

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 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:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

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

Regular Session – September 23, 2013

AFFIRMED WARRANTS

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #40:

Payroll	# 40	\$ 345,202.72
Vendor Warrant	# 41	\$ 36,825.25
Withholding Warrant	# 42	\$ 130,785.41

APPROVED WARRANT/COMMITMENTS

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

Vendor Warrant	# 43	\$ 250,348.89
Ambulance Commitment	# 10C	\$ 908.61
Ambulance Commitment	# 11A	\$ 16,031.39

APPROVED BILLS

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

National Grid (service for Town Hall).....	\$ 768.49
National Grid (service for concession stand).....	\$ 25.55
MMA (conference/K. Roy/Jan. 24 th & 25 th)	\$ 189.00
Matthew Bender & Co., Inc. (MA law books).....	\$ 348.31
CNA Surety (bond policy #68465199)	\$ 737.97

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

November 16, 2013 FOR \$ 6,034.11

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-33	\$ 125.00
2014-34	\$ 595.00
2014-35	\$ 3,150.00
2014-36	\$ 475.00
2014-37	\$ 1,250.00
2014-38	\$ 1,250.00
2014-39	\$ 255.00
2014-40	\$ 125.00
2014-41	\$ 1,250.00
2014-42	\$ 100.00
2014-43	\$ 5,000.00
2014-44	\$ 1,250.00
2014-45	\$ 220.00
2014-46	\$ 700.00

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Multi Family Development – Springer Construction

An application from Springer Construction has been filed with ZBA for 61 apartments. This and will not be a 40B project but will be using the property where 40B projects were previous proposed. They are proposing to have their own waste water treatment plant for the septic. Seelig wanted the Board aware of it in case they have questions and/or want to attend the hearing on December 9th.

Holidays in Halifax Fireworks

Again this year there is going to be fireworks which Mike Egan will be funding once more. Even though he is paying for the display and the fire detail all payments from him will be going into a gift account and the town will make the payments to the fireworks company with the funds we receive from Mr. Egan.

Schleiff asked who gave him permission to do fireworks and Seelig said the Fire Chief. Schleiff thought it should have gone through the executives to at least talk about it. Garron said that Halifax in Lights committee gets the contracts then the Board signs the contracts because they are being paid for by the town but because they are donated funds he did not think it needed to be... Schleiff thought that it was the same process we went through last year and now has circumvented and stated that this is kind of unusual compared to what went on last year. Seelig explained that we had Mr. Egan come before the BOS last year to explain his intentions and that this is pretty much the same as last year's event and if they want Mr. Egan to come in it can be arranged. Roy asked if it was necessary and Garron said he is satisfied that the Fire Chief is using sound judgment as whether it would be a danger to anyone plus the fireworks and fire and police expenses will be paid by a private entity. He continued to say that where it is not town money he does not think it falls within the Board's parameter but if the board wants him to come in that is fine. Schleiff said that it is being done in the town and felt that it was odd to have the fire works and not have the Board have a say in it.

Roy explained that last year Mr. Egan came in because it was the first time and continued to say that the fireworks last year were well received and she is comfortable not needing the Fire Chief or Mr. Egan come in.

Seelig explained that Holidays in Halifax Committee does not go through the BOS for the little things they do for the event. He had sent this information out through email last Friday and did not get any responses from the Board and if they wanted Mr. Egan to come in this evening he would have set it up. Garron then asked the Board if they wanted Mr. Egan to come in and Roy said no and Schleiff said he did not either but if the email was sent out last Friday there was not a lot of time to act on it.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Richard Prone – Return of the Weekend Commuter Rail

Mr. Prone, resident of Duxbury, came in this evening asking the Board for a letter of support to bring back the weekend service to the Kingston/Plymouth line. Mr. Prone began by thanking the Board for letting him come in this evening and continued to say that about sixteen months ago the MBTA stopped weekend and holiday commuter rail service on the Kingston/Plymouth line resulting in towns along that line losing access to the City of Boston. There seems to be a growing consensus among the area legislators and residents that the T unfairly discriminated against the South Shore with this action. He stated that he is a retired Amtrak and MBCR locomotive engineer and served on both the Old Colony & Greenbush Citizens Advisory Committees. He continued to say that this line is a beautiful line taking only forty five minutes in the morning from here to Boston. He is trying to get letters from the surrounding towns asking that the trains be reinstated and request that maybe they provide free weekend parking, better scheduling and bring back the family fares. At one point it cost \$3.25 to Boston now it is \$9.00 and \$4.00 to park. Roy asked if the fares are comparable to the Middleboro line and Mr. Prone said they were.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support to MassDOT and cc our representative and the Secretary of Transportation requesting the reinstatement of the weekend commuter rail.

The Board thanked Mr. Prone for coming in.

Katherine Swain – Trailer Permit Extension

Ms. Swain came in his evening to ask for a ninety day extension on her trailer permit. The Building Inspector has recommended a one hundred-eighty day extension but the maximum the Board can approve is ninety days. If another extension is needed after this one then the applicant will have to go through the whole process as she did for the first extension.

Ms. Swain began by saying that she just received the check from the insurance company a couple of weeks ago therefore causing a hold up on building. Garron asked if ninety days will give her enough time to rebuild and she stated that she has been told that it will take three months to build after demolition. Garron reiterated that ninety days is the most the Board could give her at this time. Roy asked what would be ideal for her and stated again three months after demolition, which will be in two weeks, so three months two weeks.

Seelig explained that if she was to go for another extension after this one she would not have to put the notification in the newspaper as he will post on the town's website but she will have to notify the abutters through certified mail. He

added that everything takes longer than anticipated but wanted Ms. Swain to know the next part of the process just in case.

Schleiff stated he was comfortable with the extension and Garron added that She should take everything into consideration as anything can happen such as inclement weather or other hold ups.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to approve a ninety (90) day extension of the renewal of Building Permit #13-20 for a temporary trailer to be used for residential purposes on property located at 17 Buttonwood Road. This extension of the renewal begins on December 27, 2013 and expires on March 26, 2014.

Fiscal 2015 Budget Discussion

Department Heads and the Finance Committee met with the BOS this evening to discuss the FY2015 budget. Seelig began by saying that last year they did not use the whole tax levy and reason was that they expected a large increase in retirement assessment for FY15. Roy added that they did not go to the levy limit for two years. Seelig continued to say things are better then what they were a few years ago but we are still not up to snuff. We are in a position this current year that if you take the current FY2014 budget and make a few adjustments to it the following options could be considered:

- a policy decision that might say cut everyone's budget or
- give everyone step increases not across the board but the mandated increase that are in the W&P by-law or the ones that are in the contracts or
- a policy decision that might say we will finance the step increases but will have to cut back some place else.

Seelig stated that looking at the bottom line of the handout there is almost \$400,000 to spend and where or not to spend. He knows that the Finance Committee met last night thinks that their strategy is to leave some money on the table this coming year. There is long list of capital items and we need to decide if we are going to use operating funds to pay for them. Seelig brought up the point that the school is 20 years old but things have been put on the back burner and now there is a list of equipment and supplies that need to be purchased. In addition other departments may need numerous things. Financially we are fine if you want to be able to do something we have some money to do those things but the question is how much you want to burden the taxpayers, where do you want to spend and what programs do you want to fund? All this is subject to discussion this and the bottom line is that we are a better position then we were a couple of years ago.

Roy

She was hoping that the BOS would have had this discussion beforehand but they have not so what she is saying is just her opinion. She thought that FinCom made a great decision not to go to the levy two years ago and this was done because we recognized that people were having a hard time with their tax bills and we wanted to relieve them but still continue the business of the town. We understand that the department heads had to more with a little less. Last year the decision was made not to go to the levy limit because we know the retirement thing was going forward. Even though we look like we are in a good position it is her opinion not

to go out and spend all the money. Maybe we need to talk funding the retirement so that we are not hit in a couple of years. Like Seelig mentioned we have not funded our capital budget and knows that there is a large ticket item coming up in a couple years so it might make sense to put some money toward that. She suggested thinking about steps being funded. We know that our Silver Lake assessment will be going up \$100,000 and this will take up some of the money. It is going to be hard to keep the levy where it is because if we were to go to the full levy taxpayers will be shocked and that will not be fair. Also she would like everyone to think about the computer system at the Town Hall which needs to be looked at from a capital stand point and being able to keep our bonds payments within the levy.

Schleiff

Stated that things are still tight and asked if anyone knew how many residents are on a fixed income because they are the ones who are going to get pinched and asked that everyone keep that in mind. He also asked department heads that if they could keep going with what they had for another year that would help the taxpayers.

Garron

Wanted to congratulate all the department heads and elected officials who have taken the time to look at their budgets. He thinks that we need to do the same this coming year and be frugal because an emergency can come up at any time. He wants to make sure that all departments and facilities are in good working order and that there is enough money to do it.

Gordon Andrews, Finance Committee Member

Last night the Finance Committee met and voted to level fund the operating cost, fund step increases. They are not at the point to talk about an increase across the board for employees.

Roy

Basically it is the same as last year where you asked department heads to level fund ...

Andrews

FinCom's idea to have a closer relationship with the liaisons then previous years so that if there are changes they can talk about it and see if it is a real need to fund. A vote was not taken but they talked about funding a 4% annual increase in the retirement fund then possibly take the 10% out of what was left on the table. Roy asked if they were proposing what she said and try funding retirement at what it would have been. Andrews said no, what we discussed was possibly taking the 10% increase out of what was left on the table out of \$225,000.

Roy

And then collect the rest of it this years levy and Gordon said yes. Roy stated that lets say postage goes up for the tax collector as this is something she cannot avoid therefore the Finance Committee should not give her a hard time about as this. Andrews said what they would do is see if there was another line item that could be adjusted and if there isn't then they would talk about it.

Garron asked if the Finance Committee would be giving the BOS anything in writing of what their recommendation would be and Stuart Hall said that they could send the Board the minutes.

Andrews

If we did spend all the money that was available and go to the full levy it would be approximately a 4% increase to the tax bills, which would be a \$200 increase in the tax bill that is if we go to. Last night we also talked about the retirement and the SL increase, which would be approximately \$93,000. Roy mentioned steps and Gordon said \$100,000 for that and they could decided to fully fund retirement the 20/30 level and that is an issue that would be up for discussion as we are either going to pay it now or pay it later and at some point we are going to see a large jump in the retirement cost.

Roy

We purposely left money on the table to fund and she said that she does not want to take away from a department that needed something and have them suffer to support the retirement. She continued to say that over the years to protect services we haven't stuck to our capital plan and now have felt the effects of that but we are trying to get back on the plan because not maintaining buildings will cost you more in the long run. She does recognize the burden that may be put on the tax payers but also wants to provide services to them.

Garron

The fact is that the burden is always on the taxpayers and we have to maintain any money the town is getting back whether it is from the State or Federal government. We are working with county commissioners on ways to cut fees on trash pick up and retirement board is looking to maybe bond out. It is important that the public knows that we do care and if anyone at home wants to serve on FinCom or Capital Planning to please call the Selectmen's Office.

Andrews

Wanted the department heads know that FinCom did not finalize the liaison list but will at their next meeting and their secretary will send the list to the department heads.

Garron and Schleiff asked department heads if there were any big items that they foresee needing in there near future.

John Tuffy, School Superintendent

The Middle School was built in 2005 and the High School in 2006 and at this time they are being faced with some long term items that they knew would need replacing/fix. Such as the track which has a polyethanane surface has a limited life and catch basins throughout the site need to be cleaned. Roy asked if the frameworks were changing in the elementary school and he said that they would be looking at text book replacement next year but not as much as this year as the sixth grade math curriculum has changed this year and next year they need to change the ELA curriculum to match the current State frameworks. The change is not as extreme as it was last year.

Barbara Brenton, COA Director

Asked if the COA renovation does not pass at Town Meeting will they be able to add it to the capital plan?

Roy

Wanted update everyone and tell them that there have been plans developed for the addition and an architect has been hired to look at building to see if it can be expanded seeing as a new building had failed. The concept is complete and he is

still working on the drawings and once done we can see how much it will cost for the renovation. It is not going to be a perfect senior center or what they hoped for but will be 8,000 sq. ft. which is something better than what they have now. She thinks that an article will be ready for 2014 Town Meeting and it will be up to the taxpayers to support the cost of the renovations and if it fails then we will have to come up with another plan.

Andrews

Suggested putting an insert of the capital items that did make it in the printed warrant so that the tax payers know what may be coming up in the future. Roy said this is a great idea as it will show the residents what it takes to run a town.

Fire Chief Carrico

The ladder truck will be refurbished instead of being replaced buying more time for a couple of years. Engine 2 is on the capital plan for this year but he has sent a email to the Capital Plan Committee recommending pushing it off for a couple of years and setting up a fund as it is going to be \$500,000. The 2008 ambulance is in good shape and they have not put too many miles on it and he recommends keeping it for another two years. There are a couple of minor things for capital expenses on the building. Floor has been redone and looks great.

Police Chief Broderick

His department is on track with the capital plan. The two cruisers will be needed in a couple of years and the roof has been taken care of.

Gerry Elliot, M&SBC

The buildings are in pretty good shape just the same items that need taken care of are coming up but other than that nothing major. Schleiff asked about replacement windows and asked if that is done on a year to year basis and Gerry said probably. Roy asked about the rubber roof at the elementary school but nothing was said.

Roy

She knows that Bob Badore has a truck that will be replaced this year as it has been years since anything major had been replace but we are trying to catch up on this capital plan. He plans on using Chapter 90 money to off set the cost of the truck.

Schleiff

Stated using Chapter 90 money once in while was okay but would not want to make a habit of it.

Sandy Nolan, Town Accountant

She explained that they would be is using town share of the Chapter 90 money but we still have the State share, which is over a million dollars.

Schleiff

Knows he is going to resurface part of Monponsett by the lakes which will take up a good portion of the funds. Seelig said that he thinks later this winter Badore will make a decision as to whether he wants to use State funding to do the reconstruction (town will have to put out the engineering money) or use the town's money for repaving the road without doing the reconstruction.

Andrews

Suggested adding the roads to the list of capital items just to make people aware of it. Garron stated that the roads are one of the main concerns of the residents as he has been approached by the people about this.

Schleiff

Asked about the water tank and how antiquated the computer system is in the Town Hall.

Seelig

Dick Clark met with the engineers for the work and he will be going out to bid in February and will have a firm numbers in March. The amount is going to increase because the bids were higher then what was brought in at last years Town Meeting. Schleiff mentioned that if that was to happen it will affect the water bill and in turn the taxpayer. As fro the computer system Seelig said that some work has been done this past summer and a new fire wall is in place and he hopes to have a new back up system and move over from Patrick Cable's email system. He explained that Patrick has been running the towns email off of him and doing it pro bono for quite a long time and the time has come that we need to do something different which again will cost money. His concern right now is getting a robust back up system and email service. Roy asked about the internet problems the COA has been having. Seelig said that we can change to a business account but that will double the price we are paying right now. Seelig understands that the computers/internet they keep going down and said that he does not worry about some of the departments such as the police and fire, as they have capable staff to handle IT and the library and school handles their own. Seelig worries about Town Hall, Highway, COA and Water Department. Again he hoping to get a more robust system hopefully this year if not next year but there is a couple pieces of technology that need to be replaced and the Comcast service needs to be upgraded , which will cost money.

Laurie Cavanaugh, Library Director

Stated that the library has been painted and new carpets installed. She has submitted some computers to the capital plan.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)**HOPS Playground Meeting**

Next Monday, December 2nd there will be a meeting in the Great Hall at 7:00 p.m. regarding the HOPS playground. The audience was asked that if any one wants to help or get involved to please attend. The intent is to replace the equipment that was there and will be using money in the gift account to do this but more will be needed to move forward. Seelig explained that the playground was built 20 years ago and it slowly has been falling apart but rapidity within the last few months and became a safety issue for the town. With that being said, Youth and Recreation Director, Dick Steele, met with the BOS a few weeks ago and got authorization to take it down.

Holiday in Halifax Wreaths

Seelig explained that there are two issues being discussed tonight one is that the board has received a petition from twenty-five residents requesting the following:

1. keep the character, quality & appearance of “Holiday in Halifax”
2. let the tradition continue by not commercializing it.
3. let the ambiance, festiveness & beauty of real evergreen wreaths be displayed
4. time to have Halifax in Lights & holidays in Halifax combine their efforts as one unified group for the best interest of the Town.

Seelig stated that on request #1 there was not any addition information given; #2 he thinks that maybe they are talking about possibly having food trucks and vendors at the elementary school; #3 there will be real wreaths displayed and #4 not sure what they exactly are asking for but would require a vote at Town Meeting as Holiday in Halifax is a by-law. Some of the people who signed the petition are here this evening as well as members of the Holidays in Halifax Committee. Garron then asked the members to come forward to update the Board on how the fundraising and planning for the event is going.

Joy Marble, Member of Holidays in Lights Committee

Began by saying that it is not a fundraising committee and as stated on the petition to combine the two committees she said that each one is different. Halifax in Lights is totally fundraising and Holidays in Halifax has a budget which we try and use that money for as many things as they can and if they can make a little bit of money to add new things then they would like to do it. Seeing as the event kicks off at 4:00 pm and you are not out of here till 8:30 and there is nothing to eat they are just trying to provide something for families.

Tania Massa, Member of Holidays in Lights Committee

Stated that these are suggestions that have been given to them and they have asked what would make this better or worst and people have spoken up stating that they would like something else then having to go to Halifax Pizza for something to eat. Most parents have to have their children over at the school early for them to perform in the concert not giving them time to eat then they don't home till after eight o'clock. That is prime dinner hours and the only thing they have to eat is the cookies, candy and other sweets. In past years Halifax pizza made a lot of money because that was the only close place within the buildings that served food and it was packed. So what she heard in the past when asking for donations from businesses was they would like the opportunity to sell food. These are townspeople supporting town businesses and no one is required to purchase anything it gives them the opportunity if they want to. Also artisans have asked about selling their crafts at the Holidays in Halifax because we used to have the craft fair and most of the crafters would make lots of money on that day but they do not have that opportunity anymore. You could but a beautiful item from local crafter or go online and by the same thing. This is giving local artisans some business and/or to showcase their stuff.

Roy

Stated that she talked with Tania about the food as she explained that are business that youth organizations go to for donations and they are great about supporting our children. She understands that parents do not want to have to drag their kids home to eat and the cookies and candy are great but it is not dinner.

Massa

I explained to you and Charlie we welcome people coming to us with questions, ideas and arguments as she wants to hear their point of view. We are approachable people. We did not know that there was a problem with anything until somebody brought a petition against this. We had a meeting and the only ones who attended were the fire and police chiefs, Ms. Roy, herself and Joy. Everyone was invited a copy of the email was sent and Charlie posted it all over town and we are the only people who showed up. It is impossible to call every individual who has been involved with this and ask for their opinion. Again we want people to come to our meeting with ideas and suggestions. As far as the wreaths were concerned it was brought to our attention that there was a large fluctuation in the price from year to year. We wanted to better understand the price of wreaths, what size, where they go. Not because we are trying to take away any responsibility or cut corners but to have the answers if someone was to ask why did you pay this much for wreaths this year and last year it was more or less. Kind of ridiculous if the committee does not have the answers to such questions and we do understand that everyone comes together and puts on a great event but we as a committee are ultimately responsible for the evening. We were just researching to see if it would be more economical to get artificial wreaths and compare it to real wreaths.

Marble

Heard that there is a shortage of wreaths this year and as of tonight these wreaths have not been ordered because she has not gotten a response to phone calls she has made or emails that have been sent.

Massa

We are reaching out to the people and are getting no responses. Decisions are made by those who show up and no one is showing up. I don't mind making the decisions but if someone has a question or concern suggestion please contact us. Sue Basile had emailed us asking that we do not go with artificial wreaths and I explained to her that we were trying to find out how much the wreaths were and I did give her a list of the fluctuation of price over the years. Joy has check on the change in prices and was told that it is because of the cost of pine. This was something we did not know but do now.

Marble

When she found out the percentage of savings she questioned if it was really worth it. At this point she does not have any communication so she is at a stand still.

Garron

Asked if there was a charge for the hayride and Tania not this time thanks to Joy but stated that it cost between \$750 and \$1,000 and said that there is no fee for the ride. That cost is taken out of our budget which is \$3,395.

Marble

There are things I have looked into to offer the kids. One thing over the past couple of years was the barn baby petting zoo and she can get that if she can save/raise enough money and the other thing was the hot kettle corn.

Garron

His personal point of view is that he would hate to see this become commercialized not saying that this going to happen but that is his opinion. He asked how many businesses are coming in and stated that if we get negative responses to having vendors that this should be something to take into consideration for next year. He is sorry that the committee did not get any feedback from the individuals who did not like some of the things that would be going on so that the BOS could have acted on it.

Massa

The time for discussion was couple of months ago when we had our meeting but no one showed up and it is very nerve wracking to say we are going to try this with the hope that they are not going to upset other people.

Garron

Stated that they should not concern them selves with that and do what they have to do because there are a lot of people who do not attend Town Meeting and then all of a sudden they see/hear something is going to happen and they are against it or they say they did know about it. So you are not the only ones who get this feedback. He does not want to commercial it but wants it to stay quaint. His opinion is that as long as what they are doing does not distract from what the event has previously been he would not have a problem but other people may.

Marble

We are all about tradition and keeping everything pretty much the same but wanted to add a few things and if not favorable then they can do something else.

Schleiff

Stated that the fireworks are not traditional.

Massa

The feedback we received from last years fireworks was unbelievable and I have been asked if there was going to be fireworks again as the people really enjoyed it. Once I received the call that Mr. Egan wanted to do it again I called Charlie asking what needed to be done. I then asked the Fire Chief and he said that he knew the procedure from last year.

Schleiff

So there are three vendors you are talking about and where are they setting up?

Massa

Grille 58, Bella's II and Relish the Dog and they will be setting up on the town green over by Hemlock Lane.

Sue Basile

Knows how hard it is as she has done this for many years but would love it to stay traditional as that is what people come to see. She thinks that the accountant's office could tell them previous costs for items. As far as they are talking about the school and the crafters it is her opinion that it was the PTO and they did it

over at the school and does not remember them doing it during their Holidays in Halifax event.

Roy, Marble and Massa stated that they still do that but it is done in the morning.

Massa

They do it during Santa's breakfast but there were a couple of years they had tables set up during the day up until the event. It was geared towards what children could buy for their parents.

Basile

This was suppose to be a family day for the residents of Halifax to come into our town buildings giving them the chance to meet the employees and have a nice stroll through the town with their families. Would hate to see it commercialized and they want to do fundraising that is fine but should not be done that day.

Roy

Not even during the day when we are selling things to the kids.

Basile

That was one of the things when we first started this was that no one was to sell anything that day.

Roy asked about the selling of items at the PTO breakfast and Basile said that was a separate entity and that they were doing that for years even before they started Holidays in Halifax.

Marble

So if prices go up on certain things and we want to add other things then we have to go to the taxpayers and ask for more money?

Schleiff

You would have to do more fundraising prior to the event not during the event.

Basile

You could do it in October or November but not on the second Saturday in December. I think that is asking a lot from the people and people don't want to be carrying things around with them if they are walking around for hours.

Seelig

No one is going to be forced to buy from the vendors. If people do not visit the food truck or the vendors and it is not successful then they will not want to be here next year.

Garron

As long as the food vendors have their permits they can sell their food any way. He was not belittling anything Sue had said but wanted to point that out. At this point it is a little late to change it up but will go forward with it and hopefully learn from it.

Massa

People voluntarily went to Halifax Pizza to eat and they can do the same here with the vendors. No one is required to buy the food or buy from the crafters and we explained to the food vendors and the crafters that this is new and you might not make a lot of money. Some crafters said that last year they did not sell a lot of stuff but business cards were taken and some are coming back this year.

Garron

Unless the Board has to take a vote he thinks that everything that had to be said was said and would like to conclude this discussion.

Schleiff

He understands where they are coming from. When you up here with kids they are ones asking the parents can I have this or that. He understands tradition and if the vendors are not there then the kids are dragging parents to buy so you are more in the spirit the holiday and they are distracted from the real intent of the evening as Sue said earlier. As for his fundraising aspects of course some money will be made but again it is the distraction.

Roy

Tasteful where the vendors will be as they will not be on the front lawn but tucked off to the side of the Town Green and like Troy said we will try it and if it doesn't work then it doesn't work.

Massa

This is not like a carnival where there is going to be a food truck every ten steps again we are open to discussion but we cannot read people's minds they have to come to our meetings. Our email and phones numbers are well known. Any questions that are asked we answer them right away. If people do not talk to us then their issues cannot be addressed. I was a little upset about the fact that no one approached either one of us with any of these concerns and dragged us out in front of the selectmen.

Schleiff

I do not know the intent of it. Sometimes you do not know something is going on until it is happening. The best thing would have been to talk about it.

Massa

Part of this is planning together and we would have planned together and taken in everyone's concern and give it consideration but there was only a few that came to our meetings.

Garron

Stated that the discussion needed to end because what was being said had already been said. He appreciates what they are doing and they'll give it a shot and see where it goes from there.

Marble

We offer our time for free we are volunteers and to be told that we are not doing a good job. We are trying to offer other things that are free.

Garron

I know that it is difficult but said do not take it as a personal attack upon you.

Marble

If someone wants to join the committee please do.

Seelig

Asked when and where is their next meeting.

Massa

December 9th at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Everybody is invited as always.

Schleiff

This is the first I heard of it. Yes maybe this could have been done in another or nicer way. I would not take it personal.

Massa

If it had been brought to our attention and we disregarded anyone's opinions then the petition was drawn up then I absolutely understand it but the fact is we are doing what we are suppose to be doing and doing it without suggestions, help or support.

Marble

Needs to know where they stand with the wreaths from Gerry.

Roy

Said that they know it is not easy to take on this task and they appreciate what the committee does for Holidays in Halifax and putting it on is a lot of work and understands the intent of keeping it traditional. She added that she knows that this event would not happen if they did not do it.

Marble asked if the wreaths were being ordered and hung up and Roy stated that they would have to have that conversation with Gerry.

Garron left the meeting at 9:20 p.m. There was a short recess and the meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

Community Paramedic Program

The Fire Chief has sent a memo about the above program, which is a paramedic who conducts home health care visits that is similar to the function of a home health aide or visiting nurse. EMS departments either locally or regionally will have partner with hospitals or accountable care organizations in order to receive reimbursement for medical cost. Because of this new system, EMS providers who do not participate in this program could possibly see up to a 50% reduction in ambulance revenue for 9-1-1 systems. The revenue stream would shift to preventative medicine rather than 9-1-1 response for medical patients. No action was needed from the board. The Chief will advise the Board as he receives updates.

Regional Shelter

Kingston Fire Chief Heath has contacted Chief Carrico about setting up a regional shelter at Silver Lake. Chief Heath will be requesting a three-town meeting to discuss the idea. Nothing is in place at this time Seelig just wanted the Board on notice of this notion.

Richard Pasquariello Class II License Revocation

A revocation hearing has been scheduled for December 10th for Mr. Pasquariello in connection with his Class II License due to delinquency of payment of taxes. As in the past, Mr. Pasquariello has come in before the hearing and made payment, which Seelig expects this will happen again.

Public Records Request

Seelig has received a public records request for information about compensation and health insurance status of selectmen. Seelig stated that there is a privacy issue and has drafted a response providing the salary and not health insurance and if acceptable to the Board will send it out later in the week. Both Roy and Schleiff were fine with him sending the letter.

Halifax Cultural Council

The Halifax Cultural Council has not been meeting and the grant applications for the current cycle have piled up. Patricia McPherson, who was appointed in September, has decided to resign. At this time there are currently five members with two whose terms expire in December and cannot be reappointed because they have served two consecutive terms. Seelig is recommending that the Board appoint him and Linda Redding (is interested in serving) to the council so that they can meet quorum and a meeting can be conducted so that they can move forward on the grants.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Charlie Seelig and Linda Redding to the Halifax Cultural Council, terms to expire November 26, 2015.

Storage Building on Route 106

Seelig wanted the Board aware of a climate controlled storage building that has been proposed on the north side of Route 106 near the Bridgewater line. Nothing is going to be torn down and it will only be an addition. No action is needed from the Board.

Wage & Personnel Annual Hearing

On January 14th Wage and Personnel will be holding their annual meeting. Amendments and proposal will need to be in by December 31st. Seelig asked the Board if they wished to propose anything.

HOPS Gazebo

The gazebo at the HOPS playground has been taken apart and removed to the Highway Department trash and burn pile. Richard Clark, who works for the Housing Authority moved the parts to the Housing Authority property with the intention to making necessary repairs and put it back together. Seelig received a call asking if it was not safe why it was brought down the Housing Authority. Dick Clark and Elaine Dolan stated that they will make any necessary repairs to make it safe. Seelig is asking the Board to declare the gazebo surplus and to vote to donate the parts to the Housing Authority.

Schleiff was a little confused as his understanding was it was just the playground equipment that was going to be taken down. Seelig stated that the gazebo was also falling apart. Schleiff saw that only the roof needed repairing, maybe some nails here and if stained it probably could have been left at the playground.

Roy asked Dick Steele about it and he was concerned about the safety of it. She also talked with a parent who child was thinking about refurbishing it as an Eagle Scout project and they were concerned that it was not safe seeing it was in such

poor condition was that safe. She continued to say that when they were talking about the playground being taken down she was not aware that the gazebo was also going to be removed but she trust Dick Steele's decision to remove it. She added that after hearing the gazebo being removed from the burn pile and she called Seelig questioning that if it was not safe for the residents then it might be safe for the Housing Authority residents. She also was surprised that they did not get a call that they were taking it.

Seelig explained that officially Dick Clark should have come to the Board and ask that they declare the structure surplus then proceed. Schleiff stated that the slides are in the burn pile and asked if they should be pulled out. Roy then asked if they should hold on to them to see if they can be used. Seelig said given that the equipment was twenty years old they may not be able to be used but would find out. Schleiff suggested that someone who knows how to construct a playground could use the pieces to make one to put in their yard.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to declare the gazebo surplus after the fact it has been dismantled.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy the Board unanimously voted to donate the gazebo to the Housing Authority.

Emily Capasso – 4-H Representative to Atlanta

The Plymouth County Commissioners has sent out a press release stating that Emily Capasso of Halifax has been chosen as one of two youths from the Plymouth County to represent the Massachusetts 4-H program at the National 4-H congress in Atlanta.

Move by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board voted to send a congratulations letter to Ms. Capasso.

AJ LaGambina's Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted to give Mr. LaGambina a certificate.

Seelig will check with the Board to see if they want to attend.

Halifax Reporter

The print edition of the Halifax Reporter will come to end after next month. Seelig has called the Reporter to see if the on-line edition will continue.

Central Plymouth County Water District Advisory Board

Cathy Drinan has been chosen as Plympton's representative for the above board.

Cancelled Meeting

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to cancel their meeting scheduled for December 24, 2013.

Christmas Lights on Flag Pole

Schleiff asked that there not be Christmas lights on the flag pole. Seelig stated that he will forward this request to Gerry.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted not to have Christmas lights displayed on the flag pole.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Kim R. Roy
Clerk

/pjm