

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 - 7:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 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 Tuesday, April 11th, was unanimously approved without revision.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – January 24, 2017
Regular Session – February 14, 2017
Regular Session - February 28, 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	# 87	\$ 345,154.57
School Warrant	# 88	\$ 344,675.34
Vendor Warrant	# 89	\$ 28,427.82
Withholding Warrant	# 90	\$ 127,919.76
Ambulance Commitment	# 4A	\$ 25,298.00

APPROVED WARRANT AND COMMITMENT

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

Vendor Warrant	# 91	\$ 40,773.11
Mobile Home Park Fee	# 4	\$ 5,160.00

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

DI Jacobs Consulting (classification & comp. study).....	\$ 5,000.00
MIIA Property & Casualty Group Inc. (property & casualty policy).....	\$ 775.00
Beth Israel deaconess Hosp. (physical).....	\$ 120.00
CNA Surety Direct Bill (bond/Town Clerk/Gaynor).....	\$ 100.00
Express Newspapers (ad/Heron Rd.).....	\$ 80.00
Express Newspapers (ad/Reg. Board Secretary).....	\$ 48.00
Habeeb & Associates Architects (school project)	\$ 5,913.00
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. (MA law books).....	\$ 1,468.46
Michael Gilman Esq. (legal/March)	\$ 550.00

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.

The office received statement of services rendered from the above agency for the period January 1, 2017 to March 3, 2017.

Chapter 90 Money

Letter from MassDOT informing the Town of Halifax’s Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2018 will be in the amount of \$269,658.

Wage & personnel Reclassification Requests

The W&P Board voted to deny all requests for reclassifications that were received at their public hearing in January. At this time the Board is in the process of having a Classification Study performed for all W&P employees but the results will not be completed in time for the Board to review and make a recommendation at Town Meeting.

Library Request to Close Early

Library Director, Jean Gallant informed the BOS that she plans on closing the Library at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 3rd instead of at the regular time of 8:00 p.m. This will have no State repercussions and she will get approval from the Trustees.

Alan Slavin – MMA Representative

Seelig received an email from Mr. Slavin introducing himself as the recently appointed Massachusetts Selectmen’s Association representative for District 4.

Resignation – Robert Badore / Highway Surveyor, Cemetery Superintendent & Tree Warden

The Board unanimously accepted, with regret, Robert Badore’s resignation as Highway Surveyor, Cemetery Superintendent & Tree Warden and recommended sending him a letter thanking him for his forty-six years of service to the Town.

Renewal Fuel & Gasoline Contract

Move by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to continue the contract with Noonan Brothers Petroleum Inc. for the delivery of premium, unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel to the Town of Halifax for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Grant Application – Host Municipal Assistance Coordinator

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the grant application to host a MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator

Ambulance Abatement

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to approve Ambulance Abatements for March 2017 in the amount of \$48,636.67.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Heron Road Acceptance Hearing

Garron asked Mr. Springer if he had any comments concerning the acceptance of Heron Road. Mr. Springer said the road way and the drainage was built according to the plan and the Planning Board has accepted the 'As Built'. The road was always intended to be a public town road when it was first proposed by Mr. Annis and now it's complete so time for it to be a public road.

Garron said the only issue he had was that the residents in the neighborhood weren't notified because he was out of town. Springer said that he will be picking up the abutters list tomorrow as he got a call today that it was ready. He will send out certified mailings for the next public hearing which is the 25th. He said that Charlie had given him a whole list of procedures and dates and things to do.

Garron then asked if he was in touch with the Highway Surveyor at all as far as accepting this road and he said no. Garron asked the Selectmen Assistant if the office sent a letter to him and McSherry said she contacted Melissa today but Badore was out today so she'll ask him about it tomorrow. The Water Superintendent was also out today and Cathy will ask him tomorrow and also and get back to McSherry.

Garron said that he would like to get some input from them before the Board makes a decision.

Springer said the only contact he had with the Highway Department was last summer when he asked him to about cleaning the catch basins and they told me they don't do catch basins every year, and last year was an 'off' year, so I had to hire a private contractor in Hanover to come clean the basins. As for the Water Department, obviously they've gone down and opened up the hydrant and flushed it out on the cul-de-sac last spring.

Garron said that we are schedule to meet on the 25th therefore that will give Springer enough time to contact the abutters. He asked Millias and Roy if they had any questions. Millias said that he remembers hearing some conversation about the driveway berms and asked if that was all set.

Peter Annis - 4 Heron Road

He said that he was the originator of this project. Two weeks ago the Planning Board, the Engineer and the Highway Surveyor were supposed to meet at the site. Only one Planning Board member and the Engineer showed up. He explained to them his objection which was that virtually all driveways that he observed in the Town of Halifax which have a sidewalk crossing them, the sidewalk is depressed crossing into the driveway so that there's a smooth transition from the road to the driveway – except for Heron Road. For some reason he had no idea why, the sidewalk was not depressed in his driveway. So he had to build his driveway up to meet the level of the sidewalk and it gives me a very abrupt, uncomfortable transition from the road to the driveway. He has spoken to Mr. Springer a few years ago about making it nice but was given a 'song and dance' but nothing happened.

They shaped the berm on New Year's Eve but it didn't really help much. He said that he has bent over backwards in giving Mr. Springer some rather extensive 'forgiveness of loans' in order to get this process going for which he has never even received a 'thank you'. He was wishing that the Planning Board's decision (3 in favor; 1 against) could be reversed and that they could at least see that the sidewalk at the end of his driveway is lower. He did not think that was too much to ask as all the other three driveways on the project are depressed.

Springer said that he was not responsible for putting in Mr. Annis' driveway because his property already existed but the other driveways were put in before the sidewalk was paved, so that's why there was a difference. He continued to say that Larry Silva, who is the Consulting Engineer for the Planning Board, went out and took a look at it and he came up with a solution to make the transition smoother. Springer faxed or emailed that *solution* over to SLT, the road contractor, and that was the work that was done that Mr. Annis is referring to on New Year's Eve. He stated that he paid \$618 to go over there and change the slope of the berm. That's what Larry Silva had told the Planning Board, and the Planning Board had told me, that's what they wanted to have fixed. So, from everything Springer was told, up until this moment, the driveway had been re-done.

Mr. Annis stated that when Mr. Springer wanted to buy the property from him he asked me for a second mortgage and at that time he agreed that my driveway would be covered along with the other three. Garron said the issues of buying the property is between him and Springer and that they are looking at the driveway and said that this hearing is going to be continued to March 25th and we can have more time to look into it and hopefully get something from the Highway Surveyor and Millias added and something from the Planning Board and a report from the Engineer.

Garron said at this point he is not going to ask the Board to vote on accepting one way or another, but he thinks they already decided to put the Article on the Warrant and Roy said they did. Garron said it will be going before the Town Meeting and Mr. Annis may have an opportunity to plead your case at that time as well at the next hearing on March 25th.

Beatification Committee – Fitzgerald Garden

Candace Kniffen, member of the Beautification Committee, introduced Greg Cowan to the Board. She also handed out a diagram of the garden to them that the Committee would like to have planted.

Before going any further Mr. Cowan was appointed to the Beautification Committee as he submitted a talent bank form expressing interest to serve on the committee.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Greg Cowan to the Beautification Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2017.

Candace said that she is here to speak about the garden and thinks Greg can explain the upcoming that clean-up day as he has done a lot of work on that. So basically the garden is ready to start and they are planning on having Tomasi Nurseries, who have developed five different plans for them to consider, do the work. Candace and Tom (Fitzgerald) would like the garden to have color, be visible from the street and be durable. Steven Tomasi has come to Town Hall to look at where the garden is going to be and make recommendations. We have already spoken with the Highway Surveyor regarding this particular plan to make sure that the mowers could get around it, and he didn't see any problem.

Another concern was watering issues because it's a new garden so Steven mentioned a new product/supplement they put into the soil that absorbs the water. So if it rains the water is absorbed and it's almost like a well for when plants need water. The products and the work will be guaranteed for two years.

The actual installation of the garden and all the plants is going to be privately funded through family and friends of Peg Fitzgerald. They have talked to the Town Accountant to make sure that the bidding, bills and contract with Tomasi is handled properly as well as any the money that is donated to the Beautification Committee.

As far as maintenance, there are a few possibilities. Candace has been in touch with the Head of the Silver Lake Vocational Program, to try to work out a possible arrangement where they might do annual maintenance and in exchange they can take the cuttings and sell it at their annual spring flower show. If that was to happen, they would acknowledge them as being involved with a sign. It's not in place yet, they want to see the garden and see what the project is. There's also a possibility that there will be money donated for maintenance. Also right now the Beautification Committee gets \$500 that is in the Town budget but Candace was not sure if that money is used for the clean-up day or other projects. Right now they are confident that there will be some money after the garden done ear-marked for maintenance and we're going to actually look for some additional donations that would be ear-marked for maintenance for the garden. They will explore this more if need be when the time comes. Roy said that the budgeted money use varies and a few years ago they did an island that was overgrown. Garron suggested checking with Bridgewater Agricultural.

She continued to say that Tomasi is prepared to start at the beginning of May if the Board is comfortable with that, with the hope that it would be done by the end of May. After completion they would like to have a dedication of this garden. The other thing her and Tom need to discuss is the naming of the garden. Tom said that he would like a big plaque placed there at the garden and is very happy this is happening.

Roy asked if they thought about plants that were long-blooming, that gave the most color, and Candace said Steve took that into consideration, and the plantings do not all bloom at the same time. In fact in the plan there are open spaces where there is nothing where they will plant annuals that will have color as well. Candace thinks that there will be a lot of red and purple but Steve will help them pick appropriate perennials in the colors that we want and that can sustain the heat.

Roy asked it if there was going to be a bench and Candace said at this point it's strictly the garden. However, there is a possibility that down the road we'll look at a one. We didn't want to get too big too soon.

Tom said that they are aiming for Memorial Day weekend to have the dedication and said that the project is being funded by him and his family but if anyone wanted to send in a donation and wanted it for something particular please send a note with your check. He also said that they are going to set up a little display with some of Peggy's awards and anything else for people to look at because a lot of people don't know who Margaret Fitzgerald was or is.

Roy thanked them for all the time they put into it and Tom for his generous donations. She continued to say that Peg was such a part of this community and did so much for our community and think it's a really beautiful way to honor her.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to accept the plan from the Beautification Committee for the Margaret T. Fitzgerald Memorial Garden.

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Clean-Up Day

Mr. Cowan said that he took part in it last year along with the Boy Scouts. They it was basically River, Wood, Cedar and Fuller Street as people tend to want to throw things in the woods.

Garron said that it started out with picking up trash along 106 & 58 and down by the ponds and the swimming area. He suggested that Cowan might want to consider is going into neighborhoods and have them clean up their own streets. The Town will supply the bags and a place to drop the bags of and we'll get rid of them. Cowan said we are trying to educate people to not let it happen and that Candace sent out an email and flyer have been sent home to all the elementary families and Mr. Mulcahy, the high school principal, is going to spread the word it's going to the high school as the students can get community service hours.

Cowan said they are calling it 'Earth Day', which is Saturday the 22nd from ten to twelve. They have some Boy Scouts involved, and hopefully some Girl Scouts. They will be meeting here at Town Hall just to see how many people we have, and then we can go to certain areas. He continued to say that Amy Troupe (committee member) wants to try and get neighborhood team captains so people can kind of police their own area.

Garron suggested that he might want to talk to the businesses along 106 and let them know that you're going to be doing because they may have their staff get out and pick up stuff around their area. He also said to check with Linda down at Walmart as she has donated gloves in the past for clean-up day.

Roy said that the BOS appreciates all that the committee is doing in making our community more beautiful.

On another note, Roy wanted to give a shout out for the Friends of HOPS for the 3rd annual Plop for HOPS and thanked Bob Badore's crew for cleaning up after the event. The next event will be the 5K run/walk in June. They are always looking for help and she also thanked the townspeople for their help and supporting the rebuilding of the playground.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Roy and seconded by Millias, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Sergeants, Patrol Officers, Firefighters, Highway, Cemetery, Dispatch, Police Chief and Fire Chief:

Troy E. Garron - Yes

Thomas Millias - Yes

Kim R. Roy - Yes

Roy announced that no statement would be made at the end of the Executive Session and the Board would not reconvene in open session.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.

Troy E. Garron - Yes

Thomas Millias - Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm