

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013 - 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

Schleiff wanted to add a discussion on surplus vehicles.

With the above additions, the agenda for Tuesday, February 26th, was unanimously approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AFFIRMED COMMITMENT

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following commitment:

Ambulance Commitment # 12C \$ 908.61

APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #68:

| | | |
|----------------------|------|---------------|
| Payroll Warrant | # 68 | \$ 326,316.16 |
| Vendor Warrant | # 69 | \$ 262,266.95 |
| Withholding Warrant | # 70 | \$ 120,284.81 |
| Ambulance Commitment | # 2A | \$ 23,839.07 |

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| National Grid (service for Town Hall) | \$ 1,291.72 |
| Trident Insurance Comp. (deductable claim 7/18/12) | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Borhek insurance Agency (renewals for: general liability, property/im/crime/boiler, law enforcement, public officials liability) | \$ 100,158.00 |
| Newegg.com (1 HP OfficeJet Pro 8600) | \$ 293.90 |
| Cushman Insurance (auto policy 2/10/13-2/10/14) | \$ 52,317.00 |
| Roberts Roofing & Construct. (repairs to police station roof) ... | \$ 1,300.00 |
| The Hartford (accident policy 2/10/13-2/10/14) | \$ 8,434.73 |

The board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending February 23, 2013 in the amount of \$5,988.02.

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

| <u>TURNOVER</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 2013-58 | \$ 8,956.48 |

Roy wanted to mention the thank you card the board received from Mrs. Adams and a couple of other residents who used the shelter during the blizzard.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Medical Marijuana

Seelig had has drafted two articles for a possible by-law change. The Board was asked if they want to revise it and if so he would like it done this evening due to the time limitation. The best date to hold the STM would be April 8th. Garron stated that he has read it and does not have a problem with the way it is written. Schleiff asked how many articles would be on the warrant and Seelig said there would be two.

Seelig did receive an email from a resident who was in favor of having the dispensary in the business district. Other than that he has not received any other emails or phone calls.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously agreed to have a Special Town Meeting on April 8, 2013.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting that will be on April 8, 2013.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to include the articles that were presented this evening in the Special Town Meeting warrant that will be on April 8, 2013.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting that will be on April 8, 2013.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to send the articles that will be in the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to the Planning Board for their review.

Board of Selectmen Annual Report

Roy wanted to mention to Schleiff and Garron that the BOS report is in their folders for them to review.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT

Tim Watts – Taunton River Stewardship Council

Mr. Watts came in to update the board on what has been happening with the council as he is a designee for the town. He began by presenting the board with a sign (“Winnetuxet River”, “Wild & Scenic Taunton River”, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems”) that can be placed any where in town where the Taunton

River passes. He suggested putting on Rt. 105 and said if the town would like a couple more signs he can get them. He continued to say that there is some stuff going on in Taunton which is removing some dams and building a fish ladder to restore the herring up at Lake Sabbatia. The dam located on Rt. 106 in East Bridgewater that crosses the Satucket River is falling down and the fish ladder needs to be fixed. To fix the dam will cost a quarter million dollars so before they fix the fish ladder the dam needs to be done. Mr. Watts seems to think that this will get done as Nature Conservancy and Mass Audubon want to see it completed. Once this area is fixed this will bring up the Satucket River with the hope it will get the fish up to Monponsett which then will push Brockton to manage the water. The Nature Conservancy has talked with the owner of the dam and they are willing to work out a deal and maybe buy some property from the owner to resolve the issue with the dam. The owner was unresponsive so the Division of Marine Fisheries has stepped in to take a more active role as they have the authority to do so and a letter has been sent to the him and now waiting for a response. They really don't like to do that but it has been made known that a lot of people want to see this done.

Garron asked if it would help if the board wrote a letter to Brockton letting them know that organizations are working very diligently to get the herring back up to Monponsett pond and the reason he asked Mr. Watts this is because at this time the town is working with Brockton on another issue regarding the Monponsett Pond. He said that the board's major issue with Brockton is the lack of water flow and is hoping with Mr. Watts efforts combined with the town's concerns things will start moving in the direction that they all want to see happen. Mr. Watts said that he very much is aware of the fish ladder and the lack of water flow on the Monponsett as he goes there quite often and there is just mud there and continued to say that once the fish start coming the city will have to manage the water to allow the fish to come and go. This then will involve the Division of Fisheries and they can directly step in to get Brockton to cooperate with everyone involved.

He also mentioned that there are grants available through the council to do projects that are related to the river and asked how to get the word out. Seelig said just being here this evening on local cable has gotten the word out to the viewers. Garron thoughts were to use grant money to conduct a study showing that the water is not flowing. Roy added that they can let the Monponsett Watershed Association know about these grants. Mr. Watts told the board that if anything comes in that is in relation to river to please contact him and he will help out in any way he can. He wanted to add that the summer of 2011 he did the Wampanoag canoe passage which started at the North River and when he came down to the dam into Stumpbrook there was no water just mud and he had to drag his canoe for about quarter to a half a mile. This is a regular occurrence as he has done this several times since then.

The Board thanked him for coming in and said that they appreciate him representing Halifax on the council.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**Bid Results for Surplus Vehicles**

Today was the deadline to receive bids on three surplus vehicles. Listed below is what was received.

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 2009 Crown Victoria | min. bid \$5,000 | Chicago Motors, Inc. | \$ 2,607 |
| | | Grace Quality Used Cars | \$ 2,141 |
| | | Yousef Dabbagh | \$ 2,050 |
| 2008 Dodge Charger | min. bid \$5,500 | Chicago Motors, Inc. | \$ 5,007 |
| | | Grace Quality Used Cars | \$ 5,665 |
| | | Yousef Dabbagh | \$ 3,000 |
| 2006 Crown Victoria | min. bid \$4,000 | Chicago Motors, Inc. | \$ 4,507 |
| | | Grace Quality Used Cars | \$ 2,747 |
| | | Yousef Dabbagh | \$ 800 |

Seelig recommends that the board award the 2008 Dodge Charger to Grace Quality, the 2006 Crown Victoria to Chicago and re-bid the 2009 Crown Victoria asking for a minimum bid of \$ 2,500.

Schleiff was wondering why there was no hit on the 2009 Crown Victoria. as it is newer then the 2006 and Seelig could not explain why. He said to go with Seelig's recommendation to re-bid and go off 15% if he could. With that being said Roy questioned that if we go 15% under and we spend money to advertise it may not be worth it.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to award the 2008 Dodge Charger to Grace Quality Used Cars and the 2006 Crown Victoria to Chicago.

Schleiff wanted to mention that there is a hovercraft down at the barn and it appears that parts have disappeared from it. Roy asked who was taking the parts and Schleiff stated that he does not know and said that there is no gate down there. He just wanted to bring it up and suggested that the vehicles should be kept in a secure place.

Ambulance Abatements

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

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-------------|
| January 2013 | FOR | \$ 8,378.41 |
|--------------|-----|-------------|

Monponsett Pond

The Monponsett Watershed Association has reviewed that the statements that were made the meeting on February 19th and would like to meet the selectmen on April 2nd but seeing as the Board does not meet that week they decided on meeting with them on April 9th.

Walnut Street

Shannon Hadorn has written again to reiterate the traffic problems on Walnut Street and that the project to repave must move forward. In addition she is asking that traffic enforcement be stepped up. Schleiff said that the Traffic Study Committee has recommended putting in for a grant or submitting an article at town meeting to get an electric speed sign. Garron thought we had one and asked if it was broken and if so suggested to get it fixed and if not get a new one. Schleiff stated that the thought we shared it with Plympton. Seelig will check with Highway on this.

Capital Planning Committee – Applicant Kendra Kelly

Ms. Kelly has submitted a talent bank showing interest to serve on the capital planning committee but seeing as she is an employee of the town she is unable to serve on this committee.

Odie Policy

Seelig has written up a straightforward policy for the Board to review and be voted on at their next meeting.

Clean up Day

Highway Surveyor, Bob Badore has no problem with either April 20th or the 27th for clean up day. Seelig suggested going with the later date to avoid conflict with spring vacation.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the board unanimously voted to have April 27, 2013 as clean up day.

Schleiff asked about advertising and Seelig said that he has an email list, will put on the town's website, advertise on cable and he will keep reminding the audience during the upcoming board meetings. Garron also stated that if individuals wanted to organize a group in their neighborhood they could do that and the town will be by to pick up the trash that they have collected.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT (CONTINUED)

Housing Authority

Housing Authority Director, Elaine Dolan; Old Colony Planning Council delegate, John Mather and Housing Authority member Martha Smith came in this evening to talk about the proposed legislation to regionalize state's local housing authority that was filed in January by Governor Patrick. Ms. Dolan began by saying that this proposed legislature will completely change the Housing Authority program as we know it. The governor is proposing that 241 Housing Authorities fall under six regional Housing Authorities which will be run by boards. If this was to happen there no longer will be any local control and stabilization money. Her major concern is the tenants and pointed that last storm they had a great system in place; they checked on each other, had generators, heat and food it worked out wonderful and this will not happen if they were to regionalize. She continued to say that they are a small family of twenty eight housing units and the HA supports families with section eight and they do a big

job for a small place. In addition they have an active tenant association that helps out immensely by getting things done around the area and these small projects will no longer get done if they regionalize.

Roy noticed in the proposal that they could create a commission and asked if this was correct. Mr. Mather explained that the governor's proposal will eliminate all Housing Authorities boards (over one thousand citizen volunteers) in the commonwealth and replace them with six regional housing authorities. These regional Housing Authorities will have a nine member board appointed by the governor and will be in charge of about forty communities. In addition the board will report directly under the control of the Department of Housing Community Development.

- Three of these commissioners would be appointed by the governor from a list of recommendation from the municipalities within that region.
- Two appointees will be recommended from the tenant associations.
- One appointee would be a recommended from labor councils to the governor.

Mr. Mather pointed out there is no balance if you have forty communities and three communities are going to be recommending numerous appointees.

The local municipality would be able to create a five member advisory board but they have no authority or any say of what can be adopted. Mr. Mather continued to say that the structure would be very different than what it is now.

Mr. Mather went on to tell the board that the governor created a commission to do a study he then took their recommendations and turned to the Department of Housing and Development for their recommendation. He said that in the commissioner report there was nothing mentioned about regionalizing housing authorities but it did state working with the existing housing authorities to address issues.

Mr. Mathers said at this time the Halifax Housing Authority has a five member board four who are appointed within the community and one appointed by the governor, which is Mr. Mathers. He continued to say that if there is a problem with the housing they can call the director (Elaine) or any member of the board and the issue is addressed in a timely manner and right now they have the authority as to the way our housing authority is run and when there are discussions regarding housing the HA is there to discuss it. He also wanted to point out that the HA played an important role in helping develop the production plan for the community.

What Mr. Mathers and the HA is hoping for is that there are three other bills; House Bill #1094, #1145 and Senate Bill #612 that are being presented will pass. These bills entail readjusting and relining the priorities within the authority and the accountability standards, which is different from the governor is proposal, which has a massive effect on jobs being lost.

Roy asked if they had the support of Tom Calter (he was suppose to be here tonight and Roy called him) and he said yes. Garron asked if the reasoning for this was to revamp the organization to make it run smother or to save money. Mr.

Mather's thinks his plan is to tighten up the industry but in his honest opinion he does not think this will pass and said that he does not think the governor's motives are bad and wants to believe that the governor wants to see good, strong healthy Housing Authorities doing a good job but stated that the buildings are getting older and more maintenance is needed and eliminating housing authorities is not going to help that aspect of it.

Roy asked how the board could support them and Mr. Mather said they could help by sending a letter supporting House Bill #1094, #1145 and Senate Bill #612 and oppose House #44 and requesting that our state representative and senator join them. He added that if the governor's bill passes the public housing will be gone and there is no indication that what is being proposed is going to be better or as good as it is now.

Mr. Mather brought up the many people (Dot Landry, Tom Fitzgerald, Lee Mulready) who have put a lot of time into the Halifax Housing Authority and helped make it what it is. Ms. Dolan stated that she has been here in Halifax for twenty seven years and has worked in Marshfield along side Mr. Mather. She said that this is not just their jobs they are talking about but for the tenants this is everything. Garron agrees and supports what they are saying and it bothers him that the government would pick on the Housing Authority when we have the cluster with the drug labs as no one was ever seeing what was going on there and at least with the local boards there people overseeing them. Mr. Mather thought that was a great point as that was an oversight by the state office and look what happened so what makes you think six regional authorities are going to oversee 241 communities.

At this time Roy received a phone call from Tom Calter and stepped away.

Schleiff stated that he went to a dedication at Salem Towers in Malden and commended what a local organization can do and that the building was beautiful tenants were grateful and they had numerous volunteers. He continued to say that he has worked with contractors over the years on number of housing projects and could not tell you the nightmares he has seen and that local communities tend to stay focus on their community.

Mr. Mather wanted to comment on the above statement by Schleiff saying that it works better if you have local support and involvement and he does not think you are going to find that in an regional approach where the management office that is overseeing Halifax is forty miles away. Garron brought up that there could be a political pull such as if so called and a certain HA needed a repair then that facility may get priority first as opposed to another one that may have requested before that one.

Roy returned

Roy stated that she spoke with Tom Calter and he apologized as he came this evening but went upstairs because that is where the last couple of BOS meetings have been. He was told the meeting was cancelled from another group that was upstairs but it was the Board of Assessor's meeting. Mr. Calter did tell Roy that he is very much in support of the housing authority's goals and that he will be fighting on their behalf. In closing Schleiff said if the state had had a good track record with consolidating he would think more on this but he has not seen a lot

and that he whole heartily supports their efforts and appreciates all the work that the HA and their volunteers do.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to out legislatures and to the governor's office stating that they support the three bills; two by the house and one by the senate and that they are against House Bill #44 as written.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)

Citizens Equal Right Alliance

The board has been invited to attend a meeting in connection with the Wampanoag's' proposal for a casino in Taunton on March 2nd. This is just an invitation and no action is needed from the board.

Ed Doherty

The board was given the latest email from Mr. Doherty.

Trash Contract

Seelig is working with Susan Johnson on the specs for the next trash contract. Schleiff asked seeing as Howland does private pick up on different days then maybe the town could save the town money if Howland were to do both town and private pick ups on the same days. Seelig stated that the town pays a straight fee.

Application for COA Van Grant

Seelig is recommending that the Chair sign the application on behalf of the board.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board voted to have the Chair, Kim Roy, sign on behalf of the board the grant application for the new COA van.

Surplus Equipment

The COA has a printer/copier that no longer works. Seelig has been told by our IT consultant that the repairs will cost more than the cost of a new machine.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board unanimously declared a HP Officejet 6500 printer/copier as surplus.

Surplus Vehicle – 2009 Crown Victoria

Seelig is recommending setting a minimum bid on the above vehicle at \$2,500. Garron stated that he would just like to see the car gone.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the board unanimously voted to re bid the 2009 Crown Victoria requesting that a minimum bid of \$2,700 be met.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Before going into executive session Roy wanted to clarify that this discussion can be held in public of executive session and that either party can have someone speak on their behalf and that any witnesses can attend. She also wanted to state that this is just on the complaints and not job performance.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss complaints from Barbara Gaynor and Ann Marie Brown and for Police Chief negotiations:

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

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. with no motion made.

Michael J. Schleiff
Clerk

/pjm