

HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. with Selectmen Kim R. Roy and Troy E. Garron and Thomas Millias present.

Chair announces that the meeting is being taped.

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.

Seelig wanted to mention the outstanding performance of the musical Shriek at the High School saying that it was a hit in all aspects of the production.

**AGENDA**

The Agenda for Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following Selectmen Minutes:

- Regular Session - October 13, 2015
- Regular Session - November 2, 2015

**AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS, WARRANTS & BILLS**

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

Payroll Warrant	# 38	\$ 342,317.53
Vendor Warrant	# 39	\$ 497,272.11
School Warrant	# 40	\$ 146,715.05
Withholding Warrant	# 41	\$ 130,429.76
Vendor Warrant	# 42	\$ 1,700,113.59
Payroll Warrant	# 43	\$ 355,863.63
Vendor Warrant	# 44	\$ 83,631.00
Withholding Warrant	# 45	\$ 132,996.50
Ambulance Commitment	#10B	\$ 16,861.75
Payable to: Area 58		\$ 41,176.97
Payable to: Attorney Lawrence Mayo		\$ 675.00
Payable to: Deutsch Williams Brooks		\$ 40.00
Payable to: W.B. Mason		\$ 49.60

**APPROVED WARRANT**

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

Vendor Warrant # 46 \$ 315,022.23

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

National Grid (service for concession stand).....	\$ 27.94
National Grid (service for Town Hall).....	\$ 1,144.04
Aquatic Control Technology (project completion report) .....	\$ 1,000.00
Eagle Flag of America (2 3’x5’ flags) .....	\$ 83.75

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2016-13	\$ 250.00
2016-14	\$ 41,176.97
2016-15	\$ 1,470.00
2016-16	\$ 1,200.00
2016-17	\$ 1,250.00
2016-18	\$ 225.00
2016-19	\$ 250.00
2016-20	\$ 700.00
2016-21	\$ 125.00
2016-22	\$ 700.00
2016-23	\$ 595.00
2016-24	\$ 125.00

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

Mattress Grant

The Town, through the efforts of the Recycling Coordinator, Susan Johnston, has received a grant of \$9,600 for a mattress recycling program. Susan is working on completing the paperwork and should be ready for signature on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Agreement - Lakeville Kennel for Strays

Seelig has talked with Chief Broderick and Cathy Drinan and they have no objection in continuing with the agreement the town has with Lakeville house the Town’s stray or surrendered dogs.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Seelig to contact the Town of Lakeville to renew the agreement.

ABCC Going More Electronic

ABCC is thinking about processing renewals online and is asking municipalities to fill out a survey with their thoughts and concerns. Listed below are questions that ABCC is asking and following the questions are the answers that the office is going to provide to them.

1. Would it be helpful if licenses could renew their licenses electronically, which then have to be approved by the Licensing Board? Yes

2. Would it aid your municipality's renewal process if ABCC sent the renewal directly to your licensees?

We would prefer that the forms be sent by the Town as there is always information to provide and request and it is easier for the Town to deal with renewal issues.

3. Would it be helpful if licensees could attach the documents that each Local Board requires through the Elicensing system?

We'd rather see everything to confirm that they have sent them and the documents are in good order.

Garron was concerned about information getting stolen.

4. Would it be helpful if the Licensing Board could notify the ABCC or make corrections to the license information electronically instead of using the red ink paper method? Yes

5. What are the major issues your Board encounters during the annual renewal season?

Getting license holders to renew on time and submit the necessary papers.

6. In addition to the ABCC renewal form, how many documents does your Board collect from the licensee to approve their renewal?

3. Workers' Compensation Affidavit, copy of Certificate of Insurance for workers' compensation & attestation form.

Garron asked if this was just for renewals or violations also and Seelig said just for renewals.

## **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

### ***Chief Viveiros – Staffing***

The Chief brought in with him a proposal for new staffing plan that was put together is supported by the Fire Department Study Committee. He began by saying that from before 1986 people wanted a career as a firefighter and stayed at the same department until they retired but now and individual is only staying for a couple of years and then seeking other employment within the surrounding towns as they are paying more for their firefighters.

A handout was given to the Board and Chief Viveiros went through each page. A copy is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes.

### *Page 2*

Current Staffing

### *Page 3*

Operational Deficiencies

The chief mentioned that it is tough when you are at home doing work when as call comes in as you are dirty and residents do not want personnel arriving in work clothes and dirty to help them.

### *Page 4*

Excerpts from past Town Reports.

### *Page 5*

Call Volume

*Page 6*

Per Capita Fire Protection Cost

*Page 7*

Population/FF'S Per Group

*Page 8*

Incident Analysis

Most incidents occur between 7am and 7pm with a decrease throughout the night.

*Page 9*

Additional Staffing

*Page 10*

The chief thinks call department will be better trained and will create an incentive. Also full-time members will be there during peak time of the day and will help assign projects as they will be working four days on in a row.

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The estimated balance of \$163,584 for 2017 and \$149,577 for 2018 could go to the General Fund or reduce the levy.

Roy said that they went with the most expensive employee we could have and have come in with a plus of \$163,584.

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Benefits

Garron asked if this would help with the turnovers in the department and the Chief said for the full-timers he hopes it is going to be a positive but there will always be turnovers with the call firefighters. Garron added for this program to work, you need your staff to be consistent.

Millias said the key thing is that the Chief is building incentives and has been able to keep employees. The chief said that at this time the morale for the full-timers is high and he has not seen a turnover in the last year and a half. Roy said that this proposal helps put the full-timers and call on the same level and the call move on to full-time. She added that this was great that he waited a good year and looked at all the avenues and did some research and they used the eighteen towns, not the usual ten towns so no stone got unturned.

Garron thinks trust is a good thing and thanked him for all the grants he sought out. The chief said that the people have seen improvements. He said this is an unconventional staffing plan and the bargaining unit worked with him on this.

Roy asked if anyone had any questions and Millias said he would like to look at the plan. She then said in order to implement the plan the ambulance fees would have to be change, which will need to be done at a Special Town Meeting. Hence, in order to use the increased ambulance fees as revenue for the Annual Town Meeting a STM will have to take place before May.

***Jakob Burgess Eagle Scout Project Proposal***

Jakob began by saying that he is a freshman at Silver Lake High School and is working towards his Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project he would like to refurbishing the eight benches, stage and railing of the Halifax Outdoor Amphitheater that is over at the library. His plan is to replace the boards with plastic decking boards. He printed out printed out ideas for the Board to see. Roy asked if the boards would be like trek and he said yes. Garron then ask how was

he going to pay for this and he said at this time he has not made up a budget but have thought of the materials. Garron suggested that he go to a lumber company as they may donate some material.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Jakob Burgess' Eagle Scout project that was presented to the Board.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Kim R. Roy to sign the Jakob Burgess' Eagle Scout service project proposal.

***Michael Connors – Eagle Scout Project Proposal***

Michael would like to redo the *Halifax Athletic Fields* sign that is located on Plymouth Street between the fire department and the school. His plan is to make it bigger. He would also like to do some landscaping with some plantings around the sign and use cement blocks instead of the existing wood that is there now.

Roy asked that he plant low maintenance plants because over time they get over run. She also asked how much larger would the sign be and he said big enough to catch your eye. Roy mentioned that he would need to work/run it by John Shea from the Historical District Commission on the design of it. Michael said he will not change the color as it will be the same thing but bigger. Roy thought this was a great idea.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously approved Michael Connors' Eagle Scout project that was presented to the Board.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Kim R. Roy to sign Michael Connors' Eagle Scout service project proposal.

The Board thanked both boys for taking on these projects.

***Stop Sign - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lingan Street***

Seelig said that he has received three e-mails from three residents who are in favor of having a sign put up at the above location and two of the residents also would like a sign at Eleventh Ave.

Chief Broderick said that the Traffic Study Committee met regarding the stop sign request and he checked the regulations and with the Highway Surveyor, Bob Badore and this area does not meet the criteria of where a stop sign could be placed. He is not saying that the area does need to be monitored and the committee suggested maybe a *Slow* or *Children* sign. He can check with highway to see if there are signs down there to use.

Garron said that if a stop sign was put up you would have to edge out a bit before proceeding. Roy said unfortunately it is not easy to throw up a sign. Garron was uneasy about this as he feels there is a need for a sign but understands what the Chief is saying. He also said that most of the traffic comes through Eleventh Avenue.

Seelig explained that if a stop sign was put there and someone was to get pulled over for not obeying it then it was brought to court their attorney could question the sign being there as it does not meet the State Criteria.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to deny the request for the stop sign at Twelfth Avenue with a letter of explanation for the reason of denying the stop sign.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to put some type of signage such as drive slowly children or combination that would be placed on Lingan Street.

Chief Broderick will go down to the area with the Highway Surveyor to see where the best placement would be for the sign. He also said that if the residents recognize some of these cars either have a polite chat with them or let him know and he will be happy to follow up.

#### Plymouth County Retirement/Union Personnel Contracts

The County sent out its annual request for updates. The Town is up to date with the contracts as they expire on June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017.

The Council on Aging Grant (\$50,000) forms for the Building Planning are ready to be signed. The State put Barbara Brenton's name on so the Board needs to authorize her to sign.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Barbara Brenton to sign off on the Grant.

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

##### Affirm Road Opening – 6 Ninth Avenue

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously affirmed approval of Permit #2016-24 issued to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for a 4' x 6' road cut tie in and a 4' x 10' road cut trench to install new service at 6 Ninth Avenue.

##### Water Tank Repainting Project Update

Update from the Towns' engineer as of November 16<sup>th</sup> states that the intermediate coat has been placed on the inside of the tank roof, they are continuing the prep work on the outside along with a primer coat. The work is now expected to be completed by the second week of December.

Millias said that he has talked with Keith Swanson and they revised the specs on the paint because of the cooler temperatures approaching. They paint they are using has been used and they are confident that the paint would work.

#### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

##### ***Finance Committee – FY2017 Budget Discussion***

Roy began by saying that typically, once a year we have a budget discussion to talk a little bit about the finances of the town. She asked Seelig to give them an overview of where things stood at this time.

Seelig began by saying that health insurance will be going up ten or twelve percent along with our pension rate but our biggest variable is the school especially the line items for Special Education and Vocational Education. Even though we know who is there now we won't know who will be there several months from now. We did over budget for this year so we will end up with a \$60,000 surplus in the vocational line item. Seelig has plugged in numbers for

wage increases for both school and non-school employees we are looking at a deficit but thinks we can make ends meet. Thinks we can maintain our level of services and pay people a fair wage but unless money comes in from other sources he does not think there will be funds to take on any new projects.

The other thing is we do not know what Silver Lake is asking for and what the other towns might be approving for the assessments. We do have an idea of what our step increase may be like and what wages may be with the bargaining units.

Roy asked Seelig when he did his projections did he have Sped go up 6.5% and if he built in step increases and he said yes on both as well as a cost of living increase of 2.5 % increase for the town and school. Roy also asked if he included steps for the teachers and Seelig said yes but it was just an estimate.

Gordon said that we had a .2% increase in population this year but we also have \$100,000 that we did not budget at the previous town meeting so right away we have to factor in the \$100,000 (Charlie has done). Also he would budget a 2.5% increase for Silver Lake which, would be great but he does not see them doing 2.5% and thinks it is going to be a much higher number.

Seelig stated that this is why it is important to be working with Kingston and Plympton on this and let Silver Lake know what the three towns can afford in order for Silver Lake to run their programs then Silver Lake will need to adjust their budget. He pointed out that when you sign a 3 year agreement with wages built in you have made that decision thinking you are going to be able to pull that off with whatever the towns are going to be able to give you and if the towns are not going to be able to do that then Silver Lake will have to decide what their priorities are and adjust within that window.

Roy said that we have to be realistic because they too have had increases that they can't control. She continued to say that in past years we talked about level service but it seems as if we are trying to micro managing their budget so maybe it would be better to come up with a percentage saying this is your number and making it work. So maybe we do the 2.5%, she said that she knows we have always tried to do level service and treat all the departments the same but that is not working.

Gordon thinks their level service is going to more than 2.5% for all the towns. Roy asked if FinCom has talked about sticking with the 2.5% at any of their meetings and Gordon said they haven't but have been looking at things that are coming up and seeing if there is anything that can be regionalized among the towns. He continued to say that Silver Lake is going to try and have a budget in December and they will know the Governor's budget the last Wednesday in January and then will try and set up a meeting with the three towns for the first Monday of February. He thinks with the increases the overall tax bill increase by 4.4% (\$234). He also stated that the federal government announced that social security increase is zero so that needs to be taken into account and we have to take into consideration that the people at Town Meeting who are not getting wage increases.

Roy wanted to confirm that the Town is starting at a deficit and Seelig said yes. Seelig said that everything needs to be on the table at the very beginning and that we do not hold off on making decisions on one particular area. Roy explained that last year we did not expect the increase in Special Education and we were looking pretty good. Gordon did add that due to the numerous storms FinCom was not able to meet as often as they intended to.

Roy said that they need to talk about level service; maintaining the services we have and maybe come up with a number that Silver Lake can work with. She then asked when they should make that decision to give Silver Lake that kind of direction and Garron said January. Seelig said you need the Governor's budget, the cherry sheet and local aid numbers but also within a few days of that the Department of Education delivers the minimal contribution levels for the three communities and with the Silver Lake budget you derive what the assessment is going to be. Roy said that this meeting tonight is to talk about what the vision of the Board of Selectmen is and what we want to see go forward. Her hope by the end of this meeting is that the BOS gets a message out to the department heads giving them a direction of how they should be doing their budgets. Therefore we need to talk about if we want to do it differently with Silver Lake then what we have in the past. She asked Garron and Millias for their opinions.

Millias liked the idea of coming up with a percentage that Silver Lake can work with as it might be a better way to go instead of as Roy said to *micro manage*. Garron said that it depends on what departments you are talking to and what their idea of level service is or what it takes to level service. He asked what the 4% increase in the school budget was based on and Gordon said that it is based on the presentation that Mr. Tuffy did two years ago, the history of the step increases, retirement and health insurance.

Roy asked Garron and Millias if they have given any thought to priorities for the year and Millias said they have the school projects and Roy said as far as capital items the senior center initiative has been started which needs to be focused on this year. Garron thoughts were to service all the elements of the town and not just focus on any particular one. He said that he has been approached by individuals saying that 55% of the budget goes towards the schools and his response is that town meeting people voted that so if they wanted to change that they need to get involved. He understands that education is important but so isn't police and fire personnel and maintaining the streets. Millias added that it still has to be affordable for the people, which will be a challenge and take some effort.

Roy said that we want to provide the same service, education and staffing at the Town Hall that we have in the past. We are starting at a deficit and have been there before but we need to try and maintain. Again when we talk about capital items and we need a new roof (huge item) maybe windows and gutters at the school and a new Council on Aging (huge item). In addition we have the typical cruisers and breathing apparatus and one of the highway vehicles needs to be replaced.

#### Excess & Deficiency Account

Seelig explained that Silver Lake will be receiving a "distribution" of \$1.4 million because of the split with Pembroke. The towns will not see checks from Silver Lake but the distribution will be used to reduce the assessments of the three towns during FY2016 and will result in \$382,457 remaining in the Silver Lake Assessment line item. Seelig is recommending that it not be used for operating for two reasons (a) the money is there for one time and (b) the E&D is the schools free cash and Silver Lake is allowed to keep a certain amount over their operating budget in their account. Roy thinks Halifax should develop a stabilization account to put that money in for silver lake as there is going to be long term improvements that need to be done to the building. This will like a savings account for whenever they need something.



Gordon said Silver Lake has a capital plan that they are going to want to fund this year and they are looking to take a portion of that money do it.

Paula Hatch, member of the Silver Lake School Committee, said that they do have a capital plan that needs to be addressed and would like to chip away at it and make some progress. She thinks that they all are under the understanding that it is going to be a tough year so she hesitates to say that they would look into to this account and they need to see what the numbers look like and go from there.

Roy said that her idea with the money coming back was for it to go into account for capital items at Silver Lake as it is a reality that items need to be replaced. This would be a separate stabilization account and the people would have to vote on the capital items for Silver Lake.

Gordon said personally he would put it in the stabilization account that Halifax has now because it would need a 2/3 vote but Roy was afraid somebody else would want to use it for something else and Gordon pointed out that they would have that opportunity to do that at a Special town Meeting. He continued to say that Silver Lake has phones that need to be replaced and the building does need to be maintained. If the money was to be put in a special account he does not think it would last two years with their capital plan for the items that need to be replaced.

Seelig said the message that should be sent is to maintain the level of service we have. He said there is always going to be the tension that the residents of the town have not seen any wage increases from their own jobs and Seelig understands that but the problem is that we will continue to see people leave our departments for better opportunities elsewhere because we are not able to meet the pay rates the other towns are offering. But in order to reduce the turnover as it may cost the Town money to entice people to stay here.

#### Special Town Meeting

Roy began by saying said that Fire Study Committee has been meeting for last seven months looking at different aspects of the department and one area that come into light was that compared to other towns, Halifax has been under-charging ambulance fees. So as presented earlier this evening by the Fire Chief we are the proposing is to increase our ambulance fees but in order to do this it needs to be done at a Special Town Meeting. Seelig explained that we eliminate the By-law that was set by Town Meeting and bring it back to the BOS as it would make it more flexible for the Board to make decisions on the fee schedule and not having to go back to Town Meeting. Roy said that a STM needs to schedule as we would like to move forward to increase the fees so that we don't continue to lose potential revenue and so that we can have an estimate on the actual revenues coming in to support the staffing initiatives that we have. Seelig said the soonest we could have it would be January 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Monday in January).

The Building Committee is looking at the possible expansion and renovation of the Council on Aging and bringing it into compliance. The Building Committee will be working with someone to come up with conceptual plans for \$4,500. Once that is done, the Town will use the conceptual plans to work through the designer selection process and contract with a firm for the architectural Plans stage for some amount, probably less than the remaining \$45,500 available from the State, then go to Town Meeting for sufficient funds to complete the construction documents and bids stage (total cost of these two stages may run \$100,000 meaning that the Town would have to come up with something like

\$50,000). If Town Meeting approved that appropriation, that work would be completed and we would return to another Town Meeting with bids in hand to try to obtain funds for the construction work.

Roy asked if this is what the Building Committee had in mind at last night's meeting and Millias said it got kind of muddled in the end because they were trying to work around all the deadline dates and other money that may or may not be possible. He thinks they left it to see what he can come up with by the third week in December because he was not sure if he could get a decent set of conceptual plans by that time. Roy said that they could set up an Article and pass over it and this will also give us the temperature of the people at Town Meeting for the project.

Garron asked what cost is to have the Special Town Meeting and Seelig said the new ambulance rates will offset the cost of Special Town Meeting.

Seelig explained if the Town Meeting was to be on January 4<sup>th</sup> we would need to post two weeks before then and will have to check with the Town Clerk and the school about the logistics.

Chief Viveiros suggested that they do two Articles one authorizing the BOS to change the rates but a contingency Article that would change the rates in case the first one did not pass. Roy asked if there were any other Articles and Seelig said he sent out an email couple of weeks ago and have not heard anything back.

Gordon asked about the tax on meal tax? Seelig explained that 75% would be added to your bill if you are in a town that has accepted this. A number of communities across the State have approved the local option. Garron asked where the money goes and Seelig said it comes back to the general fund to the town and for us that would be \$75,000 - \$80,000 per year. Roy asked if the Finance Committee made a recommendation and Gordon said they voted to recommend. He said that most of the towns surrounding us have the meal tax in place. Nikki thought that they talked about having a forum to ask the restaurant owners what they think about this before putting it on. Garron does not think it should be on the special. Seelig said if it was approved at this Special Town Meeting it would go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> and if we wait and put it on May ATM it would go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Articles for the Special Town meeting in January will be Ambulance fees 1, Ambulance fees 2 and the Council on Aging project.

Seelig said that in the budget packets for the departments he is going to state that our priorities are to level service and retain employees in terms of providing them a compensation package.

Paula Hatch asked when Silver Lake would get the number they have to work with from Halifax and Seelig said that we will need to wait until we get the Governor's budget in January because there are too many variables.

Gordon stated that Kingston has already had their ATM in October 2015 and said they are going to level service for FY2017. Gordon just wanted to say that this is the direction they are heading and added the biggest question is what is going on with the school (thinks going to be large sum of money) and the Council on Aging Building.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Chapter 40B/Blackledge Farm

The office has received notification from the ZBA of the settling of the financial accounts for this application as the Town received more money from the applicant than was spent.

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule for 2016

The Selectman Assistant has developed the list of dates: the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. There will be three week gaps between meetings in March and April, May and June, August and September and November and December.

Burrage Pond Access/Elm Street

Christopher and Thais Kasmarek, owners of the property where the first access was (since closed once the State realized it was on Town land) sent a long e-mail listing their grievances with the old access and problems with the Burrage Pond Wildlife Refuge. No action needed tonight as one or both individuals will be at the meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss these matters. Seelig has sent Jason Zimmer of Fisheries and Wildlife copies of the correspondence from the Kasmareks so that he is aware of the situation.

Alcohol Licenses/Limit by Entity

Several months ago, the Selectmen's Office had received an inquiry from Cumberland Farms about any available package store licenses as the State would be increasing the number that could be held by any one entity from five to seven. The ABCC has sent out a reminder about this change. Seelig stated that this does not mean the Cumberland Farms will be applying for a license, just that the Board should not be surprised if an application is received in January.

Mosquito Control/FY17 Budget

There will be a meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the District Office to discuss the FY2017 budget. The Town's assessment is up minimally. Seelig does not plan on attending.

MEMA Winter Review

There will be a teleconference on November 30<sup>th</sup> to talk about planning for the winter and FEMA reimbursements for last winter. Seelig has notified public safety, public works, and the Board of Health. He does not plan on attending but wanted the Board to know about this.

Columbia Gas - Fuel Assistance

Columbia Gas has provided the office with information regarding fuel assistance. Residents who would like more information should call the Selectmen's Office.

Monponsett Pond/East Monponsett End-of-the-Year

Aquatic Control Technologies has sent the Board its end-of-the-year report for East Monponsett Pond and its work in the invasive weed program. That work was a success and a treatment will not be needed next year. ACT recommends having a survey done of East Monponsett Pond to get a "census" of the extent of the weed growth, a year after the treatment. There is enough money in the MTBE

stabilization fund to accomplish this. The report for West Monponsett Pond should be available by the end of the month. The East Monponsett Pond report is available on the Town's web site or if anyone wants a paper copy one can be provided.

Seelig stated that DEP has been having meetings with Town of Halifax and the City of Brockton about Monponsett Pond. He thinks they have made progress with the City of Brockton in terms of the city making changes in their policies about how the dam will be controlled and when diversion takes place. He is happy that meetings have taken place but he is concerned there is no goal to have the ponds opened for recreational use 365 days a year and thinks that Brockton needs to say they are willing to do anything to make that happen. He continued to say that he wants to emphasize to DEP that he is happy they are doing this work but Brockton needs to say that they will do everything that is necessary and spend whatever money is needed to get to reach that goal. Halifax has been putting money into the ponds over the last several years and progress has been made on our end but it is time the city hold up to their responsibilities that fall under the legislature of 1964. Seelig thinks DEP is nervous about how they can enforce this but that is not Halifax's job our job is to push the City of Brockton to do what is right.

Roy thinks we are making progress and that Brockton has agreed to things they already are doing. She continued to say that Paul Collis, representative from the Watershed Association, had a conversation with Tom Calter at one of the meetings and he suggested that Collis get in touch with the Deputy Commissioner of DEP. Collis has drafted a consent order between the DEP and the City of Brockton and forwarded to Seelig to look at. Roy thinks it will be helpful that the BOS send a letter supporting the initiatives to DEP. Garron said he has read it and agrees with but said that the thing that was missing was an amount of money Brockton should pay for treatment of the ponds and Roy said the reason there is no figure is because the amount could fluctuate for the treatments and we don't want to hold Brockton to a certain amount as it their responsibility maintain the water quality.

Seelig said that we want a certain amount of water going down stream on a daily basis but the problem is if you keep the gates down at some point you will run out of water. He feels there needs to be a better regulation between the sleuth gate and the fish ladder so that there is always a certain amount of minimal flow going down stream on non-diversion days.

Roy wanted to remind the Board that when Brockton diverts they divert twenty-eight million gallons of water a day. Seelig pointed out other things need to be done such as improving the water system in Brockton and also they should be doing more conservation with residents and businesses. Millias also pointed out that Brockton does not have any watering restrictions.

Seelig said that Brockton voted a ten percent increase in their rate structure for this coming January but they have not approved any increases in the actual budget in connection with that. He is hoping that the money from the rate increase will go to Monponsett but there is nothing saying that it will.

Seelig said Mr. Collis' letter is great and suggested they support it but would like add his comments listed at the bottom of his letter. Garron likes what is in the letter but if Seelig wants to add to it he is okay with him doing so. Roy and Millias agreed.

Copy of Mr. Collis' letter is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes.

Talent Bank Form

Anna Grace Raduc sent in a talent bank form for a number of committees. The Finance Committee will interview her later this year. All other committees have been notified.

Beautification Committee Resignation

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to accept the resignation of Ms. Raduc and send a thank you letter to her for serving on the committee.

Fieldstone Farms/Show Schedule for 2016

Scott Clawson has sent the Town the dates for his 2016 the shows. The ZBA noted that the schedule includes five multi-day shows while the stipulations for the property limit it to four. The ZBA has asked that the Board of Selectmen notify Mr. Clawson of this discrepancy and have him bring the schedule into compliance with the stipulations. It was said to check his website to see if the dates correspond.

Garron suggested that a copy of his show approvals be sent with the letter. The Board voted as follows to send a letter to Mr. Clawson:

Roy:	Aye
Garron:	Aye
Millias:	Aye

Wetlands/Halifax Country Club

There was a site visit to the location by DEP, the Town, representatives of the HCC and the abutters. It is likely that some land will be permanently disturbed with replication happening elsewhere on the property. The engineer for the HCC will submit revised plans to the DEP.

Record Disposal

The Selectmen's Office has proposed requesting that the Secretary of State's office approve the disposal of various records that have past the dates when they must be retained.

Moved by Millias and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to request the Secretary of State's office approves the disposal of various records that have past the dates when they must be retained.

Nessralla - Solar Project - 69 Summit Street

Last year, Kozhaya Nessralla sent the Town the required request to determine if the Town was interested in purchasing his back land at 69 Summit Street as he planned to take it out of Chapter 61A to lease the land for a solar field. The Town never said it was interested, but the project did not go forward and he never took the land out of Chapter 61A. The Selectmen's Office received a set of site plans for the project which is before the Planning Board for earlier this month. Seelig has asked Town Counsel as to whether Mr. Nessralla was required to re-submit the request to the Town to determine if the Town/Town Departments were interested in the property (an appraisal would need to be done to determine the value based on the value of the lease). To ensure that Mr. Nessralla covers everything, Seelig is recommending that the Town contact him and inform him

that he needs to go through the procedure again in connection with taking the land out of Chapter 61A. Garron thinks a letter should be sent to him.

#### New Animal Inspector

The Board was informed from the Board of Health on Halifax's new Animal Inspector, Tracy Noland.

#### Surplus - Library

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to declare surplus the following items from the Library:

- 2009 Dell PC - Optiplex 360
- 2007 Dell PC - Optiplex GX620

#### Binders for Town Meeting Articles

John Bruno has recommended that binders be created with number tabs for each article so that everyone can find the articles faster seeing as we use the lottery system. Both Seelig and Millias thought it was a great idea.

#### Brockton Diversion from Monponsett

DEP has notified Seelig that Brockton has started diverting. The algae count has been below 70,000 the last two weeks and this is the time of the year that Brockton can divert. No action needed but Seelig wanted the Board to know.

#### Public Records Law

Seelig update the Board with the following:

A revised bill was brought out of House Ways and Means last week and voted on by the House. The MMA is in favor of the bill as it is better than the earlier version. It would provide more time for municipalities to respond to requests, allow for appeals to the Supervisor of Public Records, lower the copying charges to 5 cents per page, make free the first two hours of staff time, allow for appeals in courts, require a public records access officer, try to improve electronic access to records, and the Secretary of State would create new regulations to go into place on July 31, 2016. Changes would not go into effect until October 1, 2016. Entities that are exempt now would remain exempt (the Legislature).

#### Halifax Garden Property

A representative of Charles Downer (owner of the Halifax Garden property) had contacted Seelig asking if the Town had had any discussions about the property recently and Seelig told him we have not but from time to time have met with Mr. Downer and we remain interested in any possible proposals.

#### Blacksmith Shop

The Historical Commission is working with "The Blacksmith Co-op, Inc." aka Mark Alan Young for him to use the Blacksmith Shop for demonstrations, etc. There is not action needed from the board, Seelig just wanted them to know about it.

#### Surplus/Inoperable Printer - Veterans' Office

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to declare surplus a Lexmark Prospect Pro205 printer from the Veterans' Office.

Ambulance Abatement

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

October 2015                      FOR              \$ 12,663.53

School Roof Project

There will be a multi-committee meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> to go over the status of the school roof project and future steps.

Tri-Town Finance Committee

Next meeting will be February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in the Great Hall.

Dog Citations

A resident come in to complain that the Town charges too much when reaching the stage of issuing citations for dog owners who have failed to license their dogs and does not provide sufficient notice about deadlines and amounts. Seelig is going to check with the Town Clerk regarding the process.

Joint Meeting on Regional/Shared Services

Seelig met with his colleagues from Carver, Plympton and Kingston regarding working with a few of the regional planning agencies for them to conduct some research on regional services.

Recycling Abatements

*Recycling Bill #2051*

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to abate Recycling Bill #2051.

*Recycling Bill #323*

A resident is asking for an abatement as they have not lived the home since January 2015 due to water damage.

\*the office received a print out of the resident's water bill and it reflects that there has been minimal usage from 10/2/14 to 4/6/15 and no usage from 4/7/15 to 11/23/15.

Garron recommended abating fifty percent of the bill and Millias agreed.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted to abate Recycling Bill #323 in the amount of \$25.00.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board unanimously voted as follows to enter into executive Session at 9:50 P.M. to discuss security of Town with Police Chief and a criminal matter:

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

Seelig announced that the Board will not be coming back into public session.

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Moved by Garron and seconded by Millias, the Board unanimously voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:10 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 10:10 P.M.

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Thomas Millias  
Clerk

/pjm