

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015– 5:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. with Selectmen Michael J. Schleiff, 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**

The Agenda for Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

Garron thanked everyone for thinking of him while he was ill.

Schleiff announced that the Board will be going into Executive Session to discuss grievance hearing for Ken Bartell and will be coming back into public session.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. to for the grievance hearing for Ken Bartell:

Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes
Kim R. Roy	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. and back into public session at 7:15 p.m.:

Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes
Kim R. Roy	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

***Jonathan Selig - Friends of HOPS***

Jonathan Selig came in his evening to give the Board an update on the Plops for HOPS Event and to ask for permission for other activities to take place at the event to help raise some money. This would include one food vendor, jumpy house, a petting zoo and pony rides. Terri Carman has offered to get the animals for the petting zoo and to do the pony rides. An application has been given to the BOH for Porta Potties and the food vendor. Mr. Nessralla is providing the cow and has said that if we cannot do it on the Town Hall green we can do it on his property.

Seelig wanted the Board of Selectmen aware that she (Terri Carman) is a private entity and does not carry insurance. Schleiff wants to make sure she is okay with crowds and asked what type of animals she will be bringing. Jonathan said he would ask her. Roy has checked with Bob Badore to see if we had a street line to make the squares but we do not. Garron suggested asking the Middle School or High School. Jonathan briefly mentioned to the BOS the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 5K race in June.

#### Gordon Andrews – SL FY2015 & FY2016 Budget

First thing discussed was that on March 16<sup>th</sup> the BOS will have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to interview/appoint Linda Braga to the Finance Committee.

Andrews then wanted to talk about the issue with Silver Lake's FY15 & 16 budget. He began by saying that they do not have an assessment number from the district but Seelig has come up with one.

Seelig said they did not have any State aid or minimum contribution numbers and that is why they have not been able to vote a budget and said if we used last year's numbers we would have been off and this would have been a disadvantage to Halifax. He continued to say that all the number exists and if use we use them and plug them in it averages to a \$250,000 increase.

Andrews thinks Plympton's minimum growth factor increase of 6.6% is incorrect and the State is basing their calculation from some wrong data and is questioning if the minimum contribution number for Kingston and Plympton are real. He said that once the spreadsheet is uploaded online we can contact the State to see where they got their figures from.

Roy thoughts on the Pembroke money was to get the refund, then have SL present their 10 year capital plan set the priorities, then we can commit to do some of those capital items. She said that this has not been officially presented to the full school committee but we all need to be on the same page.

Andrews then said with the preliminary number that was given Seelig has calculated there is about a \$250,000 increase in the budget. He said that the Finance Committee is going to recommend level funding the local aid portion and accept the number from the governor's budget for the Chapter 70 aid increase, which is about \$29,000. Andrews thinks it makes sense to plan for no increase in that line so when we look at the deficit it is about \$230,000 then if you add Silver Lake's increase of \$250,000 Halifax is at a \$480,000 deficit.

Roy asked Sandy to plug in the elementary school budget (which has not been voted) to see what it does to the deficit. She continued to say that if we adjust the revenues (State), put in the new amount for the elementary and take \$10,000 from police wages then we would be in a \$145,000 deficit and then add the \$250,000 so then we would be close to \$400,000. Seelig said this figure does not include snow and ice deficit and said that Sandy still has not gotten all the bills in from Melissa over at Highway but currently the actual amount we got is a positive. He continued to say that if we do have a deficit it will not be as substantial to other communities because we budgeted properly and they spend more money per mile on road work.

Andrews believes that our assessment needs be level funded from Silver Lake. Roy said we still will be looking for \$145,000. At the Finance Committee

meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> both the elementary and SL members of Halifax will be coming as well as the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

Roy wanted to talk about the SL assessment in the sense we do not treat one department differently than another. There are going to be things within their budget that they are going to have increases such as steps and health insurance and asked if we level fund are we treating them differently than the other departments. Seelig said if we are at a level assessment that does not mean the other two towns are as their assessments will still go up.

Andrews said it would be great if the Board could attend their meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> and stressed that we are in a hole and the hole is going to get deeper therefore we are going to have to talk about what the priorities are.

Schleiff asked if we could handle the COA differently than the other departments. Andrews said that when you look at the budget police, fire and dispatch are untouchable and Schleiff said that he never said they were untouchable but said see what they come up with and said that he changed his mind on that one department. Andrews said that they are going to have to make choices as a group and it is okay if FinCom disagrees with the selectmen. Schleiff then asked if they will have a better idea next Monday and he really could not say. Roy then asked if any other departments resubmitted their budgets and he said he did not believe so. In closing Roy wanted everyone to know that we are going up to the levy and Andrews added that tax bills will be going up by 4.5 % and we are still looking at cuts.

### **MINUTES**

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

Regular Session – December 9, 2014  
Regular Session – January 28, 2015

### **AFFIRMED WARRANT AND COMMITMENT**

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

Payroll Warrant	#70	\$ 380,411.32
Vendor Warrant	#73	\$ 294,230.32
School Warrant	#74	\$ 267,304.82
Ambulance Commitment	#2B	\$ 30,387.46

### **APPROVED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENTS**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #75:

Payroll Warrant	#75	\$ 352,516.09
Vendor Warrant	#76	\$ 1,235,259.06
Withholding Warrant	#77	\$ 127,780.41
Mobile Home Park Fee	#03	\$ 5,160.00

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills dated March 10, 2015:

Attorney Lawrence Mayo (legal services/Feb.).....	\$ 1,509.38
Deutsch Williams Brooks (legal services/Feb.).....	\$ 580.15
National Grid (Town Hall).....	\$ 1,767.06
National Grid (Concession Stand) .....	\$ 22.39
Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP (service/audit yr. end 6/30/14).....	\$ 3,000.00
Michael C. Gilman (legal services/Feb.).....	\$ 385.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the following week ending March 7, 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>
2015-61	\$ 1,174.00

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

FY2014 Audit

The Board needs to complete the Related Party and Fraud Questionnaire in connection with the FY2014 audit.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services

The organization is interested in meeting with the Selectmen and/or Finance Committee to provide more information. They have submitted their yearly petition for their Article to be put on the Warrant. Roy stated that she does not want to meet with them and Schleiff said he would like to support South Shore Community Council. Seelig will have them meet with the Finance Committee.

South Shore Women’s Resource Center

This organization submitted their Article on March 4<sup>th</sup>, which was after the deadline. The Board could re-open the warrant for this article or else propose it for the STM it then would be the Board’s article and would require a 100 signatures or tell South Shore Women’s Resource Center that they were too late and they would have to get the 100 signatures by the March 24<sup>th</sup> or they will be out of luck.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to open the warrant and place the article for South Shore Women’s Resource Center, contingent that funding is available.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to place South Shore Community Action Council Article on the Warrant contingent that funding is available.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to close the warrant.

Karen Fava – Resignation from Finance Committee

Karen Fava has resigned from FinCom due to unforeseen family needs.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to send Karen a letter thanking her for her service.

Deb Pizzi – Resignation from Halifax in Lights

Deb Pizzi has resigned as a full-time member from the committee but would be happy to volunteer for the event. This now leaves two people on the committee.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Deb thanking her for her service.

Thank-You to the Highway and Fire Department

Marc Gagnon has sent a letter thanking the Highway and Fire Departments for their help in connection with an incident on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to send letters to the Highway and Fire Department acknowledging of their service they provided to Mr. Gagnon.

Town Report Photograph

Paper copies of photos that were submitted for the cover of the Town Report are in the mail folder.

Plans for Garden from Beautification Committee Member

Preliminary plans for the garden beside the Town Hall were brought in by John Kessinger. This will be revisit next meeting.

Ambulance Abatement

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

February 2015	FOR	\$11,938.19
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Fire Department - Lieutenant Proposal

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to setting up the position of Lieutenant as a possible full-time position contingent upon Town Meeting approval.

Blackledge Farm - Chapter 40B Technical Assistance Award Letter

The grant application has been approved; now the award letter needs to be signed by the Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Michael J. Schleiff sign the award letter.

Fire Department Accident Reports

Information from the Chief concerning two accidents (neither caused by the Town) one on February 19<sup>th</sup> in Brockton, where one of the ambulances was hit and the other on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Sandwich, the Chief's car was hit. Accident reports, et cetera are in the mail folder if the Board would like to review.

Emergency Management – Snowstorms Reimbursement

HEMA will be making a request for reimbursement for the four snow storms. The total cost for the Town was \$146,315.22 and the hope is that we'll be receiving 75% reimbursement.

New Recycling Truck

Susan Johnston has dropped off information about the new truck. She will be in to meet with the Selectmen on March 24<sup>th</sup>. If the board has any questions you between now and then, please let Seelig know and he will try to get answers before March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chapter 32B/Municipal Health Insurance Reform

Several years ago, the State Legislature approved a statute that allows communities to change their health plans as long as the new health plans meet the benefits included in the Group Insurance Commission's most popular plans. Right now, the Town offers nine plans that do. Seelig is not interested in changing this unless the Board decides that because of the Town's financial situation, the Town needs to move all employees to less expensive plans.

However, the reforms do allow the Town to discontinue the "hold harmless" agreements signed with the various unions when the Mayflower Municipal Health Group approved higher co-pays for its most popular plans several years ago. The "hold harmless" agreements meant that the Town would compensate employees if they paid more in co-pays and deductibles over the course of a year than they saved in the lower premiums. Very few employees meet that standard and the Town pays less than \$10,000 out each year. With that being said Seelig is recommending that the "hold harmless" agreements be discontinued but to do that, the Board will need to take the following steps:

- 1) Notify the unions that the Board intends to vote on the adoption of Chapter 32B, Sections 21 through 23.
- 2) Vote to adopt those sections (the sections allow for changes but do not require any changes be made).
- 3) Notify the Insurance Advisory Committee (made up of representatives of the unions) of any proposed changes
- 4) Notify the unions of the notice to the IAC ten days after notifying the IAC
- 5) Notify members of the proposed changes to members of the Public Employee Committee (again, representatives of the unions) of the proposed changes
- 6) Notify MA Administration and Finance of beginning and end dates of a thirty-day negotiation period concerning the changes along with notification of the Town's representative to a potential three-person committee to review the changes
- 7) Reach agreement or move to #8
- 8) Panel reviews and makes a decision concerning the changes.
- 9) Under #7 or #8, changes are implemented.

Accepting Sections 21-23 now would also allow the Town, sometime in the future, to make further changes and by-pass the first couple of steps in the process.

Seelig is asking the Board of Selectmen to accept Sections 21-23 and the “hold harmless” agreements at their next meeting in two weeks.

Recycling Abatement - Bill #2559

Resident is requesting an abatement of annual fee of \$38 plus the \$5 late fee. ABC Disposal has confirmed that the homeowner participates in their recycling program.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to abate Bill #2559 in the amount of \$43.

Green Communities Grant

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Michael J. Schleiff sign the necessary paperwork in connection with the Green Communities Grant.

Water Tank Emergency Communications

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to the Commissioners supporting the request for an “out rigger” for mounting the public safety antennas.

Chapter 40B - Blackledge Farm

The ZBA will hold a hearing for the 52-unit (single-family) project on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the letter that were sent to the MA Housing Finance Agency in July about the project have been given to the Board to review as well as the application. The Board then may want to determine if they want to send the same or a similar letter to the ZBA as part of the hearing process.

Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop

Mr. Chiamonte has been sent information about the cost of obtaining a copy of the draft of the minutes from January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Right to Farm By-law and Agricultural Committee

Board will have a public forum on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. on the above mentioned topics.

Silver Lake Regional School District

The revenue committee will be meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and the full committee meeting will be at 6pm. Problems will include:

- Committee is using an expense-driven budget based on needs rather than a revenue-based budget based on what money is available from the Towns
- Committee used one-time only funds last year and then built that money into the budget requiring higher assessments in FY2016
- Committee may try to continue this practice, which does not work.
- Waiting to hear from the Committee about its intentions vis-à-vis the Capital Plan plus other possible uses of Pembroke and E&D money.

OPEB Trust Agreement & Investment Policy

Seelig has talked with the Town Accountant and the Assistant Treasurer, both of whom indicated that the next step would be for the Selectmen to review the changes proposed by Town Counsel in the Trust Agreement and Investment Policy. Roy and Garron were comfortable moving it but Schleiff has not read it yet.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to approve the OPEB Trust Agreement and Investment Policy:

Kim R. Roy	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	-	Abstained

Bag and Tag Program - Lindy's General Store

Second half of the arrears have been paid.

SWMI Grant

Seelig is completing the paperwork for this grant so that it can meet its April 1<sup>st</sup> launch date.

Cemetery Space – River Street

John Peck called to say that he may be able to have a landowner agree to sell some land off River Street for a cemetery if the Town is interested. Schleiff said that once they start to double stack they could think about purchasing. The Board was okay with Seelig to contact Mr. Peck.

BMI

Board needs to ask questions and/or make a decision about whether to place an article at Town Meeting. Roy stated that she does not like to pay for something and Schleiff agreed with her and thinks an Article should be put in the Warrant. He is looking at the legal side of it. Garron has a moral problem with it but if we decide not to do it and it become a legal issue. Seelig stated that if BMI takes the Town to court the judge would not care that Town Meeting voted it down. Garron said to put it on warrant and have the Town vote it. Seelig said that if Town does not appropriate the money he will contact BMI and let them know that the money was not appropriated.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted place an article in the warrant to fund the annual licensing fee for copyrighted music on Town property.

Meeting Spaces

The following letter was written from Paul Bicknell Wight:

*If I may with respect to future informational meetings to the residents and public I ask the political leaders of this great community to respond: the following is a response to an upcoming forum and any in the future.*

*If I may, As a New member to this Lovely Community (nov 2012) I would like to Express an opinion about community meetings at What Is Called THE GREAT HALL. Last year I attended the informational info meeting prior to Town Meeting regarding the issue of a senior community center, Seniors some in wheelchairs,*



*crutches, canes were stuffed into a second floor of an older wooden structure, Means of egress were in the front stairwell where over 20 stand up participants Stood. Second means a small elevator. TO THE TOWN OFFICIALS it's time to hold ALL IMPORTANT MEETING at A More Suitable Place, ie, as Town Meeting SCHOOL just an opinion, but let's get up to date, afa*

Seelig said that he would be happy to communicate with Mr. Wight if the Board would like and said that the jump from Great Hall to school is high and understands it was crowded for the COA presentation last year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Seelig stated that Board will go into Executive Session to talk about contract negotiations for Patrol Officers 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. No statement would be made at the end of the Executive Session and the Board will not reconvene in open session.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss Patrol Officer Contract:

Michael J. Schleiff	-	Abstained
Kim R. Roy	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes

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Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.:

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm