

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
 SELECTMEN MEETING  
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 - 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, September 10<sup>th</sup>, was unanimously approved without revision.

**AFFIRMED WARRANT**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 19	\$ 228,791.10
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**APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitment and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department Payroll in warrant #20 and Garron seconded on that vote:

Payroll Warrant	# 20	\$ 323,781.75
Vendor Warrant	# 21	\$ 180,585.26
Withholding Warrant	# 22	\$ 119,499.16
Ambulance Commitment	# 8B	\$ 18,759.22
Mobile Home Park Fee	# 09	\$ 5,160.00

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

Jordan on the Job (Schindler/exam & Peck/physical-fire).....	\$ 520.00
Gatehouse Media MA (tax classification ad) .....	\$ 67.20
Dannie L. Brown, Jr. Electric (1 UPS system for repeaters paid from 11/17/08 & 6/5/10 claims) .....	\$ 5,150.00
Michael C. Gilman, Esquire (legal services/July).....	\$ 46.25
Attorney Lawrence P. Mayo, P.C. (legal services/August) .....	\$ 412.50
Halifax Postmaster (mailing 9/23/13 STM Warrant).....	\$ 1,003.39
Commercial Boiler Systems, Inc. (payment from deductible for 2/9/13 claim/Halifax Elementary) .....	\$ 3,828.16

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending:

September 7, 2013                      FOR              \$ 6125.78

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-13	\$ 15.00
2014-14	\$ 1,283.80

## **GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS**

### Police Range

The Police Chief has proposed construction of a shooting range for the Police Department off Lingan Street near the ball field. Seelig has forwarded his request to the Fire Department, Water Department and the Youth and Recreation Commission asking for their input. The Water Superintendent has concerns as how close the range will be to the wells and whether DEP will approve. Garron thought that it was close to the lake. Seelig suggested that the Board could meet with Chief Broderick at their next meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Plymouth County Solid Waste Regional Initiative Symposium

The symposium is in Weymouth on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Seelig has asked Highway and Recycling if someone is going but if not he stated that he will probably attend.

### Emergency Declaration for Fire Alarm System

The Bureau of Accounts has approved the emergency declaration. Also Superintendent Tuffy has sent a thank you to everyone involved.

### FEMA Floodplain Maps Workshop

There will be a workshop regarding floodplain maps in Lakeville on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Building Inspector, Tom Millias will be attending.

### South Shore Workforce Investment Board

Seelig received a letter from Quincy Mayor, Thomas P. Koch, asking that the Board sign the Local Elected Officials Agreement (oversees workforce development initiatives in the area). The investment board is a policy setting board and the agreement states that Thomas P. Koch will serve as Chief Elected Official and will fulfill the CEO requirements according to the Workforce Investment Act. There are no time-wise or financial responsibilities for the Town of Halifax.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to support the Local Elected Officials Agreement and have the Chair, Troy Garron, sign the agreement.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS*****Tax Classification Hearing***

At 7:45 p.m., the Board convened a Public Classification Hearing for the purpose of allocating the local property tax levy among the four property classes for Fiscal Year 2014. Present for the hearing was Principal Assessor/Appraiser Suzan Duggan; Assessors Holly Merry, Thomas Millias and John Shiavone.

The following was discussed:

1. Single Tax Rate

Duggan explained to the BOS that they could vote on a single or split rate and if a split rate was voted it would drive business out of town and would not reduce the homeowner's tax rate enough to make a difference. Garron stated that basically there have been no major changes in the town and that is the reason for a high tax rate. Duggan said it is also because of the lack of commercial and industrial base and debt exclusion and said the last residential revalue went down 1%. Schleiff was fine with the single rate. The Board of Assessors recommended continuing with the single tax rate.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to support a single tax rate for all classes.

2. Open Space Discount

Duggan stated the Town does not have any properties categorized as open space. The Board of Assessors did not recommend a separate "open space" tax classification.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted not to grant a discount on open space.

3. Residential Exemption

Given that the Town does not have a large seasonal population; the Board of Assessors did not recommend this exemption.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted not to adopt a residential exemption.

4. Small Commercial Exemption

Duggan pointed out that the property owners (and not the business owners) generally benefit from this exemption. The Assessors did not recommend this exemption be granted.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted not to grant any small commercial exemption.

Roy mentioned to keep in mind that if retirement is raised then we might have to tap into the levy amount.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have Principal Assessor, Suzan Duggan, send the LA5 form electronically to the Department of Revenue.

**GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)****Monponsett Pond Sluice Gate**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Paul Collis asked Brockton to open the sluice gate at the dam based on preliminary data showing that keeping the sluice gate open decreases the algae count. Seelig has not seen anything from Brockton indicating whether they opened the sluice gate. This will be the topic of conversation with the Working Group at their meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Plymouth County Retirement Assessment**

Garron stated that he will be attending the meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> and suggested sending another letter to extend the assessment from 2030 to 2034. Roy said that part of her wants to stay on the current schedule because Halifax has prepared for it and we are going to be okay either way and still going to have to pay the money and that the unused tax levy money will be used to pay the increase. Schleiff would like to see it bumped to 2034 seeing as people are still hurting. Seelig suggested that in the letter it can state that the Board would like to extend till 2034 but if Halifax wants to pay sooner they can.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to extend the funding schedule for the system from 2030 to 2034 and include that the Town of Halifax has the option to pay off earlier.

**Fire Alarm System/Fire Watch/Youth and Recreation/Library**

The Youth and Recreation Commission will continue to have events during non-school hours and pay for the detail. There has been a concern about whether the Town should have these events because of liability issues even though there is a fire watch. Seelig said that it does not pose a liability with the insurance company because the town is doing what it is suppose to be doing and that is having a fire watch for any event that is going on at the school. Roy stated that she has talked to the fire chief and he felt confident that the kids are in the gym and that is where the fire watch will be. TRIAD will be having a meeting at the school and will pay for the fire watch. The Library no longer has any restrictions as the immediate work on its part of the alarm system has been completed.

**Contract – Flight Alarm Corporation**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to sign the contract between the Town of Halifax and Flight Alarm Corporation for the repairs and replacement of the fire alarm system at the Halifax Elementary School.

**Vacant Homes**

Denise Williamson of 712 Old Plymouth Street wrote to the Board to complain about the following conditions at the of two homes on Old Plymouth Street.

**706 Old Plymouth****➤ Swimming Pool/Standing Water**

Health Agent has been in contact with Bank of America (foreclosed) to have one or more of the following done: 1) put a cover over the pool; 2) drain pool; 3) put larvacide pellets in pool; Bank of America said that one or more of these should occur within the next few days

- Swimming Pool/Fence/Stepladder/Chair  
There was a stepladder and a chair by the chain link fence around the pool. The Building Inspector has put both on the inside of the fenced-in area rather than on the outside.
- Swimming Pool/Fence  
The Building Inspector says that the fence meets the Town's code concerning fences around swimming pools.

### **715 Old Plymouth Street**

This house is abandoned as evidence of the backyard being overgrown and the condition of the property confirms. Seelig stated that as far as he knows there are no violations. The house is closed to the elements and the Town does not have any by-law or regulations concerning the height of vegetation.

Seelig does not disagree that the appearance of the two properties is not helpful to the look of the Town and they are eyesores to the residents living nearby and passing motorists, but unless the Town approves a by-law that either sets up standards for properties with or without residents he does not believe that there is any action that the Town can take. He said that he can give Ms. Williamson a report of what the Building Inspector has done and she could submit a petition article for the Annual Town Meeting allowing the Town to take certain actions if certain criteria are not met regarding "junk /unkempt properties.

### Silver Lake Strategic Planning Meetings

Silver Lake, Halifax, Kingston and Plympton Public Schools will be designing a Strategic Plan for the future planning of the schools and their programs. There are four meetings scheduled over the next four weeks and are asking interested parents, grandparents and community members to join them.

### Signature Authority for Board of Selectmen

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have Troy E. Garron as the authorized signer for Selectmen Payroll and Kim Roy as the alternate.

### FMLA Leave

Janet Barbati has requested FMLA leave to take care of a family member. She is qualified and is obtaining the necessary paperwork from her provider. No action is needed from the Board tonight and Seelig expects to bring back to the BOS on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Halifax Assistive Technology

The HAT Board will make a request later this fall to meet with the Selectmen about making selectmen's meetings (and others) more accessible.

### Signature Authority for Youth & Recreation Trust

Schleiff asked what the trust was and Seelig explained that money was given to the town from the developer of Highland Woods when it was approved. He stated that the trust is a three person Board and believes that it was in the amount of \$250,000. Schleiff said that he has been the signatory for a couple of years. Seelig suggested continue having Schleiff be the signer. Roy agreed but thought

by statute it was the Chair of the BOS but it did not matter to keeping as is. Schleiff mentioned that it was not changed it when Roy was the Chair.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have Michael J. Schleiff as the authorized signer for Youth & Recreation Payroll, even though the trust does not submit any payroll.

#### Use of Town Green – Boy Scouts

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board approved a request from Jeffrey Boltz asking if the for the Boy Scouts can put a lawn sign in front of the Town Hall announcing Halifax Cub Scout Pack 239 fall sign up and registration.

#### State 911 EMD Training Grant

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair, Troy E. Garron, sign the FY2014 State 911 EMD Training Grant.

#### Ambulance Abatements from Old System

The Collector is requesting to abate the following amounts that were on the old computer system:

2008	\$ 191,279.09
2009	\$ 188,608.43
2010	\$ 125,349.51
2011	\$ 4,879.68

Seelig would like to check with the Collector and Accountant to see if there is a list of specific bills and whether any of those bills could be liened and collected at a future date. The Town Accountant will provide Seelig with more information and will report back to the Board in two weeks.

#### MA Selectmen's Association Annual Meeting

On October 5<sup>th</sup> the MSA will be holding a fall conference in Franklin, MA. Pre-registration required.

#### Algae Problem in Monponsett Pond

Faith Pasternak, President of the Halifax Beach Association, would like to know what the Town is doing to address the algae problem in the ponds. Seelig is going to let her know that the Monponsett Working Group is meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> and she is welcome to attend. He also will check with Lycott regarding the next treatment.

#### Picnic Table at Boat Ramp

Resident, Mark Valentine, called the office this afternoon regarding a picnic table that has been placed at the boat ramp. To Seelig's knowledge no one from the Town has authorized the placement of a picnic table there and has asked the Highway Department to move it to either the Highway Department or to the lawn behind Town Hall. Garron said that it is a nice gesture but this may cause an issue. Schleiff suggested pulling it out when the docks are taken out and store it with the docks. Roy agreed with Garron about it being a nice idea but is this would be another thing for the town to maintain in terms of picking up the trash that may be left behind by those using the table. Garron made an announcement

to the viewing audience that whoever put the picnic table at the boat ramp could they come pick it up and if it is not there to pick it up at the Highway Department.

Loose Manhole/340 Plymouth Street

A resident has stopped by the by Selectmen's Office to complain about a loose manhole by 340 Plymouth Street. Seelig is uncertain if it is a matter of filling in around it to stop it from moving when trucks go over it or some other measure need to be taken. He has notified the notified the Highway Department and they said they would take a look at it.

Live Entertainment – Nick Renna

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to grant a live entertainment permit to Nick Renna of 40 Thirteenth Avenue for Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2014 Recycling Fee Abatements

*Vacant Home – Homeowner Deceased*

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted not to abate Bill #1031 on the basis that the home came be inhabited at any time. Schleiff abstained from the vote.

*Seasonal Homes – Proof Provided*

Water Department has confirmed that the water is shut down for at least six (6) months.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted to abate \$19 from Bill #994 and #995 on the basis it is a seasonal home. Schleiff abstained from the vote.

*Private Hauler*

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted not to abate Bill #2068 and #2493.

If the resident can get a letter from the private recycling hauler stating that their program is equal to the Town of Halifax then the request can be resubmitted.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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Kim R. Roy  
Clerk

/pjm