of Dam Safety has notified the Department of Fish & Game about deficiencies in the dam between the upper and lower reservoirs of Burrage Pond. No action needed by the Board Seelig just wanted them aware of this.

### ADA Grants

Ada grants are available from the State. This should be part of the discussion about the CoA center.

### Town Clerk Certification

Barbara Gaynor has been awarded her Certified MA Municipal Clerk designation. There will be an award presentation at the Town Clerk's conference on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth.

### Classification and Compensation Study/Contract

W&P will be meeting with Don Jacobs on Wednesday to go over the draft classification and compensation plan. W&P will likely be able to make a decision what, if anything, to bring to Town Meeting.

### Overlay for Abatements and Exemptions

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to ask the Board of Assessors to establish an amount from overlay for Abatements and Exemptions for FY2018.

Zoning Articles to Planning Board

If any zoning articles remain on the warrant for the Annual or Special Town Meetings, Seelig is asking that the Selectmen refer them to the Planning Board.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)*****Building Committee – CoA Project***

Building Committee member, John Campbell, began the discussion saying that at this time they are not sure of where the committee stands or going to go. Two years ago they were looking into renovating the Council on Aging and now they have a plan do it and said it is best he has seen in fifteen years but the cost is half a million dollars. Now the Building Committee is wondering if they should they should bring this before the Town Meeting seeing as the school project has passed at the Town Meeting, not to mention the sprinkler and fire suppression system.

Millias agreed that it is the best plan he has seen in the fifteen years and felt that they were charged to come up with a plan and they did. He said that there is never going to be a good time to present so maybe go forward and put it before the Town as we owe it to the committee and the seniors. Garron also agreed with Millias and said might as well put before the Town and let's see what happens

Roy said that this is one thing that Town Meeting has supported and she has talked with the younger crowd and they feel it is needed. Not to mention the center can be used by the community and Campbell said yes they designed it that way so it could be used by other groups. She was concerned that she did not feel there was one hundred percent support from the committee or the seniors and asked if the Building Committee was on board with renovating? She added that we keep throwing out different options and need to stick with one plan as the people are going to look to see what the BOS's tone is on this.

Campbell agreed that the Building Committee, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee need to be united and Roy added that the Council on Aging needs to be on board also. She explained that it will be \$32.00 on an average tax bill, which is reasonable but it is up to residents to vote as to whether they can afford it or not.

Millias said even if they do not go with renovating Pope's they still will have to do some work because it needed in some areas of the building.

Seelig said that we made a decision to debt exclude for the school and reason we did that was to leave projects on the table such as Council on Aging and the fire suppression system at the school. The Board of Selectmen could vote to put it on the ballot.

Roy said it would be best if we meet with Finance Committee instead of them meeting with us, and ask Council on Aging and Building to attend also.

Sandy will ask Kendra (FinCom Secretary) to put the BOS on their agenda.

At this time Seelig suggested that the Board go into executive session.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Firefighters, Patrol Officers, Sergeants, Highway Department, Dispatchers, Police Chief and Fire Chief:

Troy Garron                    Yes  
Thomas Millias                Yes

Kim R. Roy                    Yes

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Garron announced that they will be coming back into public session.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. and reconvene in public session:

Troy E. Garron                -    Yes

Thomas Millias                -    Yes

Kim R. Roy                    -    Yes

Road Cut – 395 River Street

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2017-34 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in & 4' x 10' road cut trench to install new service at 395 River Street.

Road Cut – 2 River Street

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Permit #2017-33 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in & 4' x 10' road cut trench to install new service at 2 River Street.

### SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### ***Robert Bergstrom – Mudfest***

Mr. Bergstrom came in this evening to request a live entertainment for his annual Mudfest event. He stated that this year's event will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He also said that each event he has he tries to make safer than the last one.

Chief Broderick was present and said that he has no issues and will look at the numbers when it get closer to the date to see how many details may be needed.

Roy said to make sure he contacts Board of Health about the food vendors and Seelig added that he will need a promoter's license from State.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board voted to issue a one day Live Entertainment Permit for the Mudfest event to be held on June 18, 2017, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

#### Council on Aging Agency Review

Seelig thoughts were that in connection with any new and/or renovated building it would be helpful to have an outside agency/contractor come in to review the operations of the COA. They would conduct confidential interviews with Council members, employees, clients and other interested parties as well as analyze the programs (i.e. Meals on Wheels; Elder Bus program), budgets and the space itself to see if there are ways of making the service better and making sure that everyone is working together as a cohesive unit. They then could then make recommendations for changes and improvements. Roy and Garron both thought it was a great idea.

If the BOS approves, Seelig said before putting the Article in for either the Special or the Annual he will let Barbara Brenton know his intentions.

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#### HOPS Grant Writer Article

Seelig asked about the HOPS article for the grant writer and Roy said she does not think they need this as they have hired a person to pursue grants. She did say that the *Friends of HOPS*, is applying for an Open Space Grant and they need to have an Article for the matching funds. She further explained that the Town has to put up half the funds but will be reimbursed by the HOPS. She then asked if there will need to be an Article for the open space plan. Seelig said that we will need an Article for the Grant Writer to submit the Open Space Grant. Seelig will double check with *Friends of HOPS* to make sure that they've got somebody to write the grants.

Roy did want to say that HOPS had sent out some campaign letters in the mail looking for donations and they're hoping that between that campaign, the grant, 'The Plop for HOPS' on April 9<sup>th</sup> and the 5K on June 11<sup>th</sup>, that they will have enough money to actually break ground.

#### Reviewing the Warrant

The Board decided to meet on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to go over the ATM & STM warrant.

## SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

### *Fire & Suppression System at Elementary School*

Mr. Habeeb, Habeeb & Associates Architects, began explaining that there are two basic types of sprinkler systems – dry or wet systems. The school currently has a dry system where all the pipes throughout the building have no water in them and there is compressed air that holds the water back preventing the water from entering the pipes. When a certain temperature is reached there is a fusible link on each sprinkler head that melts, opens the head, which releases the pressure in the system, water flows through the pipes. Water flows only on the head that has reached that certain temperature. The other basic type is a wet system where all the pipes are full of water all the time but is the same principle though – when it reaches a certain temperature that fuse will link, will melt, and that valve, that sprinkler head, will open and water will flow.

The school currently has a dry system – it is a type of pipe which does not prevent corrosion very well. It's a steel pipe but it's not galvanized and there are some problems with some pitches in the pipe so the pipe doesn't drain back so that when condensation occurs within the pipe, inside, it doesn't drain and it sits in the pipe and it corrodes the pipe from the inside – and you've experienced, you know, a number of leaks where you can't retain the air pressure in the pipes because of that corrosion. It has been patched over the years to the point where you are unable to really keep compresses going fast enough with enough air pressure to continue to keep the water out of the pipes. So the intent with this project would be to replace the dry system with a wet system throughout the building. This can be done at this time because the roof is going to be replaced and in some cases where that pitched roof exists, that was an unheated space and you had to have a dry system – that's going to become a space that's insulated at the roof level so you can have a wet system in that area. This will allow you to have the simpler system which is easier to maintain, last longer and will provide that fire protection that you want.

Seelig stated that before the Special Town Meeting (March 7<sup>th</sup>) the numbers that the engineering study generated were significantly different than what we had originally put in for the Article and asked what caused that significant increase? Habeeb said he believes they didn't anticipate the extent of work in terms of ceiling removal and ceiling re-installation, repairing the walls and types of ancillary expenses that were going to occur.

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We were saying 'okay, it's this many square feet, it should be roughly this much in terms of a sprinkler system per square foot' – but it was very quick and it wasn't to the extent that it should have been at that stage and we didn't have the schematic drawings that were prepared.

Seelig then asked if they would take the old system completely out or could we disconnect the old pipes and leave them there to save some money, and then just put in the new system parallel to the old one? Habeeb said it is frowned upon to leave the old pipes when they're not being utilized. Matter of fact, there are some areas of the Massachusetts General Laws that might require you to remove components that are no longer in use. He is not sure that applies to sprinkler pipes but knows it applies to duct work.

Roy asked if we tested the pressure from the street to see if it is sufficient and Habeeb said yes that a hydro-flow test was performed this past February and the test results were that the static pressure was 75ppi (pounds per square inch) and the residual was 72ppi, which is good, and the PITO is 45, so that 6-inch water service is adequate, that does not have to be increased in size, and, I just wanted to see what it said about the valves – the existing 6-inch incoming service double-check valve, fire department connection, and related items were to be retained, 'cause those are still perfectly good shape.

Seelig said that a lot of people asked why only half the building has a sprinkler system and about the necessity for having a sprinkler system. He asked beside us wanting to protect the occupants, is there a legal requirement that we do something now since we are doing this project or is it something that we should be doing even if we weren't doing the rest of the building? Habeeb stated that it's something you should be doing regardless and there is a law that says that if you're doing beneficial work then you would have to do it. He does not believe it was triggered because of the repair work with the roof and windows but if you were to do a significant renovation in the interior, you would be required to do that. He said that there are parts of that building that are wood-framed so it would make sense that it have a fire-suppression system.

Millias asked if the town was going to get their money's-worth and Habeeb said yes, you are always going to have to replace systems (heating, ventilating air conditioning, lighting) as they become out-dated but the building itself, the structure, the framing system, the floors, the walls, there's no reason that they need to be replaced.

Roy asked if the total of \$976,033 was correct and Habeeb said it was. He said it is a large amount but there is a lot involved beyond just the sprinkler system itself and that, the ceiling replacement, the amount of repair work that's necessary that needs to be detailed and included in the price. He continued to say that about a third of that is just time during the actual construction period phase where we would be coming out doing inspections, making sure the contractor is doing what they're supposed to do. Roy said that they are asking all the questions that a resident may ask and thinks it is important to let the taxpayers know what they are getting for their money.

Chief Viveiros wanted to comment on the connection stating that it is 2.5-inches but really should be 4-inches as they are not carrying 3-inch lines anymore. Habeeb asked if he wanted to change it to a 4-inch connection and he said yes and Habeeb said that he'll make note of that and will meet with him about it.

Chief Viveiros also said that the location of the connection (front of the building in a gated area) is not in the ideal spot as it is behind dumpster and they have had an issue with it over the last couple of years. Kayne Beaudry, School Principal, said they have changed that area where the dumpster is but it still is not the best spot. Chief Viveiros said ideally would be having it outside of that fenced-in area.

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Cassandra Hanson, Halifax Elementary School Committee Member, said keep in mind the kitchen is right there so moving the dumpster around the building to another spot doesn't make sense. Habeeb said they can look at moving it and certainly changing the size is not an issue, it will change the cost but if it is going to be more effective for the Fire Department then it is worth it. Chief Viveiros said that it make sense to do it now while the work is being done.

Beaudry asked if there an alert system if the wet system goes into an 'at risk' mode because the temperature could drop and the second floor and the back of the building are usually the coldest part of the building due to no sun not to mention that it also is the end of the heating loop. Habeeb said there is a temperature monitor that can be installed, which is not an expensive item and did say that seeing as you are you are improving the windows, roof and insulation this will help keep the building warmer. Roy said that we want to make sure that failure is never an option and Blackwood added that they want to make sure that it's done right and that they need to reassure the taxpayers that we are doing our due diligence all the way around. Beaudry also wanted to ask if all the classrooms will have sprinklers not just the hallways and did it included the cafeteria and kitchen and Habeeb said the entire building will be.

Blackwood asked if the Town could get any money back for pipes that are taken and Habeeb said typically we would write the specifications that they need to take those pipes out and if, you

know, if a contractor feels he can get some money for them, they want to win the bid so they would reflect that in their price.

Beaudry asked if the ceilings will be brought down and how would the classrooms look with dropped ceilings and Habeeb said that there will be portions of the ceiling that will be taken down in order to put the pipes up. The intent wasn't to replace all the ceilings, but to have access above them and that is what is proposed. Habeeb thought his question was more to do with the phasing and when this construction occurs and how it impacts your operation of the school.

Seelig said that they will get the authorization for construction the go out for bid so it won't be started at least until the middle of summer, then if we are too late then we're talking somewhere in 2018.

Seelig said at this point the Board need to decide whether to have an Article at Town Meeting and if they want to make it contingent upon a debt exclusion or not. He continued to say because the project by itself and small enough they could decide to keep it within the levy limit and not require a debt exclusion. Roy said that they are going to have to talk with the Finance Committee about doing a debt exclusion.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to place an Article on the warrant to finance the fire suppression system in the amount of \$976,033.

### ***Security System***

Seelig said that there were some initial concerns about the quality of the cameras but Chief Broderick and Garron have talked and the cameras chosen met their specifications. Chief Broderick said that they have talked about two different types of cameras and would like to get the higher quality cameras on the access points on the doors and not necessarily that much quality on the interior in the hallways.

Millias asked if they are talking about having cameras inside the building and out at the doors and Blackwood said yes. Chief Broderick said he believes that the largest portion is inside the building so they can see what's going on in the hallways, all the access points as well as the views from outside too.

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He continued to say that if they have to down-size it, he wants the access points to have the best cameras for a number of reasons. Next would be some of the outside areas that need to be kept an eye on and then they will start filling in the inside.

Millias asked how many monitors will there be and is anyone actually going to be viewing these or are these just for review or security? Chief Broderick said he hasn't talked specifics about the system but most are web-based, so it's all internet access. Anybody who has the security access to a computer can view from anywhere. He said that the Principal would have cameras up and running giving him a good over-view of what's going on both inside and outside the building. From a law enforcement aspect of it some people may watch it all the time some people may not, but it's available for review if there's an incident and the Administration has much more latitude in what they do with what they see on the cameras than what we do, so it's a good thing for them.

Blackwood stated that it is a good tool as they were able to catch someone when there was graffiti on the outside of the high school and one time saw some students making some poor choices. She wishes that they weren't at a point in the world where we have to even consider this, but this is how it is.

Roy asked what the price would be and Blackwood said it's about \$50,000. Blackwood said that she did a walk-about with Steve Pelham, Kayne and Officer Broderick and there will be approximately twenty-two interior cameras covering hallways, doors, large public spaces such as the gym, all-purpose room and cafeteria. We are also looking at additional twelve exterior cameras to cover entrances, parking lots, bus areas, court yards, fields and play grounds and we would have a server with a capacity for a thirty-day retention.

Millias asked if there was any grant money available for any of this stuff and she does not believe there is. She did say that we were able to get lock-stops for the doors from the MIIA Grant.

Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to do this as a separate or combined Article and the source of funds for the security system. Roy said she thinks it would be a separate Article and the Town Accountant, Sandy Nolan, said the funds can come from undesignated funds.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board voted to place an Article for the Security System, up to \$50,000, on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant with the money coming from undesignated funds.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

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Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm



