

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen Michael J. Schleiff 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.

The Chair announced that the meeting is being taped.

MINUTES

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

- Regular Session – November 25, 2014
- Executive Session – January 13, 2015
- Executive Session – February 10, 2015

AFFIRMED WARRANT / COMMITMENTS / BILL

Moved by Roy and approved by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed the following warrants and commitments:

Vendor Warrant	#69	\$ 50,486.42
Ambulance Commitment	#1B	\$ 14,958.78
Ambulance Commitment	#2A	\$ 18,571.22

Moved by Roy and approved by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed the following bill:

The Hartford (111F policy renewals for fire & police).....\$ 18,248.73

APPROVED WARRANTS / BILLS

Moved by Roy and approved by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #70:

Payroll Warrant	#70	\$ 380,411.32
Vendor Warrant	#71	\$ 233,704.08
Withholding Warrant	#72	\$ 138,281.64

Moved by Roy and approved by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills dated February 24, 2015:

Cushman Insurance Group (policy renewal/auto).....	\$ 56,347.00
Borhek Insurance Agency (policy renewals/profess., law enforce., general, property)....	\$ 109,827.00
Express Newspapers (ad/cemetery land)	\$ 70.00
Harry B. Harding & Son, Inc. (printing/STM warrant)	\$ 438.00
Aquatic Control Technology (mussel & dragonfly monitor.).....	\$ 10,815.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the week ending February 21, 2015 in the amount of \$ 6,229.64.

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

<u>Turnover</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2015-58	\$ 1,275.00
2015-59	\$ 29,272.92
2015-60	\$ 2.80

AGENDA

The Agenda for Tuesday, February 10th, was unanimously approved without revision.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Chapter 40B/State Financial Assistance

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted that the Chair, Michael J. Schleiff, sign the Chapter 40B Technical Assistance Review application.

St. Croix Pothole Claim

Charlene St. Croix claimed she damaged her car on November 27, 2014, when she hit a pothole in Halifax. Trident has rejected the claims as the Town was not previously notified about the pothole before the incident nor was informed about the incident for more than 30 days after the incident occurred. No action needed by the Board.

Ambulance Abatement

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

January 2015	FOR	\$8,531.06.
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Lindy's General Store

Still waiting for payment of the second half of the amount owed for the bags.

Non-Binding Referenda

John Shiovone met with Seelig about the steps for putting a non-binding referendum on the town election ballot regarding Common Core. State law allows a Board of Selectmen to put a non-binding referendum on the ballot by themselves or after a petition from ten or more registered voters or if the Board decides not to approve the petition, a petition by ten percent of the registered voters. Another alternative would be to have a citizen's petition putting an article on the warrant requesting the question be put on the ballot for the following town election.

There are various deadlines connected with this. The deadline for a ten-signature petition, then having it declined by the selectmen, and then gathering the 10 percent has passed. For this town election, the Board could put a question on the ballot or put one on after receiving the ten-signature petition.

No action needed but Seelig wanted the Board to be aware of how this might work and he is going to see if anything comes in regarding Common Core. Roy stated that this is complicated and added that if you do not adopt, you will not get Chapter 70 money.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Water Department – Employee Incentive Increase

The Selectmen met tonight with Water Superintendent, Keith Swanson and Wage and Personnel Board member, Janice Hayward to consider two 1% increases for Water Department employee, Paul Gargiulo's Distribution Grade 2 (D2) and Water Treatment Grade 2 (T2) licenses.

Swanson said that this is a pay increase for one employee. Approval for the increase needed to be done before they attend school but they did not know this because it is not done often and the last time was back in 1995. Swanson said that when they advertised for the job it was stated that they needed these two licenses and he only had one so he went to school and worked hard to get the second license. The increase will be \$2,000.00 a year (.96 an hour). Seelig stated that the money is already in the Water Department's budget. Hayward said Wage & Personnel supports the request and Swanson stated that he does too.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to support the request of a \$2,000 stipend for Paul Gargiulo.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Frances Healey Slip and Fall Claim

Ms. Healey slipped and fell due to a dangerous accumulation of snow and ice at Twin Lakes. Her attorney claims that the Town is responsible. Seelig has notified her attorney and our insurer that Twin Lakes is not maintained by the Town.

Decline of Purchase of Chapter 61A Land

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to waive the Town's first purchase option on the parcel of land designated on the maps of the Halifax Board of Assessors:

- Assessors Map 113 Lot 1 comprised of approximately 57,090 sq. ft.
- Assessors Map 113 Lot 2 comprised of approximately 9.7 acres

111F - Officer Herbert Wiltshire

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to place Patrol Officer Herbert R. Wiltshire on 111F status beginning February 18, 2015 to February 23, 2015.

MA Teachers Association

The Teacher's Association has requested various budget documents starting from FY2012. The Town Accountant and Seelig are working on fulfilling the request, which he expects is in connection with contract negotiations.

Stable Permits/Regulations

In response to the Board of Health's proposed regulations concerning barns and stables, a group of residents have asked the Board of Health that no regulations be enacted before Town Meeting because of two proposals that will be brought to Town Meeting: a Right to Farm by-law and a by-law setting up an Agricultural Commission. No action needed by the Board.

Right to Farm/Agricultural Commission By-Laws

A group of residents (citizens' petition) have placed two articles on the warrant for the ATM: 1) a Right to Farm by-law; 2) a by-law setting up an Agricultural Commission. Seelig is suggesting that the Board hold a public hearing on the proposals as if the first discussion about them is held at Town Meeting, he suspects that there will be too many unanswered questions to have effective decision-making. Seelig suggested a public hearing in which the Board could hold it as part of a regular Board of Selectmen's meeting or on a special night. Roy proposed that it be on a non-Board of Selectmen night. Schleiff wanted to re-visit this on March 10th.

Fire Department FY2016 Budget

The Fire Chief has provided more details about his budget request for FY2016. Seelig said that there is very little that he can cut. A letter from him was sent a letter to the Board explaining his budget.

Emergency Management/Storm Juno

The Fire Chief has developed an Initial Damage Assessment in case the Town is able to receive reimbursement for the first storm. The Town spent \$56,000 among all department and we might receive \$42,000.

BMI/Broadcast Music Inc.

The office has received another letter from BMI regarding the playing copyrighted music in Town venues. Seelig is going to put a reminder in the file for the warrant for the Town Meeting. The Board will need to decide whether to put an article on the warrant for payment in FY2016 and starting a line item for payments in future years. Seelig will talk with Finance Committee about this tomorrow night.

Finance Committee - Talent Bank Form

Linda Braga has expressed interest in serving on the Finance Committee. Roy stated that Ms. Braga is on FinCom's agenda for tomorrow night. If they would like to appoint her the Selectmen along with the Moderator can attend FinCom's meeting next Monday to appoint her.

Code of Conduct for Visitors

Seelig has given the Board an example from Acton which is used by several other communities regarding code of conduct for visitors. He has asked for comments from the departments and will bring this back to the Board for discussion on March 24th.

Ambulance Accident

Another vehicle has struck one of the Ambulances while transporting a patient. This happened at the Brockton Hospital on February 19th. The other driver was at fault. There was damage to a tire (replaced) and a bit of the body but is still able to make runs. The insurance company has been called, an adjuster will be/was at the fire station, and a claim has been filed.

Highway - Thank-You Card

Walter Grover and Barbara Gifford of 26 White Island Road have sent in a card thanking the highway personnel for a great job they have done. The card will be forwarded to the Highway Department.

Resignation - Board of Registrars

Larry L. Robinson has resigned from the Board of Registrars as he has moved to Florida.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter thanking him for his service.

Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop

Mr. Chiamonte has requested and received a copy of the notes being used to prepare the minutes of January 28th. Seelig gave him a verbal confirmation at the time of his request as well as written reply.

Silver Lake Regional School District

Plympton voted down the amended SL FY15 budget but Silver Lake may (a) vote on Thursday for a new amended FY15 budget (b) decide to postpone action to allow it to coincide with the STMs of the towns in the spring or (c) add the capital plan to the FY2016 budget. Seelig thinks that given the SL agreement, the SL Committee will have to vote on an FY2016 budget on Thursday night, 45 days before the first day/night of Town Meeting in Kingston, per the agreement.

Roy said she is going to attend the meeting. She has talked to the Chair of the SL School Committee and to a couple of the other members and stated to them that she thinks it is a good idea to sit down and go over the breakdown of the Pembroke money. She also explained to both the members that when you talk about a capital plan it is not just a list of items that need to be replaced it is a ten year plan where every year you identify what should be replaced. She stated that Halifax has a capital plan and we cannot always fund items that need to be funded in a certain budget year because of lack of money. She has talked with one of the Selectmen from Kingston and Chair of the Finance Committee from Plympton and they both are in agreement of the same concept.

The three member subcommittee consists of Cassie Hansen from Halifax, Mark Guidoboni from Kingston and, Maureen Springer from Plympton.

Roy said that all three communities are facing financial constraints and she hopes that the school committee will take this into consideration when submitting their budget. Seelig said the problem is that the state aid numbers have not come out but once we get the Governor's number, then we'll have a better understanding of where we stand.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT (CONTINUED)

South Shore Community Action Council

Frank Casey, on behalf of South Shore Community Action Council, came in this evening to enlighten the Board on the service that the Council provides to low income individuals and families on the South Shore. Halifax has previously received \$252,795 in local dollars for fuel assistance, burner repair/replacement and weatherization and burner repair. In addition they provide transportation services (well as an agreement with the Plymouth/Brockton bus lines), energy assistance programs and income and tax assistance. He continued to say that the Council has moved into a new building across from Registry of Deeds, consisting of three classrooms for education programs. They also have rooms for battered women to provide shelter and food for them. He invited the Board down to see the facility.

Mr. Casey is asking the town to put an Article in for \$5,000. He understands the constraints of the towns and is willing to work with us.

Roy was impressed at what the Council did and is sure that a lot of people do not know what they have to offer. She said that the town is under some financial hardships but said that he has her commitment to look into it, although it may not be the figure he is asking.

Schleiff said that they have his support but will bring this discussion up again as they are missing a Board member this evening. He added that maybe have FinCom take a look at it. Mr. Casey said that \$5,000 is not in stone and that any amount will help.

The Board thanked him for coming in.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

FY2014 Audit

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Michael J. Schleiff, to sign the letter from Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP regarding the work that the firm would do on the audit.

Monponsett/Algae/Phosphorous Treatment/Invasive Weeds Treatment

Seelig has schedules and estimates from Aquatic Control Technologies for the following two projects for this year:

- treating West Monponsett Pond with aluminum sulfate to reduce the amount of phosphorous for algae growth
- SONAR treatment in East Monponsett to reduce the invasive weeds.

Seelig will probably need a reserve fund transfer for the pre-treatment survey in April and then request, at Town Meeting, sufficient funding for the rest of the program in 2015. The total cost for East Monponsett will be \$81,200.

As for West Monponsett there is going to be three smaller treatments and we have sufficient funding to begin the work and even have the first treatment done in May. Seelig will have to request an additional appropriation (a bit more than \$15K) for the rest of the year.

There is sufficient money in the MTBE/Stabilization 3 account for the work in 2015. After that, we will need new revenue sources. Seelig has asked Brockton and Hanson for money for this year's work. Roy said that we want to remind Brockton that the 1964 law states that they need to help maintain our ponds.

Seelig is asking permission from the Board to proceed; Roy and Schleiff were okay with him moving ahead with this.

Special Town Meeting - May 2015

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on May 11, 2015, with the deadline for articles of March 24, 2015.

School Roof

The school administration did not send in an application for State assistance for the school roof project this funding round. Seelig has put a placeholder in the Town Meeting folder in case the Town wants to appropriate money for a designer for the work. This way here we will have moved forward before the funding round next year. The M&SBC does not have any projects in the pipeline (trim, windows, parking lot lights) for the school that might be added to the roof project whether these items can receive assistance from the State or not.

Seelig stated that the seam work has been done. Schleiff asked if will last another year and Seelig said that the school has made that decision for us. Schleiff then asked how much and Seelig said Gerry is looking into it. Schleiff questioned why this was not addressed and Seelig said he has no idea and added that he thinks they are talking about this at this evenings School Committee meeting.

SWMI Grant

Seelig has heard from DEP and the Town has been awarded a SWMI grant of \$74,850 to examine the feasibility of placing control structures at the Brockton Dam in order to better regulate and measure water flow.

Garden Club – Plans for Side of Town Hall

Roy and Schleiff were okay with the Garden Club coming it to meet with the Board to present a set of plans for the island located on the side of the building.

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

Seelig stated that Board will go into Executive Session to talk about contract negotiations for Highway, Sergeants, Patrol Officers, Dispatch and Fire as the Board has determined that discussing these matters in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Kim R. Roy - Yes
Michael J. Schleiff - Yes

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.:

Kim R. Roy - Yes
Michael J. Schleiff - Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm