

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 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:

AGENDA

The Agenda for Tuesday, March 25th, was unanimously approved without revision.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board as well as those attending tonight's meeting stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – December 10, 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 warrant:

Vendor Warrant	# 76	\$ 166,726.37
Ambulance Commitment	# 2B	\$ 11,828.61
Ambulance Commitment	# 2C	\$ 1,018.61

APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS

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

Vendor Warrant	# 78	\$ 227,213.78
Withholding Warrant	# 79	\$ 121,201.95

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

Payroll Warrant	# 77	\$ 329,159.94
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Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills:

Beth Israel Deaconess Plymouth Occupational Health (physical/Swanson/Highway).....	\$ 90.00
Shields MRI of Brockton (portion of deductable/111F/Briggs)..	\$ 83.90
LexisNexis – Matthew Bender (MA law books)	\$ 1,257.94
CNA Surety (bond policy for L. Cole & K. Shiavone).....	\$ 468.00
U.S. Postal Service (fee renewal for permit #42).....	\$ 220.00

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

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Boy Scout 100 year Celebration

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously granted Boy Scout Troop 39's request to use the Town Green on Saturday, August 16th with a rain date of Sunday, August 17th for the 100th year Celebration of Scouting in Halifax.

Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrant

The Board was given a draft of the warrant to review.

Petition Article for Special Town Meeting

Maureen Rogers has turned in a petition article to the Town Clerk and all signatures have been verified. Seelig has provided Ms. Rogers with some examples from other towns of by laws relating to choosing the order of Articles by a lottery system. She will have to sit down with the Board of Selectmen and Town Moderator, John Bruno, for the precise wording.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have a place holder for the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the article for the changing of the ailment of the warrant articles at Town Meeting.

Fire Chief Recruitment Process

Four candidates were chosen to take part in the assessment process. One candidate withdrew his application on March 21st. The assessment was held on March 22nd and Mr. Sennett came back recommending one applicant out of the three for the position and suggested hat they open it up again but not disqualify the one recommended but to give the Board more to choose from. Acting Chief Cuozzo suggested fine tuning the qualifications but does not know how much seeing as the initial one that went out was kind of high. Roy had a conversation with Mr. Sennett and her first thought was that maybe because they changed up the posting three times it deferred applicants thinks it makes sense to put it out there again. She feels strongly about the paramedic qualification and thinks that there are other others that can be tweaked.

Schleiff stated that it would cost another \$7,000 to do it again and asked where the candidate was from and Garron said he was from Massachusetts. Roy agreed it was a lot of money but thinks it is worth it to get a good chief.

Roy thinks the more candidates you have to choose from is best for the town and said that this particular person may stay in the pool but there might be others who may be better. Garron brought up the point that if they do tweak it and get another pool we could end up in the same position. Roy agreed that they could end up in the same position and revising it a couple of times did not help them. She said if they go back out and repost and dropped a couple of the requirements it might open the pool seeing as we only had four qualifying candidates.

Schleiff asked if some of the qualifications had been dropped would the scores on the remaining two individuals have gone up and Roy said no you would just have more people in the pool to interview instead of just one. She continued to say that when Chief Carrico was hired there were over seventy five resumes and of the seventy five Chief Broderick said that they weeded it down to fourteen. Roy said that she thinks that they sent five people through the assessment, and it was hard to come up with the five because there were so many great people and in the end when they interviewed three each one was a great candidate so they knew they were getting a great chief.

Roy that the Assessment Center did not fail in their process but felt that the qualifications that they originally were asking for and then editing the job posting affected the number of people who applied. Schleiff said that they reduced the requirements in the posting to draw more people.

Garron said that he is open to doing it again but asked if we are lowering the qualifications is it fair to the individuals who have gone through the process and is fair asking the one who was recommended to wait. Chief Cuzzo did not think that he would have a problem waiting and does not think they need to revamp the qualification but a change up a couple of things that they have *required* to *preferred*, which will bring in a bigger pool.

Garron said that he is not willing to make a decision at this time because he has not seen the revised posting and because someone needs to contact the person who already made it through the process to let him know what we plan on doing.

Schleiff stated that maybe they did this too quickly and Garron said that they have someone qualified in the position at this moment. In Austin Sennett's letter Schleiff pointed out that he suggested next time cut out the paramedic requirement. Chief Cuzzo, Roy and Garron said no to that and Maureen Rogers stated that we need a paramedic Chief.

Garron asked Roy if Austin Sennett was willing to sit down with the BOS or is he willing to do it. Roy said that they talked a little bit about both and she said her and Chief Cuzzo have had a conversation about the qualifications and said they could do a draft then show to Austin then present to the Board and they could approve it. Garron suggested leaving it at that seeing as they have a 7:45 appointment and said it was not necessary to make a decision tonight at this time and Schleiff added that there is no hurry seeing as the Town at this time has a qualified Acting Chief.

The Board agreed to table this at this time at this and revisit it at a later date.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Robert Bergsrom & Kozhaya Nessralla – Mudfest Event and HOPs Road Race

Mr. Nessralla began by saying that the Mudfest is scheduled for June 8th as well as the HOPs road race. Chief Broderick said that initially it seemed like a lot going on that day but with a little bit of planning and heads up on my end I am confident they both can be done and safely.

It was asked what time the race started and Jonathan Selig, a HOPs volunteer, said that the kids race starts at 10:00 am and the adult race at 11:00 am. Mr. Nessralla stated that the participants from the Mudfest will start arriving at come in around

7:00 a.m. and general public will be coming in after 8:00 a.m. but people will be coming in all day long.

Sue Lawless, HOPs volunteer, asked the Chief Broderick at last years event when was there high traffic and he said at the end of the event which will take between 1 to 1.5 hours to clear out.

Garron asked HOPs volunteers if they were planning on having any activities after the race and Mr. Selig said they were thinking about having something on the Town Green. Another HOPs volunteer said that the activities could be kept over at the playground as they are concerned of families crossing the street. Chief Broderick said that it would be ideal to keep the events over that side of the street and said that they could shut down South Street.

Mr. Bergstrom stated that the HOPs volunteers could set up a booth at the Mudfest event to collect donations for the playground and said that he can add a link to the Mudfest website for the HOP's road race.

Garron asked Mr. Bergstrom if he was all set with the Board of Health and he said yes and has addressed all the areas the health agent was concerned about. He added that he will have safety barriers 50 feet from the pit.

Fire Chief Cuozzo said that he would like two people down there and he will give him one ambulance.

Chief Broderick said that they had conversation after the last event, which went perfect but they need to sit down and fine tune this one as they are expecting double the attendees from last year.

Kim Cicone said that the road race is a rain or shine event and Mr. Selig said this can be a win win event for both parties. Ms. Cicone also showed the BOS a template of a sign that she would like to laminate and place over at the library as well as in other towns. Schleiff asked if it would be the size of a political sign and she said yes. Schleiff said he would like to see the final sign.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved a Live Entertainment permit issued to Robert Bergstrom for the Mudfest event on Sunday, June 8th from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In closing Jonathan Selig mentioned that that there will be a *Chops for HOPs* meet raffle sometime in September.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Signs at Summit Street Field

The Soccer Association in asking if signs could be placed at the Summit Street fields stating no dog, alcoholic beverages, metal cleats, smoking and golfing allowed. Garron would like to hold this as he would like someone from HYSA to come in and explain.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Joseph Cushman – Police Officer Appointment

Chief Broderick began by saying that he has an opening to fill and to save the town money on overtime that the current officers are filling as well as the wear &

tear on his officers he is requesting that the BOS appoint Joseph Cushman to fill the position. A waiver has been obtained from Civil Service stating that Mr. Cushman can fill this full time position until he attends the academy in September. Chief added that between now and then he will be getting experience in the field.

Roy asked Mr. Cushman if he has been trained and he stated yes and Chief said they have to be trained before they are in a cruiser. He continued to say that he has a pool of part time officers and this will eliminate paying the overtime. Schleiff asked what does the part time classify as and Chief said three hundred hours of training but when he attends the academy it will be full time and get every aspect of training needed. Schleiff asked if he would be the twelfth man and the Chief said that he will replace Fitzgerald and be the ninth officer. He added that he has another officer that he hopes to advance next.

Sgt. Benner was also in attendance tonight and stated that he has worked shifts with Mr. Cushman and has done great; he is getting the experience and fitting right in.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously appointed Joseph Cushman as a permanent full-time police officer for the Town of Halifax contingent upon his passing a physical and the abilities test and successful graduation from the Police Academy.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted to have the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the Municipal Police Training Committee Temporary Waiver form.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

CART Services

Library Director, Laurie Cavanaugh, came in this evening to enlighten the BOS on a service called CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) and how it could be used at the upcoming Town Meeting. She explained that translation is captioned on a screen as people are speaking, which could be a benefit for those who are hearing impaired attending Town Meeting. She continued to say that the service could be booked through the Massachusetts Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, who will contact a local provider or you could directly book them yourself. There also are free lancers or self employed people who do this.

Garron asked if they supplied the equipment and Ms. Cavanaugh said they can provide but there is a cost. Roy said that Seelig stated that he has the equipment and Chief Broderick said that they could make it work and he has the equipment.

Schleiff asked if it would happen for this May's Town Meeting and how much would it be and Roy said it would and Ms. Cavanaugh said that the prices are not set and can be negotiated. She suggested that we could talk with the Town of Chatham and Dennis as they have done it and they could give us a ball park figure, which she would be happy to do. Roy said that FinCom approved it last night and thinks they budgeted \$1,000.

Garron understand that the words will be displayed on a screen (up front) but asked about the people watching at home and Ms. Cavanaugh said she did not

now exactly how it would work. Garron thinks it is a good idea and asked if any one has complained about not being able to hear. He said that if the BOS is okay with doing this who would take it from here because he does not want to more on Seelig or speak for him seeing as he is not here this evening. With that being said he is not ready to make a decision on this tonight and suggested that they ask Seelig to contact the Massachusetts Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing then contact Chief Broderick to see if his equipment will work.

Town Moderator, John Bruno, said he is not opposed to it but is concerned how it is going to play out and if there is glitch he will take a moment to see if it can be fixed but is not going to hold up the meeting. He suggested doing a test run.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to move forward with the CART program and have Seelig look at the logistics for the May 2014 Town Meeting.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Articles by Lottery System

Seelig has provided Maureen Rogers with some examples from other Town's by laws relating to choosing in the order of articles by lottery. Ms. Rogers (here this evening) said that if the article is approved at 2014 Town Meeting she will get all the material together so that she can go forward with it at the 2015 Town Meeting.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Tony Muscolino – Bell's Pizzeria

Mr. Muscolino came in this evening to update the Board of his intention to change his alcoholic beverage license from wine & malt to all alcoholic. He is looking to upgrade the atmosphere, increase the seating by twenty-five and change his hours from 11:00 to midnight. He was told that he would need to contact Zoning for alterations and he stated that he will have plans soon to bring before them as well as the BOS. His plan is to divide the restaurant into two sections one for take out and the other for a sit down restaurant utilizing the existing space he has now and not adding to it.

Garron asked why he wanted to change from wine to all alcohol and he said to give his patrons a variety. Schleiff asked about the parking requirement and Roy had no problem with him doing this and understands why he wants to change. Garron had no problem with his suggestion. Mr. Muscolino said that he is looking to lose the pizza parlor scene and wants to create a family style restaurant.

Chief Broderick said that there have been no issues at his place and if his track record stays the same he is okay with it. Mr. Muscolino said that he does not want any problems at his place and wants it too remain a family place that kids can come in with their parents and have dinner. He is not looking to start a night club.

Garron said that it appears the Board is in favor of his change and Schleiff said that he appreciates his business in town. Maureen Rogers, who was in the audience, asked what is the limit of alcohol licenses for the Town of Halifax and Garron said that is approved by ABCC and Schleiff thinks that we are okay with the numbers.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Silver Lake Budget/Assessment**

Silver Lakes plans to use its reserve funds to help pay for a number of items in the SL budget. As a result of the budget that was approved last week, Halifax's assessment is a 3.7% increase. The Finance Committee is waiting to see what Plympton's Finance Committee reaction is as their assessment would be going up 10.6%.

Roy's feeling is that they want all three towns to be able to afford it and Plympton is still working on their budget before they see if they will be able to.

Water Complaint

Susan Basile has written a letter to the Water Department and cc'ed the Selectmen's office regarding the brown water that comes into her house. The water Department has been in contact with her and continues to work on the problem. Keith Swanson, Water Superintendent, has email Seelig stating that most likely the source of the problem is the filter screens in the well at the Y Camp. He will have a contractor clean and possible replace the screens during the week of the March 24th.

Rehiring of Firefighter William Palma

Chief Cuzzo would like to rehire William Palma as a call firefighter. He previously was a call member from 2008 to 2013 then was hired in East Bridgewater as a full time firefighter. He has since resigned from East Bridgewater due to scheduling conflicts. Roy stated that he is a great member of the force. Garron asked if he will have the same problem with his schedule here as he did in East Bridgewater and Roy said the chief is confident this will work. Schleiff is okay with Chief Cuzzo's recommendation.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously appointed William Palma as a Call Firefighter for the Town of Halifax, effective immediately.

Monponsett Pond Article

Health Agent, Cathy Drinan, is working on the wording for an article that would set aside money for matching funds for studies or implementation work at Monponsett pond or associated water bodies.

Audit Representation Letter

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board authorized the Chair, Troy E. Garron, to sign the representation letter in connection with the audit of the financial statement for the Town of Halifax.

Recommendation from Finance Committee – Julianne Crawford

The Finance Committee is recommending that Julianne Crawford be appointed to the FinCom.

Junk Dealers License Renewals

Halifax Gold & Silver Coin Shop and Mum's Secret Closet are up for renewals next month. Chief Broderick has stated that there have been no problems at either business. The office is waiting to hear back from the Building Inspector.

Other Post Employment Benefits

Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to contact the town's legislators about what they would like to see in any legislation approved making changes to OPEB. Roy stated that they would like to increase the years of service from ten years to twenty. The Board will talk more about this at their April 8th meeting.

Retirement System/ Pension Bonds

Plymouth County Commissioners met with the Board a couple months back proposing legislation that would allow Plymouth County Retirement system to issue pension bonds. Seelig recalls that towns could *opt in* to participate but the house has passed H. 3377 which if passed would require to *opt out*. Seelig is recommending informing the retirement board, the commissioners, our legislative delegation and other member of the retirement system that the bill should be amended to make it an *opt in* provision and that the town intends not to partake in the bonding process.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter in reference to Seelig's recommendation.

Local Government Leadership Program

The MMA is working with Suffolk University's Moakley Center for Public Management in sponsoring a local government leadership program. This will consist of five graduate-level courses which will be held on Fridays throughout the fall and spring of 2014/2015 in Duxbury. The tuition cost of this is \$2,100 and credits earned can be used to a master's in public administration or similar program. Seelig is checking with the departments to see if anyone is interest. Roy stated that this is a MBA program but does not think we have a reimbursement.

Regional Emergency Planning Council

Chief Cuozzo recently attended a meeting with other area fire chiefs regarding starting up a Regional Emergency Planning Council. With is would be is a collaboration between seven towns who will combine resources during storms or other natural disasters. Another meeting will be scheduled that will include Police Chiefs and Town Administrators. Chief Broderick has been informed of this. More information to follow.

Monponsett Pond

A letter was received from resident, Lois Pento, regarding the geese popping in the pond and stated that she does not want the smell of rotten eggs coming from the lake when she opens her windows. Garron said that he has spoken to her explaining that we have spent money to clean up the pond but there are other issues that need to be addressed. He also told her that we hope Brockton will open the gate to allow the flow of water.

Roy attended the last Watershed Association meeting and this came up and Brockton said they are going to open the gate.

Zoning By-Law Articles

Four articles we submitted regarding by-law changes. Seelig recommended that the Board re-open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, place them on the warrant and then close the warrant.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to place the zoning by-law change on the warrant and close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Fire Chief Hiring Process

Austin Sennett gave Seelig a summary of the results of the assessment center. One candidate was recommended by the panel by Mr. Sennett feels that the Board should re-advertise the position with some revision to the requirements. Roy stated that she is working with Chief Cuozzo on a job description. If the Board is open to conducting another assessment center Seelig will request a reserve funds transfer from the Finance Committee to run the assessment again.

New Newspaper

Betty DeFenedictis of Rep. Calter’s office emailed Seelig telling him the owners of the Whitman-Hanson Express intend to start a Plympton-Halifax Express.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Sergeants, Patrol Officers, Firefighters, Highway and Dispatch:

- 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 Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:05 p.m.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm