

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 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, April 8th, 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.

Garron sent condolences to the audience for Officer Maloney who lost his life in the line of duty.

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	January 14, 2014
Executive Session	March 25, 2014

AFFIRMED WARRANT AND COMMITMENT

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

Vendor Warrant	#80	\$ 81,791.84
Ambulance Commitment	#2C	\$ 6,566.61
Ambulance Commitment	#3A	\$ 9,931.73

APPROVED WARRANTS AND COMMITMENTS

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 #81(Garron seconded on that vote):

Payroll Warrant	#81	\$ 322,782.48
Vendor Warrant	#82	\$ 301,657.11
Withholding Warrant	#83	\$ 119,336.61
Mobile Home Park Fee	#04	\$ 5,160.00

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of Selectmen bills dated April 8, 2014.

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending April 5, 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>
2014-60	\$ 700.00
2014-61	\$ 5.00
2014-62	\$ 1,170.00
2014-63	\$ 65.00

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Dog Bite

Dog owned by Julie Erikson had bitten someone on March 31st the Board was asked if they wanted to hold a hearing. Garron asked if Animal Control Officer filed a report and Seelig said no because Board of Health was notified. Chief Broderick stated that they were out the loop as they received information third-hand but will get the information to the Board by their next meeting.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted that a hearing should be held.

Road Cut – 15 Hickory Road

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to affirm the Road Cut for 15 Hickory Road.

2014 Warrant

Article 2

1 - 6 has been proposed by the Wage and Personnel Board.

#5

In Chapter 35, Section 18 – Promotion, Changes of Position, replace the following:

E. Existing reclassified position do not need reposting due to reclassifications.

With the following

E. Existing reclassified positions or existing positions reclassified due to changes in the job description that are not substantial shall not be required to be posted.

Seelig thinks the best thing is to let the current wording stay and spend the next year figuring it out. He asked the Board if they want to meet with Wage & Personnel on April 22nd Roy thought they should have a discussion with them before Town Meeting.

Article 4 – Operating Budget

There are still a few more questions on Elementary School and Silver Lake but most have been voted on. There still could be changes as Finance Committee is meeting this evening.

Article 5 - Revolving Funds

A revolving fund has been added for Solar Farm Projects.

Article 6 – Reserve Fund

Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 - Contract Negotiations

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Halifax Youth Soccer Association – Signs at Summit Street Fields

Mary Gravinese, member of the Halifax Soccer Association, came in this evening to talk to the board about the summit Street fields. She began by saying a lot of money has been put into the fields at Summit Street field and behind the Halifax Elementary School and there seems to be a lot of dog stuff left behind as well as golf balls. She continued to say that they have looked up the Mass. Soccer Regulations and it states “No Dogs”. Letters have been set out to parents about no dogs on the fields but you can have your dog in your car or walk in the parking lot but not beyond the fence. They are asking to place signs at the entrance to the field so they have something to stand on if someone was to bring their dog onto the field. They would like to get it going because the season has started.

Garron said that people go down there after the games and asked how can we keep them out? Roy asked if they could promote a fine and Seelig said they would have to ask Town Counsel.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously granted Halifax Youth Soccer Association permission to place three (3) signs at the Summit Street field with contingencies as noted below:

1. Signs will be white background with red lettering
2. Signs will be 12” x 16” in size
3. Signs will read the following:

HYSA Field Rules

No dogs allowed
No alcoholic beverages
No metal cleats
No smoking
No golfing

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Article 13

Annual Article for County Cooperative Extension Service.

Article A1 – Chapter 90

May pass over if the State has not voted on it.

Article 3

Cemetery Superintendent is asking for \$26,000 from Perpetual Care account to help pay for a new tractor lawnmower. The one we have is old and the maintenance on it has been substantial. If we use the money from the Perpetual Care account, the principal amount will be left in the account.

Article A11

Provide matching share funds for any State or Federal grant to study the Monponsett Ponds or State or federal grants to improve the quality or remediate problems in the Monponsett Ponds.

The reason for the submission of this article is because we did not have money in the past to apply for grants for the ponds.

Article A12 – Purchase & repair radio & pages for Fire Department

Purchase a certain amount each year.

Article A13 – Turn out gear for Fire Department

Purchase a certain amount each year.

Article A14 – SCBA bottle for Fire Department

Purchase a certain amount each year.

Article A15 - 2 dry suits for Fire Department

Interim Fire Chief Cuzzo is asking that an article for the same amount be put in for renovations and repairs to the burn building at the “Y” be substituted for this article.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Building Committee – Council on Aging Project

John Campbell, member of the Building Committee, started by saying that the committee was asked to explain why we are proposing to move from Pope’s Tavern to the All Seasons Restaurant. He began by saying that at Christmas time it came to our attention that the All Seasons was going up for sale; made up the plans; Mr. Doucette, the owner, was a former building inspector and said he will make it a turn-key building. The Finance Committee is in favor of the All Seasons and is working on the figures as to how much it will cost the tax payers. If this were to happen there would be no interruption in service for the seniors.

Garron asked what the price is if we did it and Mr. Campbell did not give an amount but explained that they would have to pay prevailing wages and would have go out to bid. Buying the All Seasons restaurant will take 12-18 months and Mr. Doucette will do all the work therefore they would not have to go out to bid Garron then asked if everything will be done before buying the building and if he had it in writing and he said yes to both. Garron then asked if they were looking at adding any traffic lights he said he does not think they have to and Garron said getting in and out will be easier at the All Seasons.

Garron asked it was zoned for fire reasons and Mr. Campbell did not know but thinks it should be fine as it is a restaurant and a bar.

A packet was given to the Board for the cost of renovating the existing Pope’s Tavern and the purchase of the All Seasons Restaurant.

Schleiff ask if the bottom line (in packet) is what they need and he said yes as Generations has been raising money over the last five years and they have money to use towards other items.

Garron asked if they had a figure for the fixed cost and Mr. Campbell said that Mr. Doucette runs the place all day and into the night so he did not have one but said adding on to Pope’s would cost.

Mr. Campbell stated that there are small dim lights but they would want bigger lights. Garron asked if there would be any computer problems and Seelig said right now, they have their own Comcast account which they can have at the new spot.

Mr. Campbell said they came in at a higher price to renovate as you don't know what change orders are needed to renovate the existing Council on Aging building.

Schleiff asked if there would be a change in staffing and Barbara, COA Director, said they will make do with the current staffing. Schleiff then said that she is asking for a position for 19.5 hours at Town Meeting and she explained that they needed this position two or three years ago, therefore needs to go forward with it.

Roy said that she liked hearing that she will sustain the staff and said maybe she'll get more volunteers to help out seeing as it will be a new facility. Campbell brought up the point that there will be more room at the new facility hence volunteers and staff will not be stumbling over one another making it more efficient and will get more out of your employees. Roy then asked if there is stipulation in the agreement that the Building Committee will have a hand in the project and he said that Mr. Doucette will do it exactly to what the Building Committee wants and they will be overseeing the work. Roy then asked about the furniture and Campbell said that they will be using the chairs but will need longer tables and said that a projector screen is being left there as well as the TVs. Roy asked how many could dine in the dining area and it was stated 162. Campbell added that the dining room could be used for meetings whether day or night. Silverware dishes Roy asked as they can add up and Campbell said he is sure he'll leave them and Roy asked that it be listed in the agreement. He added everything in the kitchen will be left. Roy feels that these question will this will come up at the public hearings and just wants him to be prepared for the questions.

Mr. Campbell hopes that they will get a good turnout at our public hearings. He also said that private groups could host something in their homes and the committee would come to do a presentation. Garron stated that many people move to Halifax because of the quality of life here in town. The seniors have been supporters of the schools and new buildings and now it is time that we support them. He stressed that the residents come to Town Meeting to vote. Campbell said it would be nice if the Board could write a letter of support for the project so that people know that the town is behind the Building Committee.

Schleiff said that it sounds as if this is the route to go and at their last meeting he did not feel it was but after listening to what Mr. Campbell had to say tonight I think that it is. Roy asked if there was a unanimous voted from the Building Committee and Campbell said yes and then stated that the Finance Committee voted 5 to 1, and the 1 said he would vote towards it with more information. Another thing Campbell pointed out that if you were to put a generator in the building it would be an excellent shelter for an emergency as it will be better than the school gym we have now but it is down the line.

Schleiff felt that they were swallowing the money that the town paid for the architect and Mr. Campbell said that they found out what they needed to find out from the architect and at the time they did not know about the All Seasons, which is a much lower price and better all around.

Seelig asked if the Building Committee was asking the Board to put a debt exclusion on the warrant for the principal and interest or asking the Town to keep within the levy limit and Mr. Campbell said to keep within the levy limit. Roy then said that she does not know if that will be supported by Finance Committee and suggested that they have a back-up plan just in case what they want does not happen. Roy stated that the problem is looking at what the expenses are on this year's budget, the school and all the department budgets we would be at a deficit therefore would have to cut departments, She said there will have to be a discussion with the Finance Committee, the schools and other departments to try and fit it in

Seelig said a debt exclusion vote needs to be done by the Board to be put on the warrant as well as *the question* being put on the ballot. He explained that the warrant is going to press before the Board's next meeting on April 22nd therefore unless the Board votes it tonight there will not be a debt exclusion on the May 17th ballot. Seelig continued to say that they were in a better position to bring up the idea of a debt exclusion in the wording of the article and not use it and amend it at Town Meeting.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to approve both the language of the article for the Council on Aging building and additional ballot question for the debt exclusion for the Council on Aging debt and interest.

Building Committee Article for New Truck

Mr. Campbell explained that said the van building maintenance took from ACO will not pass inspection so it should be taken off the road. They have three people taking care of 14 buildings and need two trucks. Schleiff asked how long they have been using the van and Roy said one year. Schleiff said a new vehicle now will be added to the fleet and this same argument came up a couple years ago when he wanted a surplus vehicle to be used by town personnel and it was argued that they were adding another vehicle. He then asked why they couldn't use a surplus vehicle that the town may already have and Mr. Campbell said because they usually can be used for six months and then need to be taken off the road.

Roy asked if the request was for a new truck and keep the existing one and Campbell said that was correct. It was stated that Capital Planning has approved the one truck.

Building Committee Article for the Lining of the Town Hall Parking Lot

John Campbell said that if they get a price they can put in at Town Meeting but if there is no money available then they can pass over it. The Board was agreeable to this.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fire Chief Recruitment

Mr. Sennett provided the Board with a report of the assessment center. After reviewing it Garron asked Roy and Schleiff if they wanted to go out and repost the job and they both said yes.

Mr. Sennett began by saying that in the 35 years of doing this process, this is the first time that he could only bring one person forward. He is recommending that the Board not hire this person but to bring more applicants into the pool. He continued to say that they started with 17 applicants and of the 17 nine did not meet the minimum requirements. Four people were recommended to go into the process and one decided not to go forward. The process was wonderful and they got a good look at the candidates. One of the applicants did not pass the incident command and was not recommended for the position. The second candidate passed the incident command but did not pass other areas. Mr. Sennett's recommendation is to post position again and the Board of Selectmen needs to decide what they want for the minimum requirements for the position should be. His feeling is to become a fire chief they must be Fire Officer 1 and have an Associate's Degree

Schleiff said that they had revised the qualifications three times so how do they get a qualified pool of applicants? Roy thinks Mr. Sennett did a wonderful job and that originally they had lots of qualifications then revised it. She also stated that it is important to have more than one candidate. Roy and Schleiff agreed that they need the chief to be a Paramedic as the residents want that. She asked if they go back out or interview the one candidate and Mr. Sennett thought that they should do another assessment center as oppose to interviewing because one can bluff their way through an interview.

Garron felt that there were three problems; (a) this individual went through the process and now we do not interview him, (b) will we get enough applicants the second time around and if so will it be the same applicants and (c) if we do go out again people might wonder if we know what we are doing. He was having a problem with what they could take off the job description to make it a little more appetizing for someone.

Mr. Sennett asked the Board if they wanted someone who does not meet Fire Officer I or who is not a Paramedic or has an Associate's Degree. Garron said that he is having a problem with what can we take off the job description and Cuozzo said that they did change it up. He added that they should do it again with the hope that they get more people. Cuozzo also wanted to say that the Board should be open with the individual who made it and let him know what is going on and ask him if he minds waiting around for a bit longer, which he does not think this person minds doing. As long as there is proper communication he does not think it is an issue. Garron said that they want to do what is best for the Town and his Department and did not want to bring in someone and cause a disruption and not be the leader that is necessary for the staff to get their jobs done and felt they should go back out and re-advertise but concerned is what the response will be.

Mr. Sennett suggested getting a letter to the candidate who passed ASAP and let him know what the Board's intentions are.

The Board discussed the following for requirements:

- A minimum of 10 years, full-time, in the fire service with at least three years, full time as a company officer is required.

- Associates degree in fire science, management or related field preferred.

Roy wanted *preferred* to get more applicants. Mr. Sennett feels that if stated required they must have it and knowing what the BOS expects from the chief to run the department he does not know how one can do it without having an associate's degree. Schleiff suggested maybe state in posting must have associates degree within a certain amount of time of employment with the town as they hired the last chief without and associates and allowed him the time to get it and it worked out. He did not think it was a game changer seeing out of the 17 there were only two who had an associates. Roy said it was Bill's choice to do it because he recognized it was a need.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted as follows that the job posting for the fire chief state that an Associate's Degree in Fire Science is required:

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

- Paramedic certification required
- Certification as Firefighter I/II required
- Fire Instructor I preferred
- Fire Officer I required
- Upon hiring must acquire a MA driver's license and a MA Class D motor vehicle operator's license.
- Must establish residency within 15 mile radius of fire station within 12 months of appointment.

The posting for the job will be a month.

Chief Broderick said that the Assessment Center works and it did what it was suppose to do and advised that they do it again. He understands that it is frustrating and cost money and if the assessment needs to be done 4 times then do it so that the town can get the best possible candidate for the job.

Roy said the previous Assessment Center was paid with a reserve funds transfer and she has talked with Gordon, Chair of the Finance Committee, and he did mention we could do an article on the STM to pay for it. Roy thinks that there will be money in reserve as it is the same money because reserve will turn into free cash and will be available next year.

Garron asked if the Board were settled on the job description, the re-advertising for a month and getting the money from the reserve fund. Roy and Schleiff were but Schleiff did state that preferred to have an article at Town Meeting to pay for the Assessment Center rather than go after money that we might need next year.

Seelig will call then follow up with letter to the one candidate who passed and send letters to the ones that did not make it.

Memorandum of Agreement - Old Colony Police Anti-Crime Task Force

This agreement allows the Town of Halifax to participate under mutual aid statute MGL Chapter 41, Section 99. This is drug task force and there is no cost to the town.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the Memorandum of Agreement - Old Colony Police Anti-Crime Task Force

Mutual Aid Agreement

This agreement gives ability of police officers to exercise police powers outside the territorial limits of the municipality where such police officers are regularly employed.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement.

Halifax Elementary & Silver Lake Budget

The Finance Committee voted not to recommend the Halifax Elementary School Budget as they felt they can get by with a 3% increase not a 3.8% increase. FinCom is recommending \$4,979,249 not \$5,018,010 which is being requested. Silver Lake is requesting \$4,197,479 but \$4,165,867 is being recommended by FinCom.

Finance Committee - Re: Wage & Personnel’s Request for 1.5% Increase

The Finance Committee could not come to a majority vote regarding the 1.5% wage increase therefore they will have a recommendation at Town Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. with Sandy Nolan and Gordon Andrews to discuss collective bargaining:

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

Garron announced that they will be coming back at the end of the Executive Session and the Board would reconvene in public session.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:45 p.m. and reconvene in public session:

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

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)Silver Lake Regional School District – Article for Stabilization Fund

Cassandra Hanson, member on both Silver Lake and Halifax Elementary committees, has reminded Seelig that a letter was sent to the Board from Silver Lake in May 2013 asking that an article be placed on the Town Meeting warrant to establish a stabilization fund for Silver Lake Regional School District. Seelig stated that putting the article on the warrant does not mean it happens or that the BOS is in favor of it. Roy stated that the Finance Committee has not really talked about it and was uneasy about establishing the fund. Schleiff felt that since they submitted a letter it deserves to be put on the warrant. Seelig pointed out that even though the letter was submitted a year ago, under normal circumstances the article would have been put on the warrant.

Moved by Garron and seconded Schleiff, the Board voted as follows to open the warrant for to place an article in the Town Meeting warrant to establish a stabilization fund for the Silver Lake Regional School District.

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

MBTA Weekend Service

The state representatives from the area will be meeting with MassDOT on April 17th to discuss this issue. Seelig said that he can attend but if one for the BOS would like to represent the town that is okay.

Bridge Maintenance Workshop

This workshop will take place in Taunton on June 4th Bob Badore and his Administrative Assistant, Mellissa plan on attending.

Monponsett Pond/Aquatic Weed Study

The Town and Lycott never signed a contract for Lycott to do the weed survey therefore Lycott sent a contract to be signed.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted that the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the contract for the Monponsett Pond/Aquatic Weed Survey.

Speed Sign on Brandeis Circle

The office received a letter from a resident asking if a speed limit sign could be posted on Brandies Circle. Seelig suggested that a sign could be posted like the one on Walnut Street stating that it is thickly settled and has a 30 mph limit. The Board was in favor of putting a sign up.

Burn Building Article

Previously Chief Cuozzo has asked that article be placed on the warrant for \$3,000 for improvements to the live-fire burn building at the Y Camp but has asked that it be taken off.

Gasoline Fuel Contract

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to extend the contract with Dennis K. Burke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 10:55 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Dispatch, Fire, Patrol Officers, Sergeants and Highway:

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 11:10 p.m.:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by garcon and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm