

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

---

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

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved the Agenda for Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENT**

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

|                        |       |               |
|------------------------|-------|---------------|
| FY2017 Payroll Warrant | # 120 | \$ 102,704.02 |
| FY2017 Vendor Warrant  | # 121 | \$ 205,628.38 |
| Ambulance commitment   | # 6B  | \$ 12,601.00  |

**APPROVED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENT**

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

|                            |       |                 |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| FY2017 School Warrant      | # 122 | \$ 284,265.38   |
| FY2017 Vendor Warrant      | # 123 | \$ 81,506.07    |
| FY2018 Vendor Warrant      | # 2   | \$ 1,263,722.16 |
| FY2018 Payroll Warrant     | # 3   | \$ 118,943.94   |
| FY2018 Withholding Warrant | # 4   | \$ 79,141.48    |
| Mobile Home Park Fee       | # 7   | \$ 5,160.00     |

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills with Roy abstaining from the bill payable to MIIA:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Petty Cash c/o Pamela McSherry (estab. petty cash FY18))..... | \$ 50.00      |
| Town of Duxbury (dispatching services 7/1/17-6/30/18).....    | \$ 150,000.00 |
| Express Newspapers (ad/Building Maintenance).....             | \$ 31.75      |
| MIIA (property & casualty and workers comp.) .....            | \$ 185,949.00 |
| CNA Surety Direct Bill (bond/L. McCarthy) .....               | \$ 600.00     |
| Chubb and Son (special risk accident insurance).....          | \$ 26,710.00  |

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**Ambulance Contract

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Thomas Millias, sign the contract between the Town of Halifax and Greenwood Emergency Vehicles for the purchase of a 2017 Horton/Ford F550, Model 623 Type I Ambulance.

Sheriff's Office Picking up Litter

Workers for the sheriff's office will be picking up litter here in town on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided and paid out of the Selectmen Expense account. The Sheriff's office will be doing the ordering. Seelig asked the BO if there was any particular area that they wanted them to do and Roy said Halifax Meadows and Garron suggested Indian Path but then said best stay on the main road (Rt. 106)

Site Plan Review – 934 Plymouth Street

The Planning Board is asking for comments from the Board regarding the above property. This is for an 87.5 foot x 85 foot storage building on a lot next to the other buildings on that side. Comments are needed by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Fitzgerald Garden Update

The damaged bush has been replaced. The Beautification Committee has asked if the Town could hire a young person to do periodic weeding during the summer. Silver Lake High School might be available to do it once school starts back up. Roy said that before the garden was planted she had mentioned that the town did not have the resources (financially or resource time) to care for the garden and that the weeding, watering and caring would need to be the responsibility of the Beautification Committee whether it was from the annual budget or someone willing to volunteer their time. Garron asked if they checked with Bridgewater State College. Seelig is going check with local contractors to see if they would want to come out for an hour once a week to do the weeding.

Barking Dog Complaint – Tarawood Kennels

Roy said that she has been approached by Scott Clawson over the last month regarding excessive barking at Tarawood Kennels. Roy told him that he needs to submit a letter (received July 11<sup>th</sup>) to the BOS. This past Saturday she did go over there and there was some barking but not as bad as it was last year. The following morning Roy received a text that there was barking at 5:30 a.m. and she asked Mr. Clawson to tape it for her to have. She went over there at 8:30 a.m. and it was quiet as she thinks someone was out there tending to the dogs and she heard one dog bark at one point but that was it. Roy asked Millias and Garron if they wanted her to start going over there again to do some taping/listening. She also said that the inspection for the kennel needs to happen this week and that the ACO has been having a tough time getting in. Garron asked if the inspections have been going on. Roy said that Noreen (ACO) called last week but Ms. Choate was not available and the gate is closed so Noreen is not able to access the property without being let in. Roy was told it was supposed to happen sometime this week but typically an inspection is random so that the person does not know when it will happen. Millias asked if this was in violation of her kennel license and Roy believes the kennel license needed to happen sometime before a certain date so technically maybe...

Seelig's recommendation would be that the BOS extend the hearing to a review of all the stipulations placed on the license last summer and also a discussion on the right of the ACO to come on the property at a reasonable time to do inspections unannounced. The Board can make sure that is specifically noted on any further license.

Roy said that was discussed at the last meeting we had with Ms. Choate that we had the right at any time to come in and verify the number of dogs. Roy does not know if Noreen has been there since the fall. Roy mentioned doors and windows are closed throughout the winter so there haven't been any complaints until spring and does not want to spend the next few weeks in a driveway listening to dogs barking.

Garron did not think it was necessary for Roy to go over there and listen for barking as we have enough past information on that. He asked if Ms. Choate has met all the requirements of the last license that was issued and Roy said last year she did because an inspection was done but this year we attempted to do an inspection a couple of times and was unable to get access to the property. Roy continued to say that Ms. Choate did come in here and spoke with the Zoning Board Secretary and Ms. Choate left a message for Noreen to call her back but when Noreen tried to call her back her mailbox was full and could not leave a message. Noreen has been motivated to go over there to inspect. Roy said if everything looks okay after the inspection her kennel license could be renewed but the BOS would need to clarify that if there is barking. Even though the special permit from the ZBA specified noise mitigation the BOS did not have her continue the mitigation plan because it was going to be an expense and no one was really sure that was going work and we didn't want her to put fort the expense.

Seelig believes that last summer the Board left it that Ms. Choate needed to do whatever she needed to do to not cause further complaints and for ten months we have not heard any written complaints until this one. Roy did check with another set of neighbors and they did confirm that there was dog barking early in the morning but they have air conditioners on so windows are closed up and have not been outside in the yard as often as they had been. Roy said she went over last night and she could hear faint barking but they were already in the barn but it is much better than what it was in the past.

Millias said what bothers him is that Ms. Choate knew that they were going to do inspections and we have not been able to them. His understanding is that the ACO has been denied access to the property which is against the agreement and asked if they just let this happen? Garron said they schedule the hearing and ask questions at that time. Millias suggested if access to the property is continued denied then we should get and administrative search warrant as this has been an ongoing problem for a long time and to be denied access to the property for inspections after the agreement makes no sense to him.

Seelig recommended that a dog hearing be scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 with Ms. Choate.

Roy added that Attorney Rick Hucksam's recommendation was that ZBA not meet with Ms. Choate to renew the special permit until the litigation with Mr. Clawson is complete.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

#### ***Senior Tax Work-Off Program***

Council on Aging Director, Barbara Brenton began by saying that this is the third year doing the program and it has been tough to get someone to meet the criteria not to mention that some do not want to give out their income. She has been working with Karen Trudeau and is asking to increase the income level. Brenton has talked with other communities and some have a limit and some do not

Millias asked if they are looking for people who need it or do they just want to fill the slots and Brenton said a little bit of both. She suggested maybe trying a few things to entice the residents. Roy said they could put slips in the tax bill asking for volunteers, which a volunteer could do that.

Brenton mentioned that they only have a few departments having the volunteers work but she is trying to get other departments to join in.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to increase the maximum salary for the Senior tax work-Off Program to \$60,000/married and \$45,000/single. The pay will be \$11/ hour; total of sixty-nine hours worked for the period starting August 1, 2017 to February 1, 2018.

#### Dooley Disposal Services Advertisement

The advertisement that has been circulated advertises that they are *Halifax's Local Trash & Recycling Program*. Seelig has notified them about the advertisement being misleading but has not hear back from them. Millias stated that the way it is written it is as if they are running our program.

#### HOPS Playground PARC Grant Application

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Thomas Millias, to act as an official for the Town of Halifax to file applications, including all understanding and assurances contained therein by the signatory in connection with the PARC application.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Town Administrator, Charles Seelig, to act as an official for the Town of Halifax in connection with its PARC application and who will provide such additional information as may be required.

#### Talent Bank Form

A talent bank form was submitted from David DiCenso expressing interest in being the Animal Control Assistant, Emergency Management and Constable. The form will be sent to the ACO and Fire Chief.

#### Line Item Transfers

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved the following line item transfers:

| FROM   | TO  | AMOUNT       |
|--|---|--------------|
| Cemetery Wages<br>#01-491-5115                 | Cemetery Expense<br>#01-492-5243                          | \$ 379.90    |
| HES Expense (SPED Contr. Ser.)<br>#01-313-5510 | Special Education Transportation<br>#01-312-5325          | \$ 37,058.68 |
| HES Expense (SPED Contr. Ser.)<br>#01-313-5510 | Special Education Tuition<br>#01-311-5324                 | \$ 9,365.54  |
| HES Expense (SPED Contr. Ser.)<br>#01-313-5510 | Out of District Vocational Transportation<br>#01-321-5328 | \$ 415.19    |
| Office Machines Expense<br>#501-199            | Data Processing<br>#01-155                                | \$ 806.60    |

#### Electricity Aggregation

Colonial Power went out to bid for the Halifax and several other communities. The final bid was from Gexa with a rate of 9.3 cents per kwh from September 1 to November 17 then the rate will increase to 10.876 kwh for the next thirty-four months.

#### School Roof Contract

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Thomas Millias, sign the contract between the Town of Halifax and Capeway Roofing Systems Inc. for the roof replacement at the Halifax Elementary School.

West Monponsett Pond

Roy was surprised that the levels had increased and asked if they could stop the ocean boats from coming to the pond to clean out their boats and could that someone be from the Watershed Association. Seelig said the BOS could authorize them but then you would have people getting mad causing a tricky situation. He did suggest that they could put up additional signs stating that boats need to be cleaned off before entering the pond.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

-----  
Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm