

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 7:00 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, February 25<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

***Austin Sennett – Fire Chief Recruitment Update***

Mr. Sennett handed out a status report to the Board, which is listed below.

Project 1: Candidate Search

Task 1: finalize schedule – completed

Task 2: start up meeting – completed

Task 3: advertising: resumes received and copied – completed

➤ Seelig was able to get all the administrative work done and posted the position through different avenues.

Task 4: resume review: resume team identified: 5 members – done

Deputy Fire Chief Miller, Police Chief Broderick, Matt Cunningham Bridgewater Fire Chief Rogers and the secretary/treasurer from the Fire Chief's Association.

finalists will be selected on 3/4 and notified on 3/7

Project 2: Design, develop and Administer Assessment Process Assessment

➤ This will be structural interview, written exercise, incident command and leadership exercise.

Task 1: design and develop assessment exercises and scoring exercises

Task 2: conduct the assessment process at the Town Hall on 3/22

Task 3: final report – 3/25

Mr. Sennett stated that the Board is welcome to view any of the process to see how they come about their decision. He also has talked with all the neighboring chiefs and said they are very supportive and willing to help acting Chief Cuzzo any time. Garron asked if they were not able to find that certain person in the group do they start the process all over again. Mr. Sennett said you could repost the position and adjust the qualifications. He added the biggest qualification the BOS wants is that the chief is to be an active paramedic. He will know by next Tuesday (March 4<sup>th</sup>) what candidates are qualified for the job. He added that he has enjoyed helping Halifax and that there is a lot of talent in the department that will be fit in four or five years.

**MINUTES**

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

Regular Session – November 26, 2013

**AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS**

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

Vendor Warrant # 67 \$ 166,830.40

**APPROVED COMMITMENT 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 #68, which Garron seconded:

Payroll Warrant	# 68	\$ 335,768.97
Vendor Warrant	# 69	\$ 77,475.30
Withholding Warrant	# 70	\$ 128,605.89
Ambulance Commitment	# 2	\$ 15,706.56

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

National Grid (service for concession stand).....	\$ 14.18
WB Mason (paper/10 cases; envelopes/4 boxes).....	\$ 331.30
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services (lease) .....	\$ 414.00
Fire Chief’s Association of MA (invoice/advertisement on FCAM website/Fire Chief’s position) .....	\$ 50.00
MMMA (meeting/3-20-14) .....	\$ 30.00
Cushman Insurance (policy renewal/auto 2/10/14-2/10/15) .....	\$ 52,195.00
Borhek Insurance (policy renewal/professional liability 2/10/14-2/10/15) .....	\$ 21,007.00
Borhek Insur. (policy renewal/property 2/10/14-2/10/15) .....	\$ 46,319.00
Borhek Insur. (policy renewal/general liability 2/10/14-2/10/15)...	\$ 30,948.00
Borhek Insurance (policy renewal/professional liability/ law enforcement 2/10/14-2/10/15) .....	\$ 8,088.00
Plymouth Bay Orthopedic Assoc. (portion of deductible/111F Cuozzo) .....	\$ 150.71

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending February 22, 2014 in the amount of \$6,034.11.

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-58	\$ 25.00

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

Use of Town Green – Boy Scouts

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board approved a request from the Halifax Boy Scouts for use of the Town Green on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a fundraiser yard sale and granted permission for the Boy Scouts to put a sign announcing the yard sale on the Town Green for two weeks before the event.

Recycling Abatement – Fiscal Year 2009

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to abate \$55 from Bill #624 on the basis of a system error as it was not included in the Municipal Lien Certificates.

Regional Dispatching

The Town of Duxbury is asking Halifax if they have any interest in regional dispatching with them. Director of Communications, Matt Tucker, was here this evening and the Board asked him his thoughts on this and he stated that there has not been any formal proposal and he only received an email about it but will keep the BOS informed of this when he hears more on it.

Three Town Meeting – Silver Lake Assessment

There will be a meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. regarding the SL assessment for FY2014. Roy stated that she will be attending.

Letter of Support for the Monponsett Ponds Stormwater Outfall Assessment

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board authorized the Chair, Troy E. Garron, to sign the letter of support for the above mentioned project.

Monponsett Watershed Association

Quarterly reports have been submitted from the association.

Family Medical Leave – Antoinette Ross

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously granted Ms. Ross family medical leave for approximately six (6) weeks and will use whatever leave time she has available.

Recycling Abatement – Fiscal Year 2011

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to abate \$45 from Bill #801 on the basis of a system error as it was not included in the Municipal Lien Certificates.

Fire Department

Before leaving Chief Carrico drafted a memo stating that there will be shortfalls in the wages, ambulance supply and vehicle & equipment accounts. This will require line item, reserve funds transfers or Special Town Meeting articles. Patty, the Administrative Assistant at the fire station, and Town Accountant, Sandy, are keeping an eye on this but wanted to keep the BOS on notice.

Wal-Mart Expansion

There has been discussion between Finance Committee member, Gordon Andrews and the manager of Wal-Mart regarding the possibility of expanding the store to bring in more revenue for the Town.

Dog Bite

On December 31<sup>st</sup> resident Michael DiBona was bitten by his own dog. Garron stated in the past the Board has had hearings to get the whole story. With that being said Roy said that she thinks they should have a hearing. Schleiff questioned how you reprimand if it happened in your house and it is your dog. He understands that there have been incidents where dogs have run out or got off their leash but in the confines of the owners home. Roy asked if there was an incident report which there was not one. Garron said to put this on hold so that we can check with the ACO, police and Board of Health to see if they did a report. This will be brought back up at the Board's next meeting.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)*****Matt Tucker - Communications Director- 6 Month Report***

Matt began by saying that he has made a lot of progress since becoming Director of Communications and he knew his first year was going to be tough. He was more familiar with the communications part of the job then with the administrative as it is challenging working with a budget to try and keep it tight but is working on that. Matt said that they have expended quite of bit of money training and he was not able to get a grant because he was late I pursuing it. He will be looking into capital items later on down the line. The staff works well together and is great in filling openings and he has maintained a working relationship with the fire and police chiefs as well as the State.

Garron asked if he was fully staffed and if he was receiving any support. He said he is getting along fine and is self sufficient and yes he is getting the support he needs. He continued to say that Kim comes in once a week to touch base and help him in addition to Chief Carrico and Chief Broderick helping out.

Roy stated that he has dug right in and is aware that the obtaining grants were a struggle but now that he is mindful of them he should be able to acquire them. She continued to say that his administrative skills are coming along; he is very organized and has made the flow of the office functional.

Schleiff has asked around to see how he is doing and everyone has said great. He also asked about his W&P request and he explained to start dispatchers off at \$8.00 and then expect them to train at this rate is unreasonable especially if they have a family to support. The part-timers seem accept this pay rate better then a full-timer coming in. Garron stated that the town pays a lot for training and what guarantee do we have they are going to stay and Matt said there isn't. Schleiff then mentioned that we got an invitation from Duxbury regarding regionalization and asked how he would answer their request. Matt said that he is not aware of how the position came about and Garron said it came about because the State said if you regionalize you will save money but services will be questioned as to who would be supervising the individuals. Matt's personal take on regionalization is that he is not for it because there are a lot of questions and factors to consider.

Roy said that when we talked with Duxbury a year and half ago they did not have any solid answers and asked what is the cost to let you station go dark. Matt said fire benefits from it but police do not. Garron stated that he thinks they made a great decision hiring Matt and he has handled the change well. In closing Schleiff said that he would like to have him come back in on his 1 year anniversary.

***Holly Merry - Appointment to the Board of Assessors***

Mr. Millias began by saying that Holly Merry resigned this past December so that she could apply for the Principal Appraiser position but then decided not to move forward with it. At this time she would like to come back and the Board of Assessors would like her to fill the open position.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the following vote was taken to elect Holly Merry of 301 Holmes Street to the Board of Assessors, term to expire May 17, 2014:

Board of Selectmen	Troy Garron	yes
	Kim Roy	yes
	Michael Schleiff	yes
Board of Assessors	Thomas Millias	yes
	John Shiavone	yes

***Chief Broderick - 6 Month Report***

Chief started by saying that he is on track to where he wants the department to be as the sergeants are up and running and the patrol staff is out there. At this time he has one officer who is out and everyone is stepping up to fill the void. Roy wanted to say that he is doing a great job and appreciates his community involvement and feels that all his guys are on board with the current drug problem. Chief said he has talked with the current fire chief and they are in the process of getting Narcan here in town. She continued to say that she knew that there was not going to be a huge learning curve seeing as he has been with the department for many years and being the only sergeant for a while.

Chief Broderick went on to say that Sgt. Caprio is taking over the evidence room to square it away and having a Communication Director (Matt) has been great as he has taken over that department.

Garron asked how he felt now that he is in the position and the Chief said that he would have been happy ending his career as a sergeant but one of his biggest goals is to get the moral back up in the department and wants to accomplish that. Chief stated the first thing he wants to do is make sure the officers are happy then he can put forward a department that the community is happy with but. The men make the department not him.

Garron commended him on doing a great job and said that one of the best decisions he made was appointing him as Police Chief. He thanked him for what he has done and what he continues to do.

***Road Race Fundraiser for HOPS Playground***

Kim Cicone, President of the Halifax PTO, came in to talk about the newly formed *Friends of the HOPS*. This a group volunteers in the community looking for ways to fund equipment for a playground. They would like to kick it off with a road race. The PTO planned to do a road race to support Youth and Recreation,

Halifax in Lights and the PTO but now going to help with HOPS. Roy added that they are hoping to get more volunteers attend their next meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> and asked the audience if anyone knows how to organize a road race to please come forward and attend our next meeting. Ms. Cicone has been told that you need to plan a road race months in advance but they are looking to do this in about seven weeks (April 12<sup>th</sup>).

Garron thought this is great idea and asked if they have talked with the Boys and Girls Scouts, Wal-Mart or Stop & Shop to help out and she said not yet. She would like to create a website to direct people to donate and put up a sign at the playground where the *lemonade opening* is stating that we are trying to raise money for the playground. There were people who were upset when the playground was taken down but not many have shown up at the three meeting they have had. Garron is in full support of putting up a sign as long as it is within the Town's by-laws.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously granted permission to hold the HOPS Playground 5K/10K Road Rae on April 12<sup>th</sup> or another date that is acceptable.

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

#### Authority to Sign LA5 Form

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the incoming Principal Assessor, Karen Trudeau, the “authority to sign” for the submission of the LA5 (Classification Hearing Votes) on Gateway (DOR electronic submission).

#### COA Expansion

A letter was submitted by Resident Ellen Murphy in support of a larger building for the senior center. She commented on the remarks that were made by Selectmen Schleiff at their meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Schleiff stated that his comments were not intentional and that he is in support of a bigger building for the seniors. He apologized if it was taken out of content and that if Ms. Murphy wanted to talk more about it to please call him as he would be happy to talk to her.

#### Highway Snow & Ice

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board authorized the Highway Department to over spend the Snow and Ice Removal account for the remainder of the snow season.

#### 27 Clyde O Bosworth Rd. – Zoning Violation

A letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Commissioner has issued to the home owners at the above address stating that a Special Permit for the operation of a kennel was not issued. Hence a violation occurred and a fine has been issued in the amount of \$350.

Manhole Cover – Brandeis Circle

Resident Joan Lemay of Brandeis Circle has reported that there is a manhole cover directly in front of her house that has broken tar all around it and it looks like the cover could fall in. This has been reported to the Highway Department and a barrel has been placed at the location. They will not be able to repair it until the weather gets warmer.

Silver Lake Budget

The Finance Committees from Kingston, Halifax and Plympton will be meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. As stated in a newspaper article Silver Lake is planning for a 5.8% budget increase and because the budget assumes little to no increase in Chapter 70 aid Halifax assessment would increase 11.8%. Roy said that Silver Lake School Committee has been told that Halifax could not afford this and that they would need to take another look at the budget. With upcoming technology the school is looking to give every incoming freshman a *chrome notebook* at the cost of \$100,000. This will save on paper but it will not be just this year but on going. Roy continued to say that we would have preferred a level service budget and hopes that they will have that discussion on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

On the elementary side they have put together a budget with a 4% increase. An article has been submitted for \$30,000 for computer based items but the intent was that each year computer stuff was to be purchased. Schleiff stated that they should be taking responsibility for this. Roy added that in the school system technology is a big thing and costly and the town needs to think about this.

Union Negotiations

Seelig had asked the Board who will represent what bargaining units for FY2015 and what dates they will be available. Listed below is what was decided.

Troy E. Garron	patrol officers & sergeants
Kim R. Roy	firefighters
Michael J. Schleiff	highway & dispatchers

Earth Removal Permit – Barry Gates/Turkey Swamp – 145 Monponsett St.

Mr. Gates is asking the Board to approve waivers for the closing out of his Earth Removal Permit but still would like to use his land but not remove any material. In Seelig's notes he suggested that the Board may want meet with him which Roy and Schleiff agreed that they would like to do. The Board suggested contacting the town's engineer to see if he can go out to look at the site.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Medical Marijuana

Seelig has reviewed applications from facilities in other towns and has found that operators will be making individual agreement with the municipalities. Seeing as the State was not suppose to sign off on an application that did not have the support of the city or town this was a way to get it. This was just an fyi for the BOS.

340-348 Monponsett Street

Frank DeFelice, Special Building Inspector for the above property, did say that a special permit is needed. Seeing as there was no denial and just a decision that a special permit was required, a denial was not issued to start off the latest process with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Light Duty for Workers Compensation/111F Employees

Schleiff stated that he is not ready to discuss this at this time.

Procedure for Appointment of Police Officers

Roy thought interviewing all three candidates was a good idea because if the first candidate chosen failed the PAT test the remaining two have already been interviewed which means moving the process along as there is never enough lead time between the PAT test and entering the academy.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously recommended interviewing whatever the ratio of candidates may be with the knowledge that if the one chosen should not succeed the Police Chief will notify the Board of Selectmen of the change without bring the remaining two candidates back in for a second interview.

CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation)

Seelig has looked into the pricing for this service for Town Meeting and based on Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing website two nights for approximately 3.5 hours would cost about \$1,000. Roy stated that if the town could afford then let's do it and Garron added do it for 2014 to see where it goes.

Weekly Pay

Schleiff briefly touched upon employees getting paid weekly versus bi-weekly as it would increase their pay and said that it might be savings to the town. Garron said that this should not be discussed at this time as it is something that may come up in contracts negotiations.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations Patrol Officers and Fire Chief contract:

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

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

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm