BOARD OF SELECTMEN SELECTMEN MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 - 7:30 P.M. SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen Michael J. Schleiff, Kim R. Roy and Troy E. Garron present.

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.

There was a moment of silence in memory of Bruce Wood.

Schleiff stated that there was a tragic accident involving one of our Firefighters, Bruce Wood. This is a very sad time for the family as well as the town. Garron added that the whole family has contributed to the town throughout the years. Roy also said that the family has long roots in the community as his sister on Water Commissioners and another sister works in the building maintenance department.

The Board mentioned when the services would be. Schleiff said that the Fire Department will be going over the arrangements and the Police Chief will have extra detail for parking on Friday.

Plop for HOPS

Roy wanted to mention that the Friends of HOPS hosted Plop for HOPS and raised \$9,000. It was a great family day and small animals were provided for the petting zoo. Thank you to Bella's and Rockland Trust.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Beautification Committee – Garden Area Proposal for Town Hall

John Kessinger representing the Beautification Committee came in this evening with a proposal for a garden on the side of the Town Hall. He had two other proposals and he incorporated them in his third a proposal. He would like Would Highway and Building Maintenance to prepare the area and is aware they need to be asked. Once done he'll bring in containers to plant tulips and annuals to the garden site. Mr. Kessinger does not know if the other two members will be able to help as they both work full time. He has reached out to the COA to have the senior citizens help as well as the Boy Scouts (prefer Eagle Scouts). He would like to do the work on Tuesdays if he gets the okay from the Board of Selectmen. He also would like a tree-planting ceremony on June 20th and anyone who has contributed; he would like them to attend to thank them for their help.

Garron asked if he has taken into consideration the soil and what does he need from the Board of Selectmen. He said there is plenty of sun and wind and he needs the okay from the BOS to continue with his plan. He also understands that a vote is needed by the Beautification Committee. Schleiff asked if the shape of the garden will be what it is right now and he said yes. In his proposal there will be loam and woodchips and Roy asked where the money would be coming from for that stuff and he said there is plenty in back behind water tower. She then asked if the proposal been voted by committee.

Jessica Raduc, committee member, said they voted and had a question about cherry tree and asked the Board what they would like to see. Mr. Kessinger asked a Dogwood, Rhododendron or Cherry tree.

Mr. Kessinger said that tulips, spring annuals are in containers and there needs to be vote from the committee to buy mums. Ms. Raduc suggested going to a nursery to look for a cascade of color throughout the year.

Mr. Kessinger continued to say that they need to talk with Mr. Elliott regarding some items and need the vote of the committee for pachysandra and grass.

Schleiff said that everything that has been presented is fine with him. Roy said that they need to keep in mind the maintenance of the garden. Garron suggested checking with the library about the layout of the garden over there and Mr. Kessinger said that he already has done that. He would like to plant a special tree and Schleiff said that there is a tree account and we can talk with Bob Badore as he is the Tree Warden.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Gerry Elliott and Bob Badore that we have approved the third proposal from the Beautification Committee.

Roy added that the proposal is approved knowing that Gerry Elliott and Bob Badore be invited to your meetings.

Ms. Raduc said that they will keep the Board of Selectmen updated on what the committee decides.

SWMI Grant Update

Russ Kleekamp, Engineer with GHD, came in this evening to update the BOS on SWMI project. He began by saving that they are in the second stage of the project which is a Feasibility Study on Stump Brook Dam. There are many people involved i.e stake holders, municipalities' and numerous state agencies. Much of the debates come back to the water levels and the operation of the sleuth gates. It is hard to get to the gates especially in the winter creating limited controls but when not accessed there is no controls. The grant is to have automated controls open and close the gates from the plant. There was kick-off meeting and a site visit with the city of Brockton, and the superintendent who runs the Silver lake treatment plant and they seem very much on board. This a fast moving grant and within a couple of months they expect to be done. Basically it is a report and it will identify what modifications need to be done to the dam. The report will set up the framework for the design and the cost. Based on the cost, we can put together grant strategy to help renovated and fix the dams. There is grant money out there to ease the burden. His intention is to have a draft report in a couple of months and address any comments then a final report with the hope next year to move into a design phase, which will take probably 6 months to a year.

Schleiff asked if there were any obstacles to get to the dam and he said it more or less the feasibility of operating the controls.

Garron asked what the time table was for actually doing work and Mr. Kleekamp said if it is small project you could see construction of roughly 2 to 5 years and if it is a larger project it would be 5 years as there are many variables and it depends on the cost as well as coordination. Schleiff said that this could be advantageous seeing as we are dealing with multiples problems at the moment giving us time to take care of them before starting the project. In closing Garron said that they appreciate his efforts.

State Representative Thomas Calter

Schleiff began by explaining that non-binding referendum from John Shiavone and a group of resident/parents has brought before the Board to put on the ballot and wanted to invite the Legislators in to enlighten them as to why they did so.

Mr. Shiavone explained that the intention is to give the residents a say on Common Core and to let the Legislators know how the residents feel and where Halifax voters stand. The ballot question is based on House 492.

Mr. Calter said that he attended a forum about a year and a half ago and at that time the presentation was short on data and he did not find it balanced. He continued to say that it was clearly an anti Common Core presentation as both side were not represented. There was no real data put forward at this forum but accusations of the writers of Common Core. He stated that Common Core was voted on by the Department of Education and not the legislators as part of the race to top program. He continued to that we can back out of the program and it is the will of the people. In addition he talked about pamphlet titled "Educating Student to Success" which is the other side of the issue as opposed to what was presented at the forum he attended last year.

Roy said that there is going to be two forums so there will be a balance of the information. We have the Department of education and then we have a group of people. The forums will be on April 29th May 7th. Mr. Shiavone said that there will have great representation from both sides. Garron thinks it is important that public understands what Common Core is.

Mr. Calter then wanted to talk about his career as a business man and not a State Rep and what it means to Common Core. He said that there is a 5% unemployment rate in the State and said that there are more jobs requiring skilled work force that are empty right now then we have unemployed. He explained that our workforce is coming out of high school not prepared to work or go to college without remedial math and English and if they were to go to college they would have to go to a remedial program to become proficient in math and English.

He said that he does pro bono coaching work for high school graduates who are entering college or the workforce. He teaches them to engage and think outside the box and form an action plan. The biggest obstacle for them is critical thinking as they have passed the MCAS and by our current standards they are proficient and ready for college or the workforce but they cannot pass any questions that requires critical thinking and lack the capacity to think beyond standardized data. Many of these kids have hit the SAT's out of the park or belong to the National Honor Society; passed MCAS but do not know the next step that they want to take after High school. He continued to say that jobs are being filled by mid career people and not high school or college grads because they don't have the skills set. Neither did the mid career people but they had 20 years to develop them on the job. Schleiff asked if the school programs could adjust and Mr. Calter said that Common Core is not a curriculum but a standard that they must meet. The questions are different as they will ask how they got their answer, in narrative form as opposed just answering it (i.e. 4+4+4+4=16), requiring them go beyond what the standardized answer is.

Mr. Calter said that there are many sides to this and Common Core helps you think outside the box as you want a student to be able to think things through with critical thinking. We have been teaching to the test so we get kids to pass the test but you can't ask them an open ended question because they will struggle to answer them. The kids who have great role models at home have been challenged so they are ones who can answer the questions but for the students who do not have that environment they have been taught to a test and have passed. He finds that a couple of months after graduation graduates come to him and he asks them why are you going to college and they reply because I need a college degree. He continued to say that years ago when you got a college degree you were promised a good job but now there is no more promise that you'll have the skills to perform at that job.

Schleiff asked what happens if in 10 years this is not working and what is the alternative? Mr. Calter said that this has been in the process for 12 years and that there are 22 states that have pulled out of Common Core and are creating their own curriculum/frameworks.

Mr. Calter said that the objective for Common Core was to have a common standard so a teacher could move from here to another state and still be accredited or if a student was to move they would get the same education. We have the authority to pull out of this and it is important that the citizens know this. There is cost to meet the Common Core standards as there are different text books, teacher training, testing services and computers are needed.

Garron was wondering where they are going with this and Mr. Calter said that you want a student to follow through and explain how they arrived at their answer.

Schleiff stated that the open forums are to provide information and not to push either way and we want the residents who are voting for this to be up to date on this. Mr. Calter is thrilled that the town is doing this because any tool you can use to get people to start talking about this is great as it creates critical thinking. The Board thanked him for coming in and he as well thanked them for having him.

Mr. Anderson – 15 Ocean Avenue

Mr. Anderson submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking for another week before removing his vehicle. Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to allow vehicles short or long-term on town property. He has talked with Town Counsel and he recommends that the Board not allow anyone to park on the property because of liability issues.

Schleiff said that we have had past issues that were the same and Garron said he wants to be respectful to the neighbors and reiterated that the town would be liable.

Another resident, Gayle Martin has also requested permission to park at 15 Ocean Ave.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to deny Ms. Gayle Martin's request.

Mr. Anderson (present at meeting) said that there is a derby car there and just needs another week. Roy asked why he needed more time and he said that his friend is away and can't get the car on his property until he gets home. She then asked why he could not put it in his yard and he said he does not have a residence.

Garron said if just until this weekend ... and Schleiff understood his hardship.

Seelig sent a letter to Mr. Anderson notifying him that the he had until today to get vehicles off property. Ms. Martin has a registered vehicle, plus two more that are registered and then there is Mr. Anderson's vehicle. Roy stated that this is not the first time for Mr. Anderson and Seelig said that this happened in January where he was asked him to remove the vehicle then had to be reminded then the vehicle came back.

Mr. Anderson said the guy who took care of the yard was given permission to use the property and he then told me I could park the car there not knowing that the town owned the property.

Schleiff was willing to let go until the weekend then asked how we would remove the vehicle and Seelig said through the Highway Surveyor.

Garron asked Mr. Anderson if the car will definitely be removed this weekend and he said most definite and apologized for putting the Board of Selectmen in this situation. Schleiff was willing to not take action until next week but Roy was not as she was thinking about the liability of the town, not just his car, but the others that are being parked there.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to not take action until next week:

Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes
Kim R. Roy	-	No
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes

Seelig confirmed that it would be next Tuesday because Monday is a holiday and added that next Tuesday the Highway Surveyor will be contacted to put a barrier of some sort so that cars cannot be put on the property.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to instruct the Highway Surveyor to protect the property from allowing vehicles to get back on the property.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – January 13, 2015 Regular Session – February 24, 2015

John Shiavone – Broadcasting of Meetings

Mr. Shiavone wanted to inform the BOS about what is happening with meetings on CHAT cable. They are having equipment issues on the educational and government channel so starting today on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays all BOS, Finance Committee and Elementary School Committee meetings are going to be broadcast on channel 13. They wanted the Board and public to know seeing as Town Meeting is approaching and want to get information to the public. The meetings are also are available online through YouTube.

AFFIRM COMMITMENT

Moved by Garron and approved by Roy, the Board unanimously affirmed the following commitment:

Ambulance Commitment #3B \$ 25,544.32

APPROVED WARRANT AND COMMITMENT

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

Vendor Warrant	#87	\$ 46,784.80
Mobile Home Park Fee	#04	\$ 5,160.00

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

National Grid (Town Hall)	\$ 1,602.64
National Grid (Concession Stand)	\$ 20.60
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo (legal services/March)	\$ 3,401.87
Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland, P.C. (legal	
service/March)	\$ 390.00
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. (MA law books)	\$ 1,467.89
Michael Gilman (legal services/March)	\$ 2,228.00
Lynch, Malloy, Marini, LLP (audit year end 6/30/14)	\$ 1,000.00
South Shore Woman's Resource Center (contract FY15)	\$ 3,500.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the week ending April 4, 2015 in the amount of \$ 6,229.64.

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

TURNOVER	AMOUNT
2015-65	\$ 60.00
2015-66	\$ 700.00
2015-67	\$ 75.00

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Highway Vacancy

The Highway Surveyor has asked the Union for an extension to fill the vacancy caused by the termination of Ken Bartell. Seelig has not heard anything back from the Union and is still waiting to hear from the Highway Surveyor as to when he wants to start advertising.

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Norfolk County Tuition

The figure for FY2016 at the Agricultural High School is \$21,094. Seelig has notified the School Department and the Finance Committee in case this changes any of the numbers in the vocational budget.

Chapter 90 FY2016

The Governor's office has notified the Town that the Chapter 90 allocation for FY2016 is \$270,025. This figure is less than before because we have not had increase in population or accepted new roads. Seelig has notified the Highway Department and the Finance Committee.

New Contact Person for Comcast

Michael Galla will replace Gerry Buckley (now Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs) as the Government Affairs Manager to the Town.

Southeast Region Casino

The Board was cc'ed on a letter from Attorneys Philip Beauregard and Geore Leontire urging the Casino Commission to issue a casino license for the southeast region. No action needed from the Board but Seelig wanted them aware of the letter.

Report of East & West Monponsett Ponds

The following is a report from Aquatic Control Technologies regarding treatment of the ponds:

East Monponsett

Aquatic Control Technologies have submitted the treatment program project description to NHESP for their review and approval under MESA. They don't anticipate any issues with receiving approval to move forward given that they have kept their treatment doses under the necessary 25 ppb for protection of the mussels. However, they are still awaiting an official response/approval from NHESP. They will check on the status of the NHESP review next week and will let Halifax know where things stand. In addition, they have requested an extension of the Superseding Order of Conditions for the project from MA DEP. They had initially intended to wait on addressing the OOCs until everything was finalized with NHESP, but due to the fact that we are progressing rapidly toward the treatment season, they decided to not delay and work on things concurrently. No specific pre-treatment survey date yet, but they are planning to grab the first round of water quality samples at West Monponsett the last week of April and would do a preliminary inspection of the vegetation growth the same day.

West Monponsett

The revised management plan was submitted to NHESP for review and approval. They have not received official approval yet but based on their meeting do not anticipate any issues as they think the delay is merely a workload issue at NHESP. They still need to handle the OOC modification in Hanson and are hoping to have the request to them before the end of the week. They are planning to pick a day during the last week of April to begin the sampling.

Lt. Governor Survey

On-line survey looking for examples of regulations, laws and mandates that can be changed/removed in order to deliver quality services to the Town's constituents in a more cost-effective manner. Seelig said that if the BOS has not completed the survey then he can them the link or set you up on one of the Town's computers.

<u>Audit</u>

Draft copies of the Audit are available. The will be an Audit meeting on April 16th at 2 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Seelig stated that they can talk with the Auditors on the ways to deal with the deficiencies. Many of them were in the Treasurer-Collector office and seeing as the position will be newly elected next month Seelig said he then can point out the deficiencies with the newly appointed person and move forward about fixing the issues.

Letter of Commendation - Officer Hingst

Michael Gray of Middleboro (Senior Staff instructor for Officer Hingst) passed along a letter that he received from Judith and Robert Cronin concerning their son who was going through a difficult situation which Officer Hingst assisted him through. Schleiff said that it was very nice to receive a letter regarding a job well done.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Officer Hingst about a job well done and to cc the Police Chief and put letter in his file.

Trailer Permit

There may be the possible need for a hearing on May 12th for a trailer permit for 21 Larry Avenue. The permit expires on May 24th but the Board meets on May 12th and May 26th. Resident believes that MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3 stating that trailers are allowed for twelve months when residences are destroyed supersedes the Town's by-law. The house was not destroyed just water damage. Seelig wanted the BOS aware that the resident will be upset if they have to have to come before the Board of Selectmen. Seelig requested an opinion from Town Counsel and he does not agree with what the resident states and our By-Law supersedes. If a hearing is needed Seelig is recommending that it start a little after 6:30 and he will send all the necessary paperwork to the resident.

Howland Disposal Service

Resident, Ellen Murphy cc'ed the BOS on a letter that she wrote to Howland Disposal Service thanking them for their service during the winter.

Opioid Coalition Conference

There will be a conference on May 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Shaw's Center in Brockton. Pre-registration is requested. Seelig has notified the departments.

Streetlight - 9 Spencer Drive

Seelig is waiting to hear back from National Grid about the status of the streetlight on the cul-de-sac.

Planning Board/Zoning Amendment Hearings

The Planning Board will hold public hearings on May 7th at 7:40 p.m. and 7:50 p.m. on the proposed changes (increase number of copies of the site plan proposal from 8 to 9 and add the Board of Selectmen as recipient and change the maps used for the floodplain zone). Seelig will be attending the hearings.

Wetlands Notification

Roger Warren of Pembroke is building a new house in Pembroke, but it is near the Town line. He'll be taking down a shack in the buffer zone and doing some grading. The Board received notification because the Town owns an abutting property.

Fire Chief Attending the National Fire Academy

Chief Viveiros has been selected to attend the New Fire Chief Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD from May 24th through the 29th. The program is free of charge. Captain Cuozzo will be in command while he is away.

Schleiff asked if he would be taking the town vehicle and Roy said she thinks he is flying.

Talent Bank Form - William McAvoy

A talent bank form has been submitted from William McAvoy expressing interest in serving on the Finance Committee. The form has been given to the Committee for consideration.

Pothole Claim - Frank Bartolomeo

The claim submitted by Mr. Bartolomeo has been denied by Trident Insurance.

Ambulance Abatement

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

March 2015 FOR \$19,517.72.

Town Hall Sign - Country Line Dance

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously granted permission for Generations to put a sign up on the front lawn of the Town Hall publicizing "Line Dancing" from April 19th to April 25th.

Solar Farm Ad Hoc Committee

The committee is requesting to add an eighth seat to the Committee and appoint Robert Gaynor (he has been attending the meetings).

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to expand the Committee to eight members (8) and appoint Robert Gaynor to the Committee.

Fuel Storage Permits

Seelig will move forward with sending letters to those who are in arrears stating that they should either pay the taxes or have a payment plan approved by the Treasurer no later than April 28th and if they fail to do that, letters would go out on revocation hearings for May 26th.

Marathon Bombing Moment of Silence

Mayor Walsh is inviting all Massachusetts communities to hold a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. on April 15th and is asking municipal leaders across the State to join in observing April 15th as "One Boston Day"

School Roof Project

Superintendent, John Tuffy, has submitted the letter of interest for the above project. He personally thanked both Charlie and Gerry for their help in providing information that was needed.

Police Vehicle Windows

According to the Police Chief, there is no provision to "up-armor" the vehicles and he does not know who he would contract with for the upgrade. Schleiff added that if this trend continues then this issue will be discussed.

Blackledge Farms/Chapter 40B

The hearing was continued on April 13th. ZBA had sent out a reminder and welcomed comments from Boards and Committees.

Renewal of Gasoline/Diesel Fuel Contract

The Highway Surveyor has recommended that the Board renew the contract with Dennis K. Burke for gasoline/diesel fuel for FY2016.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to continue the contract with Dennis K. Burke, Inc. for the delivery of Premium, Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel fuel to the Town of Halifax for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

OPEB Trust

The Board has approved the Trust and is ready for signatures. Seelig will notify the Trustees and advertise that the Town is looking for one member at-large.

HOPS Signs

The Town Clerk has approved to have a sign up at Town Election publicizing the Second Annual HOPS 5K road race and would also like to place signs on Town property.

License – Transfer of AWLGS LLC to Om Hari Corp. – Lindys General Store

The above transfer for Lindy's General Store was approved by the ABCC and the license is ready to be signed by the Board. Board signed the license.

Renewal - Junk Dealers License

Renewal letters have been sent to Mum's Secret Closet and Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop to renew their Junk Dealer's Licenses. Mum's Secret Closet has sent in her paperwork but as of this time the office has not received anything from Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to renew the Junk Dealer's license issued to Mum's Secret Closet located at 356 Monponsett Street.

Renewal - Junk Dealers License - Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop

Garron said that he would like reports from the police department for Halifax Gold and Silver. Schleiff stated that he has talk with the Police Chief and nothing has been going on – status quo and said he still has two weeks to get his paperwork in. Seelig said that if the office does not have anything by April 28th then the Board does not have to renew. Garron added that he would like something in writing seeing there have been issues in the past.

Renewal Pool Table License - The Tee Box

Moved by Garron seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously renewed the Pool Table License issued to d/b/a The Tee Box located at 284 Monponsett Street - Unit 205.

General Code/By-Laws

The Town Clerk and the Finance Committee have asked about the necessity of sending out changes in the by-laws to General Code at the cost of several thousand dollars each year. The alternative is use three-ring binders for those who need a paper copy and continue to maintain an on-line edition. Schleiff was fine with it as long as the departments don't have a problem.

Code of Conduct for Visitors

Discussion on April 28th.

Randall/Hilliard Property

The Commonwealth, Town Counsel and Wildlands Trust are still working on a final version.

Town Clerk Hours

The increase in the budget is for the equivalent of 30 hours. This has been approved by the Finance Committee and they are recommending the increase.

Exterior Lighting at the School

Previously the question cam e up as to why the school lights were on throughout the night. Seelig looked into it and according to the head custodian, the exterior light times are as follows: between 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. depending on when daylight ends, and off at 11:15 p.m. This will ensure safety for our 2^{nd} shift custodians leaving for the night as well as Youth and Recreation activities. These are the times that have been used in the past for this time of year. The head custodian will have the 2^{nd} shift custodians verify operation.

Common Core Discussion

DESE will be presenting information about the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and PARCC at 7:00 p.m. on April 29th at the Halifax Elementary School.

Google - Town Hall Phone Number

Several people have called Town Hall to complain that the number for the Town Hall on the internet is for Bella's Pizza. What has been happening is that when you type in "Halifax Town Hall" in Google, for some reason it provides Bella's telephone information (with the Town Hall address, hours, map, etc.). Seelig has notified Google about the problem.

Fire Station Sign

The Fire Chief would like to replace the sign on the building as the old one is wearing out. He will be working with the Historic District Commission but would like any comments from the Board.

Kozhaya Nessralla – Mudfest Event

Seelig stated that Mr. Nessralla still owes taxes for 2014 and asked the Board if they wanted notify him and the event coordinator. Schleiff said that they can't take back the approval of the events. Garron suggested notifying him telling him that if he wants the events he needs to pay the taxes.

New Fire Truck

Schleiff suggested having the Fire Chief come in and talk about this big ticket item. Seelig will ask him to come in on April 28th.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Thomas Millias Clerk

/pjm