

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 - 7:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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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.

**AGENDA**

The Agenda for Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENT**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 68	\$ 108,447.16
School Warrant	# 69	\$ 433,656.28
Ambulance Commitment	# 1B	\$ 60,834.00

**APPROVED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENT**

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

Payroll Warrant	# 70	\$ 336,538.41
Vendor Warrant	# 71	\$ 104,347.14
Mobile Home Park Fee	# 02	\$ 5,160.00

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

Massasoit Community College (course/J. Marble).....	\$ 209.00
Beth Israel Deaconess Ply. (physicals/Town employees).....	\$ 320.00
Area 58 (contract payment).....	\$ 41,707.64
Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP (audit yr. end 6/30/15).....	\$ 6,000.00
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo (legal/January) .....	\$ 2,855.63
Deutsch, Williams, Brooks (legal/January) .....	\$ 320.00
Michael Gilman Esq. (legal/January) .....	\$ 1,144.00

The Board acknowledged payment to the Treasurer for the following turnovers:

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2016-36	\$ 41,707.64

**MINUTES**

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

Executive Session – December 8, 2015 - afternoon  
Executive Session – January 26, 2016

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

Surplus Furniture – Communication Center

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously declared “corner fit’ furniture surplus.

Ambulance Abatement

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to abate the following amount from the Ambulance Account:

January 2016                      FOR        \$ 21,809.84

Surplus Coffee Maker – Selectmen’s Office

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously declared a Regal 12 to 55 cup coffee maker surplus.

OCPC- Housing Production Plan

OCPC approved the Town’s request to update the town’s housing production plan as part of the Local Technical Assistant program.

Autumn Lane

Merrill Engineers has submitted an estimate (\$101,000) to complete the work for Autumn Lane. Seelig has sent a copy to the Highway Department and to Town Counsel. He has asked Town Counsel to issue demand letters to the possible parties of interest but if that does not work then this matter will have to be brought to court.

Class II – Hollywood East

Hollywood East will be meeting with ZBA on March 14<sup>th</sup> regarding the conditions of their special permit related to their Class II license.

Hydrant – White Island Road

Land Planning has completed the surveying work for the north intersection of Monponsett Street and White Island Road. The hydrant at the intersection is four feet from the road layout and is on private property. The Water Department has been notified asking them to check to see if there were any agreements with the former property owner. Seelig suggested that they may wish to talk with Town Counsel about this.

FY2017 Local Aid

Halifax received minimal in local aid. There was no increase in special education circuit breaker money and regional transportation.

Talent Bank Form – Barbara Riley

Ms. Riley has submitted a talent bank form expressing interest in serving on numerous committees. Notification has been sent to those committees letting them know she is interested.

MMA – Opioid

The Task Force has submitted a report with recommendations. Seelig stated that the Board does not have to do anything that is listed but may want to come up with other things. Roy said that she has worked on the Task Force and they are looking into something for the elementary and middle school.

Odor from the Middleborough Compost Facility

The Board of Health and Selectmen's office has received complaints from residents in the southern part of Halifax about odor problems coming from a compost facility in Middleborough. Seelig wanted the viewers to know that the BOH and the BOS taking this matter seriously and are working with the Town of Middleborough and the MA Department of Environmental Protection to stay informed as to the resolution of the problem. He asked resident who encounter this problem to contact the Halifax BOH, Middleborough BOH or the MA DEP.

Water Tower – Damage of Equipment

The cost for replacing the three antennas and associated cable is \$17,469. A reserve fund transfer of \$14,000 was done and the departments will contribute money for new radios and other equipment. Garron asked how long it will be till they are up and running and Roy said they were supposed to work on it this week but the weather was bad.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS*****Cassandra Hanson***

On behalf of the Halifax School Committee, Ms. Hanson wanted to come in this evening to talk to the Board about a sleep study and the possibility of changing the school start times. She began by saying that Silver Lake has decided to reform the *sleep needs committee* that was established about nine ago. The task of the committee is to look at the data that is out there on the sleep needs for high school kids because their sleep patterns are different. They are planning to make the research available in the survey so the parents can read it. They have not decided what the best approach is because there are so many pieces to it. The biggest piece is busing and their goal is not to have it cost any of the three towns for busing the students. Roy asked if playing sports would be an issue and Ms. Hanson said that the Athletic Director, who is part of subcommittee, said that many of the school systems that we play have already changed their start times. She said that this is not only being looked at the Federal level but also the State and they would like to get this in place before it is mandated and they hope to implement this the fall of 2017.

Roy asked if there was anything that surprised them and she said no and the research is saying that later start times for the older students is better. They are trying to figure out how to do it and what the communities will support. Roy then asked when will the survey go out and she said is that they are looking for feedback from the BOS to go into the survey. The committee understands that

there will be some departments affected by the change such as the Highway when there are snow storms, the police safety officer and Youth and Recreation with their after school programs. Roy thought that it would work out okay for the safety officer over at the elementary school because right now the buses get there the same time there is a shift change so she thinks it may benefit the department. She agreed that Highway would need to make sure the building is plowed that much earlier when there is snow.

Millias asked if they were thinking about swapping start times and Ms. Hanson said they don't know how they are going to handle it and at this time looking for feedback from the community. They want what is best for all three towns with the hope that everyone is on the same page because this is the only way this is going to work.

Garron asked if the study shows that the students benefit from this and Ms. Hanson said overall the research has shown that they do and how their sleep needs affects their learning. She added that this is not driven by staff in any way and that it's all about the students.

Millias stated that it will be tricky getting the younger kids on the bus with parents working and trying to get out the door. Ms. Hanson said that is one of the questions on the survey and that this will also affect the before and after school care for parents. Roy said the high school kids are going to love it and the parents won't really care but it will be a challenge for parents of elementary kids who now have an older sibling at but won't if the hours were to change. Ms. Hanson said those are the things they are looking into.

Millias then asked if the work/school day times are dictated by the contracts and Ms. Hanson said yes but they are not looking to extend the teaching day just changing the hours.

Garron asked what if the teachers stay past the time stated in their contracts and Ms. Hanson said their current contracts call for a certain amount of hours a day and then another piece of the contract is where the start and end times are and said that they are not trying to extend the day but only change the hours.

Garron said he would like to see the results of the survey to get a sense of what people have to say about this. He stated that you could change the times and still get poor performances for the kids and Ms. Hanson agreed but said overall the research has shown that it benefits the students. Millias said he has read studies on this and said that getting kids to function that early in the morning is tough.

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

### Aquatic Control Technology

Office has received notification that Aquatic Control Technology has changed their name to SOLitude Lake Management.

### Sale of 5 Short Street

The Building Inspector has not officially sent a memo stating that the above property is not a buildable lot but has told Seelig. With that being said Seelig does not think there will be a lot of potential buyers. The town can sell the property via auction or by closed bid under procedures that would need to be approved at this coming Town Meeting. Seelig asked the BOS how they would like to proceed. Garron asked who would it benefit and Seelig said it will go into

the general fund and then at a Town Meeting could be voted to be transferred out. Millias said that he does not see the auction process working in this particular case and (Seelig agreed) thought that revenue could be generated from other Town owned property.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to start the process of selling Town owned property.

#### Public Records Bill

Senate has passed its version now the house and senate will need to meet to work out a single bill.

#### Class II – Davis Automotive – Increase in Vehicles

Davis automotive has asked for an increase in the number of unregistered vehicle they are allowed from 75 to 100. Seelig recommended that the BOS meet with Stephanie Davis and invite the abutters to attend. The Board was in agreement to have Stephanie Davis come in on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Water Tower Communication Equipment Repair Contract

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Kim Roy sign on behalf of the Board the contract with Industrial Communications.

#### Pothole Claim Denial

Trident has denied the claim that was submitted from Ashley Bengston

#### OCPC – Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

OCPC has invited interested parties to participate in their Old colony Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

#### Plops for HOPS

The office has received a formal request from the *Friends of HOPS* to use the Town Green in April for the Plops for HOPS fundraiser event.

#### Surplus Equipment – Planning Board

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously declared the following items surplus:

- 1 Sanyo cassette recorder
- 4 new unused cassette tapes
- 1 Certron audio cassette tape eraser
- 1 Olympus PearlCorder J500 (microcassette recorder)
- 3 (3) pack Sony microcassette (unused)

#### Silver Lake – Police Station

A copy of the valuation of the land was in the mail folder. Millias looked at it and said that they are asking \$250,000 for the acres they want leaving 20 acres of wetlands. He said the price seems low and thinks they should take another look at it.

Plympton Dog Hearing

ACO, Noreen Callahan, informed Seelig that the Plympton Board of Selectmen voted to permanently restrain the problem dog. Seelig is recommending that the BOS send Plympton a note of thanks for helping out with this matter.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter thanking the Plympton Board of Selectmen.

Mailbox Claim

Homeowners on Franklin Street have asked the Town to reimburse them for damage to their mailbox as it was hit, fixed by them and then hit again. Seelig has talked with them and the estimate is \$50. Millias asked if anyone has taken a look at it as it might be projecting in the road and if replaced in the same spot it may get hit again. Roy said that Bob should look at it. Seelig said he will pass it along to Bob.

Silver Lake Budget Meeting

Seelig reminded the Board about the above meeting that will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the high School.

Flag at Town Hall

Gerry has informed Seelig that the flag at Town Hall is down due to a couple things one is to reduce wear and tear during the winter storms and the other being is flags that are displayed 24/7 should not be done so without lighting . With that being said lights will be installed in the spring. Seelig added that the flag will be put up if there are any half-staff events declared by the Governor or President.

Renewal of Insurance Policies

Roy recused herself from this discussion because she sits on the Board of Directors of MIIA.

Seelig began by saying that the polies are up this week and he only received two proposals. One from the Town's current agent, Bohrek, and the other from MIIA. After consulting with the insurance consultant Miia has come in lower than Bohrek. The workers' compensation policy will stay with Bohrek. He continued to say given the work that the advisor did he thinks we should switch. He wanted Millias and Garron to know that he did not talk with Roy about this and that she did not take part in any aspect of the research and decision. Garron had to agree with Seelig as it is going to save the town money. Millias also agreed and said that he liked the idea of having a consultant help with this. Seelig added that Miia offers a better set of polies then what we have had in the past and have programs available for the town to partake in.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Sergeants, Patrol Officers, Firefighters, Highway and Dispatch:

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.

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Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Thomas Millias	-	Yes
Kim R. Roy	-	Yes

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

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Thomas Millias  
Clerk

/pjm