

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014 - 6:30 P.M.
HALIFAX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - ROOM 130

Meeting came to order at 6:30 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, May 13th, was unanimously approved without revision.

AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS

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

Ambulance Commitment	# 4B	\$ 14,848.78
Ambulance Commitment	# 4C	\$ 857.78

APPROVED WARRANT

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

Vendor Warrant	# 92	\$ 256,905.04
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Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills:

New England Assoc. of Fire Chiefs (Fire Chief ad on website)..	\$ 50.00
Michael C. Gilman, Esquire (legal services/April)	\$ 1,331.00

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-70	\$ 5.00
2014-71	\$ 5.00

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Julianne Crawford –Appointment to the Finance Committee

Ms. Crawford came before the BOS and the Finance Committee this evening as she has expressed interest in serving on the Finance Committee. She told the Board a little bit about herself stating that she moved to Halifax in 2011; never served on a committee but saw on the town’s website the need for volunteers and given her background, which is working for a financial management company she felt that she could help. Garron asked if she had the time to commit and she said that she works from home and is aware of the time needed being on the committee. Schleiff wanted to thank her for volunteering and stated that her credentials looked great on her talent bank form. Roy also thanked her for volunteering and asked if she was familiar with Town Meeting. She said no but is

willing to learn. She added that she has not looked through the warrant but has looked at the town's financial statement on line. Roy stated that being on the Finance Committee gives people the idea of where the money comes from, where it goes and how it all comes together and that this is a good place to start.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the following joint voted was taken to appoint Julianne Crawford of 4 Delia Way to the Finance Committee, term to expire June 15, 2014:

Board of Selectmen	Kim Roy	yes
	Troy Garron	yes
	Michael Schleiff	yes
Finance Committee	Gordon Andrews	yes
	Karen Fava	yes
	Margaret Fitzgerald	yes
	Stuart Hall	yes
	Nikki Newton	yes
	Summer Schmaling	yes

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

COA Article

Roy began by saying that she had talked with Peg Fitzgerald and John Campbell regarding the reconsideration of the COA article and asked if they were going to reconsider with the debt exclusion included. It was said that they would consider using stabilization and stay within the levy limit to fund the project. Earlier this evening Roy asked John Campbell how they wanted to precede with their motion he said at this time they had not decided. Roy then asked Garron and Schleiff if they wanted to use funds from stabilization or the levy. Schleiff asked how much from stabilization would help the taxpayer's bill be used and Seelig said it would be about \$30 and if money was used from stabilization it would bring down the cost of the project to \$375,000.

Roy stated that the Finance Committee's policy is to have at least \$600,000 + in stabilization. Schleiff asked how long would it take to bring the funds back up and Seelig stated that you would have to get on a dedicated schedule to put the money back in there. Roy pointed out that if we stay within the levy limit they will not have the money to do that because the capital plan is calling for a fire engine. Roy does not know what the Finance Committee is going to do.

Seelig said to reconsideration the motion it is just a simple majority vote. Next would be a 2/3 vote with or without stabilization or debt exclusion. Then if it goes with debt exclusion a majority vote will be needed at the election on Saturday. Roy stated that if the motion is to go within the levy limit it does not matter what happens on Saturday because that is within the debt exclusion.

Roy said John Campbell does not think it failed because of the funding source and Schleiff agreed. She stated that if they say they will fund within the levy limit they may lose the support of the Finance Committee. She does not know how the Board feels and whatever it is she is fine with it but she will not support using money from stabilization. She continued to say that this vote will occur after the

article for employee raises so this might set the tone of Town Meeting. Schleiff thought that if the forego the raises they might be more inclined to the COA project and Roy said that could be because that would free up about \$60,000 a year to pay within the levy.

Seelig said that if the people say no to raises they still may say no to the Senior Center. Roy said some do not know what the “*levy limit*” means and is willing to explain it to the residents and added that they need to decide whether they want to use stabilization money or go to the levy limit and if they want to reconsider the Article.

Garron said that he talked to a lot of people on the way out last night and said that there was lots of negativity. He will support to reconsider but does not know which way it will go.

Moved by Garron and seconded Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to reconsider the COA Article (Article 2).

Schleiff said that he is not a fan of taking money out of the stabilization account and Garron added that if we did then the town’s bonding rate goes down. Roy stated that stabilization is for an emergency and this is not one. Garron continued to say that there is no guarantee that we can recoup the money if taken out of stabilization. In closing Roy stated that she wants to explain “*the levy*”.

Halifax Country Club/Halifax Investments

It appears that Halifax Investments has paid up on its unemployment therefore the Department of Unemployment Assistance has withdrawn the hearing that was scheduled on April 17th.

Northlands Property

The deed transferring the land to the town has been reviewed by town counsel and now we are just waiting for it to be filed at the registry.

Fire Chief Recruitment

Ten applications (second round) have come in for the fire chief position. The search committee is going to meet this Thursday. The contract from Emergency Response Systems has come in and it is in the amount of \$6,375 and is ready to be signed. Schleiff said before signing the contract he would like to see what the applications look like and see what they (EMS) does with them. Roy asked if they look at the applications if the contract was not signed. She was comfortable with it because if they didn’t have any applicants after the screening committee looks at then they would not have to hold an assessment center and could re advertise.

Garron said if we do not sign the contract what can the screening committee do and Seelig said that many of them on the screening committee are not affiliated with Austin Sennett and that we might have to pay Austin some money. Garron said to wait until May 27th as it will give the Board time to review the resumes. Roy and Schleiff were okay with that suggestion.

Annawon Drive/Holmes Street Playground/Lindys

Resident Allison Silva from Annawon Drive has emailed Seelig regarding the trash at the entrance to the street (at Lindys Store) and at the playground. Also there seems to be several houses on the street that are uninhabitable and have foul smell coming from them as well a house with holes in the roof. Seelig has contacted Dick Steele about the trash at the playground and it has since been picked up. He also went over to Annawon and saw that there are two abandoned houses but currently there is no trash. As for the house with the hole in the roof Seelig has contacted the property management company and advised them to take action. Building Inspector, Tom Millias, and Seelig will continue to keep an eye on his.

Monponsett Street

Mr. Co-Wallis of 597 Monponsett Street has written to the Board about numerous issues. Seelig has contacted the Building Inspector, Police Chief, Board of Health Agent and Highway Surveyor about the complaint that pertains to each ones department and is asking for their response. He has only received a response back for the Police Chief therefore will bring back to the Board at their next meeting on May 27th.

Talent Bank Form – Caroline Harrington

The Board received a talent bank form from the above individual expressing interest in serving on the Halifax in Lights and ADA Commission. Seelig has contacted the members of the ADA Committee and was told that they have not met in several years. He suggested that the Board could invite the current members of the committee as well as others who have expressed interest in serving on the ADA to see if they want to get it up and running again. Garron would like to wait until after May 27th.

Recycling Abatement

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted not to abate the recycling fee for Fiscal 2014 Bill #181.

Regional Emergency Planning

The Board has received a request to nominate one or two people for the regional emergency planning zone group. Seelig has notified both the fire and police chief and Chief Broderick stated that he would like to attend a few more meeting before making a commitment. Seelig will follow up with Chief Cuzzo.

Family Medical Leave Postponed – Antoinette Ross

Medical leave has been postponed for Ms. Ross for a later date. She is asking that the Board acknowledge the postponement so it could be on record.

Highway Vacation Carry Over

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted to allow four members of the union to carryover 40 hours vacation leave each from FY2014 to FY2015 as per their contract.

Massachusetts Selectmen's Association Workshop

On June 7th the MSA will be holding a workshop in Wrentham. This is open to all selectmen and for those who will like to attend they will need to RSVP.

Workers Compensation

A quote and agreement has been received from MIIA and is ready for a signature but before doing so Seelig would like to see what Ken Mann from Borhek Insurance comes in with.

BMI

BMI continues to pursue the town asking that we license through them so that we have permission from copyright owners to play their music publicly. The fee to do this \$327 and the only town Seelig is aware who has paid is Plymouth.

Affordable Housing Report

This report has already been completed and mailed a few months ago.

Last Drink OUI Report

The Attorney Generals office has issued the OUI reports from October thru December 2013 and January thru March 2014 and no establishments in Halifax were listed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to continued their meeting to the school gym to attend the Annual Town Meetings at 6:55 at 7:10 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm