

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012 - 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 to the agenda a discussion regarding the Communications/Dispatch Center. He also mentioned that he has pulled papers to be reelected and stated that did not want to discourage anyone else from doing so and would not take it to heart if others wanted to pull papers also.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Schleiff wanted to dedicate the Pledge of allegiance to Garron for his twenty-two years of service to the Town of Halifax.

**MINUTES**

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

Regular Session	February 14, 2012
Executive Session	February 14, 2012
Executive Session	February 28, 2012

**AFFIRMED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS**

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

Vendor Warrant	# 73	\$ 303,336.59
Ambulance Commitment	# 2B	\$ 23,607.90

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of the following Selectmen bills:

Borhek Insurance Agency, Inc. (law enforce. liab. renewal) ...	\$ 5,479.00
Borhek Insurance Agency, Inc. (4 policy renewals) .....	\$ 76,773.00

**APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS**

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #74:

Payroll Warrant	# 74	\$ 310,019.28
Vendor Warrant	# 75	\$1,137,754.32
Vendor Warrant	# 76	\$ 79.00
Withholding Warrant	# 77	\$ 112,872.93
Mobile Home Park License Fee	# 03	\$ 5,160.00

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

Dannie L. Brown Jr. (radio equipment repairs) .....	\$ 820.00
Industrial Commun. & Elect. (Aston 20 am power supply).....	\$ 121.95
Cape Cod Battery, Inc. (marine battery for repeater radios) ....	\$ 118.95
Lowe’s (23-12 gallon crates/Police Station) .....	\$ 130.64
Scanner Master (Uniden Bearcat scanner) .....	\$ 490.17
Attorney Lawrence Mayo (legal services/Feb.) .....	\$ 2,137.50
Peter J. Epstein, Esq. (legal services/Feb.) .....	\$ 1,280.00
Jordan on the Job (physical/Highway) .....	\$ 90.00
The Patriot Ledger (job posting/Town Clerk Admin. Asst.) .....	\$ 400.00
Margret Logan (prescription reimbursement) .....	\$ 23.90
Municipal Licensing Corporation (McSherry & Dubrawski attending meeting on 4/24/12) ....	\$ 40.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending March 10, 2012 in the amount of \$5,761.70.

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

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2012-49	\$ 34,666.64
2012-50	\$ 12,566.66
2012-51	\$ 1,140.00
2012-52	\$ 5.00
2012-53	\$ 84.24
2012-54	\$ 618.30
2012-55	\$ 3,735.00
2012-56	\$ 655.00
2012-57	\$ 676.00

**GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS**471 Monponsett Street

The property owner has call back in response to the letter that was sent to him regarding the condition of his property and he has stated that his house if up for sale and is doing some cleaning up thus that is why a dumpster is on his property. He has one unregistered vehicle, which is allowed by the town, and all other vehicles are registered. At this time the boat is off the trailer because the trailer needed repairs but will be putting it back on trailer. He intends to obtain a burning permit and will burn the wood that is in his yard. He does not intend to get rid of any of the picnic tables.

Seelig stated that if the Board wanted to send another letter then they would need to be specific about what they want cleaned up on the property or they could meet with Mr. Doyle to discuss this issue. Garron stated that a sight visit from the Board would need to take place in order to be more specific. Garron is willing not to do anything at the moment. Roy asked if he could be fined and Seelig said yes but you need to state what you are fining him for. Seelig said that he will check with the fire department regarding the size of the dumpster that he has on the property. The Board will take this under advisement until their next meeting.

Truck Exclusion – Walnut Street

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously requested that Seelig send a letter to Bridgewater letting them know that East Bridgewater is on board with the truck exclusion. Seelig mentioned that he does not think that it will swing their decision either way but is more that willing to send a letter.

Communication Center Floor

The floor in the Communication Department will be repaired with money from a 911 grant. This work will be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Teen Center

Town resident Nicholas Crealese wrote to the Board about turning the location of the old BR's restaurant (106 & 58) to a teen center. When he was told how much the property would cost he realized that this might not be the best spot but is still interested in pursuing this idea at another location.

Garron stated that he also thought of this spot seeing as it is one level, bathrooms already plumbed in and it is handicap accessible. Both Garron and Schleiff support the idea of a teen center.

Borrowing from Stabilization

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously authorized the Town Treasurer to borrow up to \$400,000 from the Stabilization Fund to cover payroll and vendor bills until the second half of 2012 real estate bill payments are received.

Monponsett Pond Meeting – Board of Health

There is going to be a meeting on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm sponsored by the Board of Health regarding the algae in the ponds. Seelig mentioned to the Board that DEP does not want Halifax to do more work on researching the problem and that Lycott is coming in two weeks to see Conservation.

Taunton State Hospital

The Selectmen's office received a letter from Health and Human Services which pretty much said that there are will be programs and services in SE Massachusetts for both inpatient and outpatient that will meet the needs of the residents in the area. At this point we do not know where it is going to end up.

Firefighters – Fiscal Year 2013

The firefighters would like to open negotiations for wages for FY2013. Troy and Seelig will work on a date to meet with them to start the process.

Request for No Dog Signs at the Baseball Field

Halifax Youth Baseball is asking the Board for permission to put no pets allowed signs in the athletic fields. It seems that people are allowing their dogs to run inside the fenced area of the fields which leads to the dogs doing their business and digging up the fields. The Board was presented with an outline of where there would like to place the signs as well as what the signs would look like. Seeing as this is town owned property the board can decide what they want to do. Garron has no problem with the signs being placed.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Halifax Youth Baseball approving the signs at the locations indicated on the paperwork that they submitted.

Unemployment Reform

The office received a letter form the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, who are investigating past unemployment cases from municipalities, asking if there have been incidents of unjust doings.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS****Marc Valentine – Live Entertainment License**

Mr. Valentine was in this evening to request a road block and live entertainment permit for the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lindbergh's flight over Halifax. This will take place on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He is also requesting to play the National Anthem as fighter planes fly over Halifax.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved the Road Block and Live Entertainment permit to Marc Valentine for the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary event of Lindbergh's flight over Halifax for May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS (CONTINUED)****Recycling Abatement – Bill #1220**

Mr. Kelly, former resident of 196 Plymouth Street, sold his home in September 2011; the recycling bill was in transit and therefore was not presented at the closing. As a result an overdue bill dated 2/23/12 was sent out and was forwarded to Mr. Kelly at his new residence in New Hampshire. Seelig did not recommend that the bill be abated and asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with this request. It was stated that it should have been settled at the closing and seeing as it was not Mr. Kelly and the new owners should settle up as to who pays for what portion of the bill. Roy suggested that we need to make sure that it goes on municipal lien and Garron asked if the new owners received a bill. Seelig will check to see if a bill went to the new owners. The abatement request was tabled at this time.

**Recycling Abatement – Bill #2046**

Property owner for Bill #2046 is requesting an abatement. Per Suzan Duggan in the Assessor's office, this property has a garage on it and an inhabitable house.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to abate Recycling Bill #2046 in the amount of \$45.00.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)****Elaine Wissel**

Ms. Wissel was scheduled to come in this evening to be appointed to the Cable Advisory TV Committee but did not make it. The Selectmen's office will contact her to see if she can come in at the Board's next meeting.

**Wellness Yoga Grant**

Assistant Town Treasurer, Linda Cole, had applied for and received a grant to have an eight week yoga program offered to Town Employees. The Board needs to sign off on the grant.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to sign the Yoga Grant (grant was signed by all members of the Board).

**94 Lingan Street**

Owner of the property listed above have called the office to clarify that the trash that was blowing around came from the property next door to them (#94, house was demolished) and stated that they were keeping their trash picked up. As stated by Seelig previously, if the Board wanted to address the owners they would need to be specific about they want done. Schleiff and Roy have not seen the property so at this time they could not comment but Garron has seen it.

### Veterans' Agent Position

Seelig has check with Bridgewater and they are interested in regionalizing. Pembroke is spending about \$55,000 for this position which includes a part-time agent and full-time assistant. Roy brought up the point that if we do regionalize then we would be spending more money. Schleiff and Garron agreed that they need to look at the hours that LeBouef currently works. Seelig stated that for a long time we functioned with these hours but as Garron pointed out there has been an increase in service for veterans and this will only increase. Seelig mentioned he could ask for comparables from other towns and Schleiff stated that would be good. Schleiff asked how many applications have been submitted and how close LeBouef was to leaving. It was stated that his house needs to be sold first but one never knows how quickly that could happen. Schleiff asked Seelig if he could ask LeBouef where he stood.

### Wellness Program – Logan

The Finance Committee has approved a transfer of funds to cover the wellness program that Margret Logan will be attending. Seelig has asked her to provide documentation from an employee at the facility for the various days she is going there in addition he provided her a guide for the *physical abilities test*. The intention of this program is to bring Logan up to a state where she can come back to work.

### Town Vehicle Budget

Seelig's idea was to run the vehicle for a year and see how it works. The Finance Committee is concerned that it is a retired car and feels that the repairs on the car will be high given the normal condition on any vehicle that is retired. Garron thought that this is a great idea for employees to use a town vehicle instead of their own but had to agree with FinCom and said that everyone drives differently and he is concerned about major issues on the car.

Schleiff asked the Town Mechanic his opinion on using the car around town and he felt the cost would be low and Schleiff felt comfortable with his opinion. Seelig asked Schleiff if he could get something (history of the vehicle) in writing from Dave to present to FinCom. Schleiff asked what needs to done to the car in order to get it on the road and it was stated needs to be insured, oil change and check the fluids. The Board decided not to do a line item for the next three month and see how it goes.

### 40 Carver Street – Horse Boarding

The Selectmen's office has been notified from ZBA of a violation for the special permit issued for the property mentioned above. The Building Inspector has visited the site and is investigating it. No action is needed from the Board.

### Planning Board Opposed to Truck Exclusion

The Selectmen's office has received a memo from the Planning Board opposing the truck exclusion proposed for Walnut and Pine Street. They feel that fixing both streets will alleviate the problems on theses streets. Garron said yes it would be great to fix them but if the trucks continue going down the roads then they

would be ruined again. He would have to disagree with Planning Board and said that the exclusion is a good idea and to move forward on it. The Board held a hearing and they did not hear anything from the Planning Board. It was asked if anyone from the PB attended the hearing and it was stated that one or two members from the PB was there. Garron has requested the minutes of the Planning Board meeting when this discussion of opposing the truck exclusion took place.

#### Planning Board Opposed to Town Accepting Wright Backland Property

The Selectmen's office has received a memo from the Planning Board opposing the town accepting the backland of the Wright property. The PB feels that this will transfer the real estate taxes assessed against the land to all other property owners in Halifax. Roy thinks that the taxes are about \$200 and for a loss of \$200 it is great to have this land. Garron has requested the minutes of the Planning Board meeting when this discussion took place.

#### Fireworks Contract

The contract from American Thunder Fireworks needs to be sign by the Board. Roy had asked if there was going to be enough money in to pay for the fireworks as well as the details that are needed. She also said that there has been a lot of overtime at the fire and police department therefore not leaving too much money to work with. Seelig said that the Halifax in Lights Committee is presenting an article at Town Meeting in May and as of December 31, 2011 there was \$6,700 in their account. Roy asked if the contract needed to be signed right now because if so she fears that if the article does not pass they may lose the deposit but then on the flip side if not signed they may lose the date. Schleiff asked if we should have the event on July 4<sup>th</sup> instead of June 30<sup>th</sup> and Garron said that the Board asked for volunteers and some came forward and we need to support their decision on the date they chose.

Chief Manoogian was present and Roy asked him if it was on July 4<sup>th</sup> would this be overtime for the officers and he said no it would be regular pay. He wanted to point out that there is an advantage to not having it on the fourth of July because there are not as many people since they have gone away for the holiday week.

Schleiff has no problem signing the contract but suggested holding off and ask the committee to come in so that they can answer the Board's questions and let them know of their concerns.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to sign the contract from American Thunder Fireworks and have the Halifax in Lights Committee meet with the Board to update them on where they stand on the event and explain that they need to do some fundraising in order to help fund it.

#### Bank Reconciliation

The Town is behind seven months on reconciliation. Seelig stated that the whole month of July 2011 needs to get done first before we can get our financial statements for fiscal 11. Once approved by the auditors, August 2011 through March 2012 needs to be reconciled. The Board understands that they are working on this and that it does take time.

Communication/Dispatch Discussion

Schleiff started the conversation by saying that since becoming Chair to the Communications Committee he has taken the duties of that department and implemented them through the Selectmen's office which Beth has been doing. He said that maybe he should have come to Roy and Garron beforehand and for that he apologizes. Schleiff saw that the department needed to be pulled together at a central location for when issues come up and since doing so he thinks its running a little bit better with one person handling the tasks. He realizes that this office should not be doing it and continued by stating that lots of issues have been pushed aside in the Communications Center because time has not been given to the dispatch center from the Communications Committee. He knows that Roy is aware of it but unsure if Garron was. Garron did state that he is aware of and said that he was curious as to why was this office was working on payroll for the Communication Department. Schleiff explained that the job duties follow the Chair of the committee. At one time it was Cathy in the Water Department because Dick was the Chair then it was Patty in the Fire Station because the Chief was the Chair and then in two years it will get shifted to another department when the Chair changes.

There was a suggestion as to maybe adding a supervisor position to that department but that would be another level of money needed. Also there was thought of regionalization seeing as Fire and Police are only dispatched because and the Water and Highway use other means for communication with their department. Schleiff said yes that is a thought but they are trying to get it under control a little bit and for the moment they are trying to fix things the best they can for the moment. Roy stated to keep in mind that regionalization is a least five years away.

Schleiff continued the discussion by saying that the Communications Committee voted to dissolve the committee because they no longer want to have anything to do with it and want to put in the hands of the Board of Selectmen.

Schleiff said that there is a lot of work that needs to done within that department for example scheduling for EMD and APCO training, payroll, paperwork for the grants, and minutes etc., therefore the committee voted to request five hours for *clerical* from FinCom. FinCom is aware of the request and Wage and Personnel have been asked to create a position. Schleiff is not sure if W&P will agree or not but explained to them what he has seen over the past year and that he thinks adding that position may help.

Garron said that back when he was involved with the Communications Committee he questioned why so many people from different departments were involved. He understands having someone from the police and fire involved. Also he said that it is not fair to Beth or Pam to add duties on to them because at the time they were hired they were not responsible to do this stuff. Schleiff and Roy agreed and stated that if changes are not made then other departments will have to take on these duties when the Chair changes.

Roy stated that in all the years she has been in town government the one vote that she wishes she could take back was when the Police Chief and Peg Fitzgerald (Selectmen at the time) came before FinCom requesting for a supervisor in the



Dispatch Center. At the time she was unaware that one was needed but realizes now there is a need. She pointed out that when someone makes an error it is very seldom communicated one on one. Garron said that years ago when things were done wrong no one was correcting them because there was no one there at that particular time of the incident and by the time the Committee met the issue had come and gone.

He continued by saying that the idea of having a supervisor in this department had been discussed in the past but it never moved forward. Roy feels strongly that a supervisor is needed especially with EMD coming because if you want you're funding then you need to make sure that you have done your quality assurance. Roy added that at one time we had a "Head Dispatcher" and it was successful and would like to see those monies used to create a position for a Head Dispatcher/Supervisor who dispatchers, does payroll and the grant paperwork.

Schleiff stated that when the committee was talking four or five thousand dollars Roy was opposed to it and now couldn't understand why \$20,000 – \$25,000 was okay. He just wants to do a little to get it to the next stage without asking for a whole lot of money.

Garron asked Schleiff what he felt was needed most, a secretary or a supervisor. Schleiff said that he is hearing from the other departments that they want this committee gone because it is a constant pulling and tugging. Garron said if the committee and Schleiff thinks that a supervisor is needed and they can present a case then he is fine with it. He went on to say that years ago when there was a head dispatcher that was the person you could go to and find out what was going on in the department.

Roy suggested giving one of the Dispatchers a stipend to do some of the work. Schleiff said that this an idea but it is the committee's decision and each time they meet they are just trying to get through that month and it does not seem like it is a priority on the committee's list.

Schleiff understands the involvement because has put a lot of hours into it and he did not think it was going to escalate into as many hours as Beth has been doing. They have been saying that it is dysfunctional and they can't keep up with things so Schleiff took some of the burden off and had some of the duties being done in the Selectmen's office.

Garron asked if there has been a definitive decision made as to whether a supervisor will be hired and Schleiff said no. Garron asked if there was anyone among the dispatchers that Schleiff would consider qualified to be a supervisor and have the skills for that position. Schleiff said he has one in mind and asked the Police Chief (he was in the audience) if he had any suggestions and he said he would get back to the Board on that.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss Police Chief contract and staffing which relates to the security of the town:

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

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

-----

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

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

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

-----

Troy E. Garron  
Clerk

/pjm