

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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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, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved the following Selectmen Minutes with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from sections of the Executive Sessions pertaining to Police Department negotiations:

Executive Session – March 11, 2014

**AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 84	\$ 222,298.00
Ambulance commitment	# 3B	\$ 15,786.22

**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 #85:

Payroll Warrant	# 85	\$ 327,710.81
Vendor Warrant	# 86	\$ 28,886.88

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

Deutsch, Williams, Brooks, DeRenis & Holland (legal services/March) .....	\$ 1,072.84
Peter J. Epstein, Esquire (legal services/March) .....	\$ 1,520.00
New England Assoc. Fire Chiefs, Inc. (website ad/fire chief) ...	\$ 50.00
W.B. Mason (office supplies/mini flash drive) .....	\$ 4.77

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending April 19, 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>
2014-64	\$ 75.00
2014-65	\$ 75.00
2014-66	\$ 5.00
2014-67	\$ 200.00

## **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

### Junk Dealer's License Renewal

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to renew the Junk Dealer's license issued to Halifax Gold and Silver Coin Shop located at 272 Plymouth Street.

### Junk Dealer's License Renewal

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to renew the Junk Dealer's license issued to Mum's Secret Closet located at 356 Monponsett Street.

### Billiards License Renewal

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to renew the Billiards license issued to Unit 5 Bar, LLC d/b/a The Tee Box located at 284 Monponsett Street, Unit #205.

### Cemetery Lawnmower

The lawnmower will not be funded with the perpetual care account seeing as it will be used throughout the town and the interest earned will be used to help purchase it.

Schleiff asked how much interest has been accrued in the account and Town Account, Sandy Nolan, stated \$48,000 and the principal amount cannot be touched.

### Live Entertainment – Mudfest

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved the Live Entertainment permit issued to Robert Bergstrom for the Mudfest Event to be held on Sunday, June 8, 2014.

### Reappointment – Board of Registrars

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Joann Andrews to the Board of Registrars, term to expire April 22, 2017.

### Talent Bank Form from Julianne Crawford

The Board will meet with members of the Finance Committee on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to interview Julianne Crawford as she has shown interest to serve on the Finance Committee.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

***Dog Hearing – Julie Erickson***

At 7:45 p.m., in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157, Garron opened the dog hearing to address a complaint that a dog owned by Julie Erickson and housed at E2-10 Lydon Lane was loose and bit a thirteen year old girl at the basketball courts behind the Halifax elementary School. The hearing was held at the request of the Board of Selectmen.

The following individuals were present and sworn in by Notary Public Pamela J. McSherry:

Julie Erickson	Dog Owner
Noreen Callahan	Animal Control Officer
Edward Broderick	Police Chief

*Garron:* Who maybe I'm not seeing it here. Who's registering the complaint?

*Seelig:*

Well we are... the Board... this is the Boards procedure when we've had dog bite incidences even the person who was bit or the family does not file specific complaint the Board holds an hearing on the matter because they're considered dog bit events to be serious enough to warrant a hearing.

*Garron:* Okay

*Chief Broderick:*

If I may if I didn't clarify a little bit here. At first off I apologize to board for not getting this squared away sooner than it did it came in a little bit sideways for us and we had to do some catching up. In the process of catching up and please correct if my facts are off a little bit here we Noreen our ACO Officer got a chance to go out and speak with some people and that may be reported wrong as an actual dog bite. It seems as though after speaking with the victims that it was granted the dog was off leash but was just a little excited and happy and jumped up on the girl and scratched her and didn't actually bit her it was actually a scratch on the arm not a true dog bite. So again it got around in a funny way originally and unfortunately we couldn't get that squared away right off the bat but a just a background for the Board. As far as we know it's not really a dog bit it was a scratch and our ACO had talked to the dog owner and advised her about all the current leash laws and what your suppose to do. I don't know has Noreen been in to talk to with the Board yet?

*Garron:* No that why can we allow Noreen at this

*Chief Broderick:*

Oh absolutely. Let me introduce you this is this is our new ACO you heard me talk about her so here she is in the flesh.

*Garron:* Can you give me some information concerning the dog? Have you met the dog?

*Callahan:* Yes actually I have met the dog.

*Garron:* Got the opportunity to view the dog its own environment?

*Callahan:*

Yes I actually saw her this evening walking down the street with the dog and Sammy is a big dog. He's a Pit Bull um he's all muscle um but he's friendly he's a friendly dog and I could see where he would try to get up and jump on somebody. I don't think he means any harm he's just powerful. I spoke with a neighbor of Ms. Erickson's and Ms. Berryman she is a seventy plus year old woman who has no fear of the dog at all. Loves the dog. So I have not received any complaints about dog until this time. So um...

*Garron:* So there's no history?

*Callahan:* There's no history on the dog

*Garron:* With the dog causing any problems. Is all his shots and everything up to date

*Callahan:* It is current and up to date.

*Garron:* Licensed?

*Callahan:* Correct.

*Garron:* Okay. Um were there any medical bills or anything incurred to the victim?

*Callahan:*

Um I spoke to the mother of the victim she said there was possibly a three hundred dollar bill but she just did that to be on the safe side that there no further injuries.

*Garron:* Right

*Callahan:*

Initially the wounds looked like two scratches welts and there was no actual break in the skin.

*Garron:*

Now was this dog the person that the dog became overly friendly with was she from the neighborhood? Were you aware?

*Callahan:* I think it was on... it was at the elementary school

*Erickson:* Ya.

*Garron:* Okay

*Callahan:*

An area where she was playing with the dog. I believe the victim was playing basketball at the time and a somehow they met.

*Garron:* Okay. Um... Ms. Erickson

*Erickson:* Yes

*Garron:* Do you want to give your version of it?

*Erickson:*

Yes that's everything they had said he was playing with me and I was playing with the ball and he we were in the enclosed area in the tennis courts and he went. And cuz he saw the kids and because I socialized him so much he just very excited to see people and he went over to say hi to her and I said he was friendly she went to pet him she and then she just stood up and then I think he wanted more cuz and he jumped up and I... I had a correction collar on him so I buzzed him and called him over and he came over and I got the leash and I said are you okay and she said ya I'm okay and then the other kid that was with her picked up the ball and gave it to me and took his leash and I walked off and that was... and then they walked up and that's when the parents came down and then they were like then she said that the daughter had told them and when she said it . When I was there she said she was okay and then she went up and I guess she came down and they had said that she had told them she had the dog had bit her.

*Garron:*

And what are they saying at this point have you had a chance to talk with the victims parents?

*Callahan:*

The parents both of the parents were not present during the incident so it was the thirteen year old child which she relayed to the parents.

*Garron:*

Okay. Two issues that I have and I should probably explain it to you. Although it is not as serious as a dog bite but still question of the dog not being leashed okay and the second is that where I think we have signs up that says dog aren't allowed down the field or in that area. Correct me if I'm wrong?

*Erickson:*

Not that I've seen but I mean I could miss them too. I mean cuz there are dogs in that. If it's not me that have there are dogs that go down in that area not even just mine I don't know maybe people just don't see them. I don't know. I mean I haven't I didn't see anything in all honestly.

*Garron:*

I need to ask the chief did we did we not put signs up there that dogs are allowed on the field.

*Broderick:* I haven't been down there this week but yes it has been posted for dogs.

*Garron:*

Okay. Well just from my stand point just for future reference one of the reason we did post those signs was because of the fear of someone might get hurt but not only that but there some owners who probably are not as diligent as you are cleaning up behind their dogs and theres mess and everything else down the field and the playground and even in the tennis court area. Just make sure you realize that it should be posted but if not I will make sure it is and I understand it's a nice area the dog can run loose with everyone running around but unfortunately it's the same shall we say habitat as little kids.

*Erickson:* I understand

*Garron:* Okay. Does the Board have any other questions at this time?

*Roy:* Mike do you want to...

*Garron:* Mike

*Schleiff:* I mean

*Seelig:* I was going to say there are other people I think acting on her behalf

*Garron:* Ya I think there are.

*Schleiff:*

I'm just... we received a dog incident report from Jordan ah can't read the Board of Health's scratchings or it's just been copied over so many times I can't even read this thing. Says child bit arm of child leaving I don't know what it says there. I mean first looking at this you know a child being bit by a dog the flags start raising up and everything else that goes along with it. If it's fenced in your own yard that's the difference but if it on... I mean where your down there on town property in a fenced in area that's for basketball and tennis. What does this say leaving two small bit marks and bruises. Um it's concerning obviously if it was your child you'd be the same frantic ya know we've heard so much news about certain dogs and that falls in one of those categories ya know we have to be on top of these things.

*Erickson:* I understand

*Schleiff:*

We have to... we want to understand exactly what happened we're not here... we're here to protect everybody in town or anybody visiting the town or going through the town so it's important to really keep an eye on your animal that's... I'm glad that the kid isn't hurt and that we have some good report on that it was a minor incident then hopefully we won't hear anything.

*Erickson:* We won't.

*Schleiff:*

Ya the playground areas locate signs down there we're hoping they're down there and sometimes you don't notice them but if you see others down there that doesn't mean they're jumping off the bridge doesn't mean you should be either.

*Broderick:* I'll check for the Board and make sure there up.

*Schleiff:*

Ya because we just okayed signs down the park last week that's what ya know flashed our memory that we had them there so as long as you're aware of it there no repeat of it.

*Erickson:* There won't be.

*Schleiff:* I'm a little more comfortable now hearing what the facts of it. Kim?

*Roy:* How old is the dog.

*Erickson:* He's three

*Garron:* Three

*Roy:*

So jumping up is typical puppy behavior so is that why you been ... have you been practicing with the correction collar?

*Erickson:*

Right ya he goes to a dog trainer he's been going to a dog trainer for a couple of months to try and break him of his excitableness and the jumping up. It's hard for Pit Bulls cuz they jump for affection so it's hard to break them of it.

*Roy:* And you would have typically brought the dog to that area to throw the ball?

*Erickson:*

Just to... we usually play at night play usually when nobody... right in but

*Roy:*

So that's somewhere... and where there were children around you felt that he was safe enough to still not have a leash on.

*Erickson:* They were on the other section and he wouldn't have... and the ball might have... I can't remember if the ball went in there he went but typically he would have just ignored them.

*Garron:* Okay um you all set

*Roy:* No

*Garron:* Oh I know was just going to see.

*Roy:*

Um ya know as Mike said these are large dogs and they could be small dogs any dog needs to be leashed and any dog needs to know. The residents of Halifax need to know that any dog has is under control of the owner when it's with them and so I appreciate that you're committed to not allowing that happen we're fortunate that the child didn't get injured more than she did and I just want to make sure that you really understand the seriousness of what could have happened in that situation.

*Erickson:* No I do

*Garron:* Um Kim all set?

*Roy:* I'm okay.

*Garron:* Does anybody else want to testify on her behalf?

Could I just say something on behalf of the dog?

*Garron:* Ya and your name is please.

My name is Ruth O'Brien and I'm a co worker of Julie's and I don't like those dogs and she was coming to pick me up her dog was going somewhere else and she said I have to drop the dog off before we go to work do you mind and I said no because I needed to have my car fixed and my repair guy was right up on 106 and she was coming by. Well when they got there the dog was in the car ya know and I'm thinking oh my god I got to get in the car with this dog ya know so I get in the car very apprehensively and this dog and I can't believe I am saying this because like I said I don't know why people own them but he was like a teddy bear and all he did he was in the back seat and he come up and he licking me licking me licking me all for about five or ten minutes then he settled down and went to sleep. Coming home she picked up the dog and she quieted him and he got in the car and he's like oh I'm back I'm back lick, lick, lick laid down the back seat the ride home. And when I got out the car at the repair shop he just got up to say good bye. I'm in love with this dog.

My name is Jane McIntire I'm a neighbor I'm also the person who walks Julie's dog and I'm a former owner of a German Shepherd and a Pit Bull. I would have to say she is very diligent about being very careful um when she goes out and plays with him at we live Halifax Meadows she has him on a long leash so that she throw a ball and he can at least run and get the ball on those types of things. Um and um she's petite and so we are training Julie too on the way to handle a very strong dog but he as she said (pointed towards O'Brien) he is a sweetheart. He is not a confrontation dog he's you sit down he's on top of you um and um he curious but he never is confrontational and I just wanted to tell you she is she her whole world revolves around that dog.

*Garron:* So we all have to call Caesar 911.

*McIntire:* And she herself had initiated training before this all happened.

*Roy:* Right, which is great

*Schleiff:*

I think a lot of people don't realize I'm realizing it more is that the dogs are good dogs but when they get rambunctious.

*McIntire:* Right

*Schleiff:*

They can do some damage and they're not even realizing they're doing it so when they get excited and jumping around if their claws aren't trimmed they're running on the runner.

*McIntire*: And that could be any dog.

*Schleiff*:

Ya and things can happen so really true anybody in the audience that owns a dog knows that so you really go to be on your guard at all the time whether is pleasant or not.

*Garron*:

Okay we um I appreciate you both testimony in what occurred here today thanks Noreen and the chief ya know I don't see that at least in my opinion that the Board needs to take any action except to reinforce a letter to Ms. Erickson stating the fact that there is a leash law that that area down there is off limits to the dogs and I know other people have seen and try and get the message out to everybody that they are not allowed anymore unless there are further incidents of this kind that we take no action at this time.

*Schleiff*: I'll second that motion.

*Roy*: Um hum

*Garron*: All in favor

*Roy*: Aye

*Schleiff*: Aye

*Garron*: Aye

### ***Cable Advisory Committee***

Cable advisory members Dick Wright and John Shiavone along with Attorney Peter Epstein came in this evening to give the Board an update regarding Comcast licensing agreement. Mr. Wright began by saying that the license agreement with Comcast is excellent and the committee does not think they could have done any better. Attorney Epstein explained that there are no new costs to the subscribers and that Halifax has a great committee and they will do a great job.

Garron asked about the studio and if this was the best deal we could get. Epstein said Comcast is willing to continue to operate the studio until December 31, 2014, which gives Halifax time to get things squared away. Shiavone said that this is a great deal for Halifax and if they were to go back to negotiations they may start taking things back. Epstein added that they are paying \$250,000 and are providing a senior discount and thinks the committee and town administrator did a great job negotiating the contract.

Wright thanked Epstein for helping Halifax get through this process. Garron asked if the Board was ready to vote on this and Roy said yes and thanked them all for their hard work. Schleiff applauded them for their efforts and said the next step would be to get Carver on board.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to sign the Cable Television Renewal license as presented by the Cable Advisory committee and Attorney Peter Epstein.

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

#### **Wage & Personnel Recommendation**

W&P is recommending a 1.5% wage increase across the board for FY15.

Erin Lutton – Resignation

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to accept Erin Lutton's resignation from the Historical Commission and send her a letter thanking her for serving on the commission.

Thank you letter from Dan Fuller

Seelig receive an email from Dan Fuller thanking him for giving him (Fuller) the opportunity to par take in the Fire Chief Assessment Center.

Ambulance Abatements

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

February 2014	FOR	\$ 12,244.12
March 2014	FOR	\$ 13,289.52

Ambulance Adjustment

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to abate the sum of \$76.89 from FY2013 ambulance account for Bill #13-129 as it has been deemed uncollectable.

MBTA Fare Increase Hearings

The Board was informed that the MBTA is holding a series of public hearings where customers will have the chance to provide feedback on the proposed fare increases.

Elementary School Alarm

The Board was informed that the alarm at the school went off on April 8<sup>th</sup> around 11:00 a.m. and the reason why it went off was due to low air pressure warning in the sprinkler system. No damage was done and it is being fixed.

Letter of Support for New COA Building

The office has received two letters in support of the purchase of the All Seasons Restaurant for the new COA center. Garron stated that he is support of the article as written at this time and Schleiff was in favor with the stipulation that we can get a consensus of not increasing the staff. Roy said that she analyzed the project and said that it is not a loss in revenue but redistribution as the loss of the commercial income will be on the taxpayer's tax bill (approx. \$5.00) and renovating Pope's tavern would be an increase of \$45.00 on the average tax bill. She continued to say that the cost to renovate the existing COA building would be about \$1,579,000 and to purchase and renovate the All Season restaurant would be \$1,155,000. The assessed value of the restaurant is \$750,000 and the fair market value is \$850,000 therefore economically purchasing the restaurant would be better then renovating Pope's Tavern and this is the best option of the three as well as a safe location because of the traffic light. Roy explained that on the average tax bill it will cost the residents forty-five dollars a year if the All Seasons was purchased and if the existing senior center was renovated it would be fifty-three dollars. She continued to say that if All Seasons was purchased she does not think they need another empty building (existing COA) in town so there will need to be a discussion on what we will do with the empty building. She did suggest that maybe move the Water

Department over there and take down the building they are in now. In the end she said it comes down to personal decision for the taxpayers.

Garron agrees with Roy being concerned about the cost all around for the project and stated that if the town had to buy property and build it would be about three million dollars and this proposal was presented years ago and was turned down by the Town. He continued to say that to put an addition on the existing building would cost a million five and Roy stated that if renovation were done at Pope's we would be changing the look of the existing building and brought up the point that the parking is not great. Garron agreed stating that the addition will encroach on the parking spaces not to mention destroying a historical building by adding/renovating it.

In response to Roy's concern about losing commercial income Garron said that there is no guarantee that a business will move into the All Seasons if the current owner was to close today. Garron said that in the past we increased taxes for the school and the library that and if we were to take this on the debt is not as "heavy" as the school was and again wanted to say that the seniors of this town are the ones that made Halifax a place where people want to live.

Roy stated that it is important to recognize that it takes a lot to keep up building and wanted point out the pros and cons and said that it is okay if the residents are thinking about themselves because people are financially struggling. Garron said that the seniors are on a fixed income and cannot afford services of which some are provided through the COA and added that this building can be used by everyone and other organizations not just the COA. He said as far as having another building in town if were to close it up Pope's Tavern there would not be much maintenance and if another office moved into the building would be their responsibility to maintain it and keep it in order. Roy stated it will cost the taxpayers' money and Garron said either way it will cost and the All Seasons is a turn key operation and if we did something with Pope's Tavern the building would have to be closed down for almost a year before they can get back into it.

Roy asked Seelig that if they entered into a purchase and sales agreement could they stipulate what is included purchase such as chairs, tables, etc. with the project as well as a having an inspection. Seelig said that they would have specifications within the purchase and sales on what equipment/furniture would be part of the sale and yes they could have an inspection included in the stipulations.

Schleiff stated that Pope's Tavern is part of the town and suggested selling the recycling building and making that department/office part of the Highway Department which will centralize the town's buildings. He brought up the point that in years to come if something was built such as a 40B or senior housing the All Seasons could be sold.

Garron then asked how the Board felt about a debt exclusion to fund the project. Schleiff said he does not want to get into a long discussion and would like to see it done with the least amount of pain.

Garron asked Ms. Nolan how she would like to see it done and she said she would like to see it within the levy limit and not as a as a debt exclusion to try and keep the possible tax bill down because she stated when you do it as a debt exclusion you have a levy limit that the State allows you to tax up to a certain amount and then your debt exclusions go on top of that. If put as a debt exclusion you still have that ability even though we try not to tax up to that levy. She continued to say that next year we have the police station debt coming off but keep in mind that retirement bill will be going up and possibly health insurance going as well as the school may be looking for in increase. If keep under the

under the levy there may be some belt tightening over the next few years and if trying to fit in this year we would not be able to afford it with the 1.5% raise if we were funding the school budgets at their full requests. Roy said we left levy money on the table over the last few years to be financially proactive and to take the burden off the taxpayers. Tightening the budgets right now would be tough and she is not willing to sacrifice the services that we provide taxpayers in order to pay for a senior center. Other buildings went to a debt exclusion and she feels that this needs to be the same and thinks that there needs to be a vote at the election polls in addition to Town Meeting. Seelig said that the question on the ballot could be that the stabilization account be used to partially fund this but said that it can be brought up at Town Meeting. Roy added that there is a policy in place that the stabilization account should not be used for major projects but for emergencies which Garron agreed. He said if we try to get under the levy and health insurance retirement goes up that means that we will be looking at zero increase for employees and cutting back salaries.

Seelig asked if the Board if they wanted to give a letter of support to the M&SBC and Schleiff said that he could not support it without stipulations in the contract and Roy agreed with him. Schleiff stipulation would be consolidating the Recycling Center with Highway. Roy said she would support the project with stipulations that an inspection be done; a list what furnishings are included in the purchase and oversee the actual design. Garron thinks that putting stipulations/pressure on M&SBC is tough at this time as it will have to be researched and it would be past Town Meeting and maybe another year and said he does not think as a Board they are not ready to support it but as an individual he is.

Schleiff questioned staffing as people are looking at it as we have a new building and now we have to fill it and would like the stipulation that there would be no increase in staffing. Roy said there was an agreement that the Director of the COA was not going to seek new hires except for the one on the warrant. Roy stated that as a whole the Board agrees with the project but they do not want to see an increase in staffing at least for a couple of years and they would like the Building Committee to look into consolidating/moving town buildings to other locations.

Garron said that as a Board they have presented everything right up front to the residents and they can base their decision on the information presented and if it passes at Town Meeting it will be a couple of months if not more giving us time to see what will happen to the building(s) and get any questions answered. He said in general the Board agrees on the project but would like to look at some stipulations. Seelig said that he will put together a letter.

#### Water Tower Article

The water department has requested that the water tower article be pulled. Keith Swanson stated that they can hold off another year to have it painted.

#### COA Telephone Article

COA Director, Barbara Brenton, has asked that the above article be pulled from the warrant.

Reappointment – Old Colony Elder Services

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Joan Jolley as the Town of Halifax's representative for Old Colony Elder Services, term to expire June 30, 2015.

Family Medical Leave

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously granted family Medical Leave to Joyce Curran.

Regional Emergency Planning Council

A meeting in Bridgewater took place on April 7<sup>th</sup> with representatives from a number of communities. Roy thought that they were looking for two representatives to serve on a steering committee beside the typical fire and police chief. Seelig stated that he will wait to hear back from them.

Old Colony Planning Council

Annual meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> in East Bridgewater. The council is asking that those wishing to attend to RSVP by May 7<sup>th</sup>. The office has received a complimentary ticket.

Use of Town Green – Historical Society

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board approved a request from the Historical Society for use of the Town Green on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for their annual spring plant sale.

Pothole Grant

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Town Administer, Charles Seelig, sign the MassDOT grant for the winter rapid recovery road program.

CART at Town Meeting

The State has confirmed that they have found someone for May 12<sup>th</sup> (second night of Town Meeting) but has not been able to find someone for the first or third (if needed) night.

State Budget FY2015

The MMA is recommending supporting or opposing a number of amendments. Seelig stated that if the Board wants him to send anything to Representative Calter to please let him know within the next few days.

COA Van Grant

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the board voted to authorize the Chair, Troy E. Garron, to be the signatory for the grant paperwork.

Bicycle Rack

The Board was asked if they were interested in a grant through OCPC for a bicycle rack at the town Hall. Seelig said that he would talk with Gerry to get his thoughts on it and Garron pointed out that it would be one more thing to repair.

### Sale of Pope's Tavern

At Wednesday night's forum the question came up the possible sale of Pope's Tavern. Seelig explained that the sale of the building and property would require Town Meeting approval and said that it probably would be done through a general authorization for the sale by the BOS rather than a specific authorization through the Board to a specific party.

### Ed Whitney – Resignation

The Board unanimously voted to accept Ed Whitney's resignation from the Planning Board and send him a letter of recognition for his many years of service.

### Fire Chief Applications

As of this time there have been no applications submitted.

### Treasurer-Collector Ballot Question

Seelig hopes that people understand that there are no guarantees that whoever is elected into this position has experience in the job and the danger of having someone come in that does not have the knowledge in that position is tough.

Roy said that Kathy Shiavone explained it quite well at Town Meeting last year stating the importance of having someone with the knowledge for the Treasurer-Collector and totally supported that the position be appointed one.

Schleiff asked how long it has been an elected position and what would the pool of applicants be. Seelig said the position has been an elected one since the town was founded and continued to say that you might find someone from a business that performs the same duties apply for the position.

Garron said the only issue he has is that with it being an elected position is that if you have someone who is incompetent then you are limited to replacing them until their next election.

### STM Warrant Article 2

This article would be to pay \$2,200 for tuition and material cost for an employee to attend the Leadership and Management Program sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and Suffolk University. Seelig explained that the classes would be on Fridays for six hours and there would be homework. Seelig is fine if the Board is not in favor of this but feels that it is important if there is an employee who wants to attend these classes. He explained that employees of the town go to conferences throughout the year and the town pays for them to attend and this is the same thing. Schleiff questioned that if we provide the training does that make them viable to go somewhere else and work. Seelig said that is like saying we are not going to provide you with any training because you may turn around and leave. Garron said that there is no guarantee that people are going to stay whether they are trained or not and said that the article should stay in the STM and understands Seelig's reasoning to offer this to the employees. Roy said that this is a great program and MMA does a great job with it. She asked who qualified for the classes and should they write a letter stating their interest in attending. She suggested that a policy should be in place and said that the employee could take the course and after successful completion they could get reimbursed.

ATM Warrant Article 49

This article will vote to enact Chapter 148 of the Town of Halifax General Bylaws for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy. Garron stated that he does not fully support it and asked how it benefited the town. Seelig said that it gives Halifax \$6,000 right off the bat in grant money. Schleiff asked if they received any information for the buildings and said he would like to have a recommendation from the Building Inspector or Planning Board. Seelig said that no one from ZBA or Planning attended the meeting. Roy said that Assistant Building Inspector, Rob Piccirilli was there and she is in support of it but understands if Garron and Schleiff are not. Seelig said that if someone was building an addition or new home they would have to meet the “stretch code”. Garron said at this point leave it on the warrant. In closing Roy said that she would like to assign warrant articles at their meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 9:50 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.

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Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm