

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen Troy E. Garron, Kim R. Roy and Michael J. Schleiff 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, January 14th, was unanimously approved without revision.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – October 22, 2013

AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #48 & 52:

Payroll Warrant	# 48	\$ 334,720.51
Vendor Warrant	# 49	\$ 179,860.18
Withholding Warrant	# 50	\$ 125,400.20
Vendor Warrant	# 51	\$ 108,314.36
Payroll Warrant	# 52	\$ 345,192.22
Vendor Warrant	# 53	\$ 28,736.99
Withholding Warrant	# 54	\$ 131,838.08
Vendor Warrant	# 55	\$ 269,016.86
Ambulance Commitment	# 12A	\$ 18,671.22
Ambulance Commitment	# 12B	\$ 34,849.56

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following Selectmen bills:

National Grid (service for concession stand).....	\$ 16.54
National Grid (service for Town Hall).....	\$ 1,018.51
W.B. Mason (toner)	\$ 30.39
W.B. Mason (DVD's qty. 50)	\$ 18.99
Deutsch Williams Brooks, DeRensis & Holland (legal services/November)	\$ 152.00
SMG Compass Medical (W. Bolton/balanced owed on ins. claim/DOI 8-3-13)	\$ 130.00
Servpro (police station/DOI 11-19-13)	\$ 3,433.32

APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in Warrant #56:

Payroll Warrant	# 56	\$ 329,615.69
Vendor Warrant	# 57	\$ 107,834.82
Withholding Warrant	# 58	\$ 125,703.11
Mobile Home Park Fee	# 1	\$ 5,160.00

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

MIIA Property & Casualty Group (policy 7-1-12 thru 7-1-13/ audit adjustment).....	\$ 1,272.00
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo (legal services/December)	\$ 125.00
Malloy, Lynch, Marini, LLP (audit yr. ending 6/30/13)	\$ 3,500.00
Michael Gilman, Esq. (legal services/December)	\$ 370.00

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Erin Lutton – Appointment to Historical Commission

The Board asked Ms. Lutton to tell them a little bit about herself and she began by saying that she graduated last year with a Masters in Design Studies and Historic Preservation. She grew up in Kingston and now lives in Halifax and would like to get involved in the community and looking for experience in her field. Schleiff stated that it is nice to have someone come in and volunteer and thanked her. Roy asked how long she lived in Halifax and if she ever attended a Town Meeting. Ms. Lutton said that has been in Halifax for three years and has not attended a Town Meeting. Roy encouraged her to attend one because you can learn a lot about the town.

Moved Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Erin Lutton to the Historical Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2015.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the periods ending:

December 14, 2013	FOR	\$ 6,034.11
December 28, 2013	FOR	\$ 6,034.11
January 11, 2014	FOR	\$ 6,034.11

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-51	\$ 13,5000.00
2014-52	\$ 250.00
2014-53	\$ 7.00
2014-54	\$ 1,403.70

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Flashing Signs at the School

On January 6th a driver took out the wiring to one of the *20 mph flashing signs* near the school. An incident report has been submitted from the Police Department and Seelig has contacted the insurers for the two vehicles that were involved.

Resignation – Holly Merry – Board of Assessors

Holly Merry has submitted her resignation from the Board of Assessors. The two existing members feel that they can handle it until May’s election where there will be a vacancy on the ballot. Schleiff asked if Tom Millias was on the Board and Seelig said yes and then asked if he was retiring soon. Seelig said that Millias has not talked about leaving the Board of Assessors but he can ask him what his intentions are.

Mudfest 2014

Chief Carrico has sent an email saying that Bob Bergstrom asked him to send a note to the BOS about his second Mudfest event. The chief said that he will need an EMT detail for the event. At this time no request has been made for the event.

Internet at the COA

A computer volunteer at the COA wrote to the BOS asking that the Town find funding to improve the internet access at the COA. Seelig is aware of the problems that they are having and it can be fixed and said that the COA will need a separate router and a permanent. This is a constant problem the COA is having as Seelig gets a call almost every Monday where over the weekend the signal falls out. To do this it will cost between \$175 and \$200 a month and the funds are available but later this year he may have to go to the Finance Committee for reserve funds transfer if he runs out of money. Garron asked what the volunteers’ preference was because that would give them a better idea of what to go with. Seelig said that she did not provide anything in her letter it just said they need better service. Seelig is going to move ahead and get this resolved and added that Highway is also having a similar problem but it is not as severe as the COA.

Schleiff asked if the Water Department is having a problem and Seelig said that he has never received a complaint from them.

Quote for 2013 Town Report and 2014 Warrant

Harry B. Harding & Son has submitted the following quote for the above mentioned material:

- Town Report - \$13.85 per page for 125 copies
- Warrant - \$42.30 per page for 3,600 copies
- Warrant - \$44.65 per page for 3,800 copies.

There is no increase from last year's price. The only change was that we asked for two quotes on the warrant. Due to last minute changes on last years warrant Seelig is requesting that no changes be made to the warrant after April 1st to ensure that the Town does not pay for extra edits after submitting the material to the printer on April 9th.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to award the printing contract to Harry B. Harding & Son for the printing of the Town of Halifax 2013 Annual Report, the 2014 May Annual Town Meeting Warrant and 2014 May Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Fieldstone Farms Horse Shows

Scott Clawson has submitted the dates for his 2014 shows. Seelig has notified the land use departments, public safety and BOH of these dates.

Dog Bite Incident

Michael DiBona was bit by his dog on December 31st. The office is waiting for a report from the ACO as she and the animal inspector are investigating the incident. Garron stated that he bothered by a dog biting its owner.

Increase in Salary for Sealer of Weights & Measures

Mr. Wolfer is requesting an increase in his salary from \$2,335 in FY2014 to \$2,405 in F2015. This is a 3% increase and will be considered by the Wage & Personnel Board and then at Town Meeting. No action is needed from the BOS.

Jeffrey Cuzzo – 111F

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to place Captain Jeffrey Cuzzo on 111F status due to an injury sustained during a medical call on December 17, 2013.

Communication Center – Part Time Dispatchers

Communication Center Director, Matt Tucker, wrote to say that one or more part time dispatchers will need to be hired but there is not enough in the training budget to do so therefore a line item or reserve funds transfer will be needed later this year. Schleiff asked that if he was talking about changes with Wage & Personnel shouldn't he come before the BOS first as he wants to be privy on what is going on. Seelig said that he can ask him to come in. Schleiff added it would be nice to have a one on one conversation with him after six months (March

2014). Roy mentioned that she tries to go and see him once a week and Garron stated that Mr. Tucker had previously informed the Board regarding an incident with an employee. Roy asked if Schleiff was comfortable with Mr. Tucker posting the part time position and he said he was fine with it.

Fire/Dogs at 27 Clyde O Bosworth Road

The Town Clerk has no record of any dogs being licensed or kennel licenses or permits being issued at the address above. The ACO has submitted a report about the incident and a \$50 fine has been issued to the business owner of K-9 Coaching Incorporated (out of Cohasset), for running a boarding facility without a permit here in Halifax. Schleiff thought that a \$50 fine was a small price to pay for what had happened (seven dogs died as a result of the fire). Seelig said that this fine is in the by-law and stated that he will ask the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer to investigate the illegal kennel at this property.

Suzan Duggan/Principal Assessor – Retiring

The Board of Assessors has been notified that Suzan Duggan will be retiring on March 1, 2014. The BOA has started the application process and the deadline is January 20th. Schleiff asked to make sure they advertise the correct scale and Seelig said he will remind them.

OCPC/ District Local Technologies

Old Colony Planning Council is providing funding for the District Local Technical Assistance Program. This program enables OCPC to provide free technical assistance to member communities on eligible projects such as planning for housing developments, commercial development and the creation of regional services. Seelig is checking out to see how EDSAT might help the town support businesses in Halifax. Schleiff asked if this is an assistance program to draw businesses to the town. Garron explained that this grant helps the Town promote business within the town and added that we need to help assist the businesses in the town as they always are supporting our sport organizations.

Halifax Investments – Change in Officers

The ABCC has declined Halifax Investments request for approval of change in officers as it is not in good standing with the Department of Unemployment Assistance. Seelig has notified Joseph Peck of this issue and once resolved can reapply for the change in officers. Seelig added that this does not affect his renewal that just took place in December.

Burrage Pond – Elm Street Access

John Fabroski of the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen has written to the Board asking that they do whatever is necessary to establish the access point to Burrage Pond. Seelig suggested that after the 17 acres from the State is transferred to the Town (will be recorded later this month) the Board may then want to entertain an offer from the State to sell the land back to the State, lease the land or provide an easement for a new access point.

Police – Call for Full-Time List

All three board members have been notified of Chief Broderick request to ask them to call for a full time list to fill the eleventh full-time position in the department. Initially he asked for two positions but because one of the officers is not transferring one is only needed. The chief would like to move the process along in order to get the candidate in the next academy that starts in March.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously authorized the call of a full-time Police Officer list from Civil Service to fill up to one (1) opening.

Monponsett Pond

The Metro South Chamber of Commerce is holding a round table discussion with the representatives of the communities in the area and the new mayor of Brockton on January 17th. Seelig thinks that it would be a good idea if someone from the Board attends as it would be a great opportunity to bring him up to speed on the issues regarding Monponsett Ponds and Brockton. Garron will be in the area and will try to attend and Seelig stated that he will go.

Robert Durgin – Interest in ZBA

Mr. Durgin has submitted a talent bank form expressing interest in serving on the ZBA. Seelig has forward this information to ZBA and hopes to get a recommendation that he be appointed. If ZBA does recommend him, Mr. Durgin can come in on January 28th for the BOS to interview him.

Robert Briggs – 111F

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to place Patrol Office Robert Briggs on 111F status from December 18, 2013 to such time he is cleared to return to work.

Chief Broderick, who was in the audience, stated that Mr. Briggs will be going for a MRI on Tuesday morning.

MEMA Grant

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed the Chair, Troy E. Garron signing the MEMA contract in the amount of \$1,250.

Tonello v. Pilotte

The Board was updated on the result of the land court filing between Joseph and Tina Tonello against Corine Pilotte and others. The Tonellos wanted to establish full ownership of Wood Street that abuts their property on Lake Street. The result of this land court case was that the Tonellos gained ownership of one half of Wood Street and the Court stated that the other parties could continue to use the other half of the street.

Audit – Federal Component

Halifax was the lead town in the regional Plymouth County Fire Chiefs Association grant for communication equipment. Receiving this grant put the Town over the level necessary for an audit specific to federal funds therefore we need to have that piece done for the FY2013 audit. The cost is \$4,000 but the Fire Chiefs said that they will cover it.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize payment of \$4,000 from Plymouth County Fire Chiefs Association to our auditors.

Fire Department SAFE Grant

Chief Carrico has been notified that the fire department was awarded \$4,086 for the SAFE Grant and \$2,818 for the Senior SAFE grant. Both applications were put together by Captain Matt Cunningham.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Captain Cunningham thanking him for pursuing the grants for the department.

Snow Day

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously declared Friday, January 3, 2014 as a storm day and due to the severe weather both the Town Hall and Pope's Tavern were declared officially closed.

Snow Day – Pope's Tavern

COA Director, Barbara Brenton, closed Pope's Tavern on January 2nd following the decision made by the elementary school. She would like to ask for approval from the Board for doing this and also change the Board's snow day policy from having the Town Administrator make decisions for the Town Hall and COA to having the COA automatically close if the school was closed due to a weather event. Seelig wanted to mention that services may be needed for the elderly and that last year the school was closed because other schools in the district were due to clean up not because of weather conditions in Halifax. Schleiff stated to leave the policy the way it is.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously declared Thursday, January 2, 2014 as a storm day and due to the severe weather Pope's Tavern was declared officially closed.

Bridge Inspections

Copies of the Thompson St./Bartlett Brook and Thompson St./Winnetuxet River bridge inspections have been given to Highway Surveyor, Bob Badore. Schleiff asked if MassDOT helped with this and Seelig said no they do not. Garron said the roads in general are need of repair and Rt. 58 and Rt. 106 have quite a lot of potholes. He has received complaints and wants the public to know that he is aware of the conditions of the road and will mention it to the Highway Surveyor. Seelig added that the Highway Surveyor has not made a decision as to whether he wants to fix them or have MassDOT. If the town did the work it would not be for

approximately four years. Garron wanted to thank the Highway Department for the job they did during and after the storm.

Surplus Item – Holmes Library

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously declared the following items surplus:

- 1 2010 Dell Optiplex 755 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 1 2010 Dell Optiplex 765 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 2 2009 Dell Optiplex 360 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 1 2008 Dell Optiplex 330 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 1 2007 Dell Optiplex 330 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 1 2006 Dell Dimension 3100 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 1 2001 Dell Optiplex GX150 w/ keyboard and mouse
- 9 Dell Flat-Panel Monitors
- 1 Wooden easel
- 1 Epson TM-U200 receipt printer

Schleiff asked if the items have been offered to other departments and would like them placed in the gift shed at the Recycling Center. Roy asked if they would be okay out in the cold and Schleiff suggested putting them on a table in the bay. Seelig stated that once people know they are there they will not be there for long.

John Kessinger – Beautification Committee

Mr. Kessinger has expressed interest in serving on the Beautification Committee. Seelig has forwarded this information to the committee and hopes to have the Board interview him on February 11th.

Ambulance Abatements

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

November 2013	FOR	\$ 13,727.67
December 2013	FOR	\$ 10,319.64

Recycling & Solid Waste Grant

Sue Johnson has received a grant from Mass Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$750. This grant will be used for brochures for the Recycling Center.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board voted to have the Chair, Troy E. Garron sign the grant award.

Nessralla Sign

Seelig checked the status of the Nessralla Sign located on the corner of Plymouth St. and Hemlock Lane and as of this time it has not been replaced and John Shea has not received any information from Mr. Nessralla. It has been about two and a half years since the Historic District Commission requested that the sign be changed. Schleiff said the last time we talked with him he said that he would take care of it and suggested sending him a reminder. Garron said the last time they

meet with him in May he said it would it be changed by the end of that week and as of this time the office nor anyone else has received anything from him. Garron asked the Board what they would like to do. Schleiff said the last time they spoke to him he said there was no problem changing it and suggested sending him a letter asking that the sign be changed as soon as possible. Roy said that we tried the nice approach and is afraid that if we send a letter it is going to be delayed again and at this time the ground is frozen and may difficult to do it. Schleiff said give him thirty days and if he does not respond within that time we ask him to come in and if he says the ground is frozen and can't get to a certain date and if not done by that date ask him to come in then. Roy proposed have him come in to have verbal conversation with him to let him know that we have been pretty patient with this issue.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Mr. Nessralla stating that he is to come before the Board of Selectmen on January 28th at 7:35 p.m. but if the sign is changed prior to that date then it will not be necessary for him to come.

Green Communities Presentation

The presentation will probably be an hour or so and is scheduled for the Board's meeting on January 28th. Schleiff asked if any of the departments responded to this and Seelig said that he has gotten nothing. Schleiff asked if he could send out another note and Seelig said he was planning on doing it and all the available material has been given to every department. Schleiff knows that this will affect the Building Department because it changes the codes which then will impact the building of houses in the town. Roy pointed out that there are pros and cons to this but we need to at least look into it and if it is something that does not fit for Halifax it does not and in the end the taxpayers can have the final decision as to whether they want to be a green community.

Cover for the Town Report

Seelig will ask Claudia Motta if the school would like to run a contest among the students for the cover of the Town Report.

Letter to James Good

Mr. Good was not considered for a permanent intermittent position as he failed to complete the application process. A letter needs to be sent to him stating this and signed by the Chair.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Troy E. Garron, to sign the letter that is being sent to Mr. Good.

Use of Town Green – Boy Scouts – Bottle Drive

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board approved a request from the Halifax Boy Scouts Troop 39 for the use of the Town Green on Saturday, February 8th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for bottle and food drive.

The Police Chief was here this evening is aware that a truck/van will be left in the parking overnight.

340-348 Monponsett Street

The office has received a letter from Building Inspector Frank DeFelice stating that in his opinion the work being done at the above location consist of structural repairs and that the flat roof work was in conformance with the zoning by-law. The owner has applied for a use permit for a multi-unit use. Roy asked if ZBA is aware of the letter that Mr. DeFelice submitted and Seelig said he is not sure as the letter was given to the Building Department. Garron stated that a denial letter would need to be issued by the Building Inspector before getting a use permit and Seelig said yes. Garron added that it should be left in Mr. DeFelice's hands. Roy stated that ZBA needs to be aware of Mr. DeFelice's letter and that he needs to issue the denial letter.

Annual Inventory

The two old brown selectmen chairs have been taken down to the recycling center by Gerry Elliott as they were unsafe. Schleiff thought before getting rid of them it should have gone through the department.

Fire Chief Resignation

Fire Chief Carrico has submitted his resignation as he will be going to the Sandwich Fire Department. Seelig has asked the BOS which if not all of the following they would like to happen:

1. Ask the fire chief for a recommendation for Interim Chief and arrange an interview with that person. If they feel other candidates need to be interviewed that can also be set up.
2. Contact Austin Sennett of Emergency Response Systems or other vendors to conduct an Assessment Center for the hiring of the new chief. Seelig or the vendor can handle the necessary advertising. In addition Seelig stated that the Board will need to decide whether they want to have a committee review resumes, the vendor or themselves.
3. Set up a proposed timetable for advertising dates, deadlines, time to review applications, choose applicants for the assessment center, hold the center, hold interviews with the BOS, choose a candidate, negotiate a contract and pick a start date.

Chief Carrico will provide the Board with an updated job description for them to review and approve. Seelig stated that a request to the Finance Committee for a reserve transfer will be needed for the process.

Garron stated that #2, which they have used three times, has worked out well. Schleiff also likes option #2 and said lets see if anyone from the department rises to the top and steps up to the position. Roy feels strongly about doing an Assessment Center. Garron asked if the Board wanted Seelig to follow through with all three actions and both Roy and Schleiff said yes. Schleiff said that he hopes Chief Carrico does not take anyone with him. Garron added that they must be doing something right and doing a good job seeing that other towns want our employees come to their towns.

Legal Ads

Seeing as the Halifax-Plympton reporter is no longer being printed legal ads now will have to be placed in the Patriot Ledger or Brockton Enterprise. Prices to do this are much higher than what the Reporter had charged. Previously the Town voted (Town Meeting 2013) to change the by-law allowing the Town to post notices via the Town's website instead of in the papers but Hearing notice requirements under State statute cannot be changed except by the State Legislature. The Board could ask their legislators to file legislation to make the change. Garron stated that with the technology he does not see why this could not happen.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously recommended writing a letter to our legislators on this particular issue to get their opinion.

Bond Release

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board voted to release the \$5,000 bond that was issued by National Grid held in connection with Permit #2013-37 for work done at 31 Indian Path.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Kim R. Roy
Clerk

/pjm