

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011 - 7:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen Kim R. Roy and Michael J. Schleiff present. Selectmen Troy Garron was not in attendance.

The following business was discussed:

AGENDA

The Agenda for Tuesday, January 25th, was unanimously approved without revision.

MINUTES

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

Selectmen Meeting 12-14-10 - Regular Session
Selectmen Meeting 01-11-11 - Regular Session
Selectmen Meeting 01-18-11 - Regular Session

ABATEMENTS/BILLS/COMMITMENTS/WARRANTS

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

Payroll Warrant	# 59	\$ 318,036.72
Vendor Warrant	# 60	\$ 130,149.93

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

Withholding Warrant	# 61	\$ 121,415.83
Vendor Warrant	# 62	\$ 94,014.20

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

Deutsch Williams Brooks (legal services/Dec.).....	\$ 1,254.00
Gilman & Associates (legal services/Dec.)	\$ 971.25
National Grid (period 12/15/10 – 1/18/11)	\$ 1,380.70
The Patriot Ledger (job posting/ACO)	\$ 68.58
Ellis Auto Body & Service (claim #TNT-0083816)	\$ 1,436.57
(repairs to Police Crown Vic. date of loss 12/16/10)	
Municipal Graphics, Inc. (claim #TNT-0083816)	\$ 157.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending January 15, 2011 in the amount of \$ 5,584.39.

GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS

A. Snack Shed Meeting

Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to schedule a meeting regarding the snack shed for February 22nd. Both Roy and Schleiff were fine with that date and Schleiff had asked if they would be coming in with drawings. Seelig added that they have the septic drawings but he will check to see if there are updated ones and put all information together for the Board.

B. 13th Relay

Brogg Sterrett, Event Director for 13th Relay, was scheduled to come in this evening to answer questions that the Board had pertaining to the usage of Vaughan Park as a exchange location for the riders that are taking part in this event but Mr. Sterrett was unable to make it due to the inclement weather and has been re scheduled to attend to the Board's next meeting on February 8th.

C. Housing Production

Tentative approval for the Housing Production Plan has been put on the agenda for February 8th.

D. Re-appointments

Halifax in Lights

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously re-appointed Denise Rannou to Halifax in Lights Committee with a term to expire August 31, 2013.

Halifax Cultural Council

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously re-appointed Barbara Nessralla to the Halifax Cultural Council with a term to expire December 18, 2013.

Halifax Cultural Council

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously re-appointed Vivian Cardinal to the Halifax Cultural Council with a term to expire January 8, 2014.

D. SEMASS Rate Increase

Under the terms of the agreement Halifax has with SEMASS, if the Environmental Protection Agency imposes new stipulations on the incinerator that cost SEMASS money then SEMASS can pass along the cost to the Town. With this being said, new stipulations will increase costs by twenty-five cents per ton for one year or six cents per ton for the rest of the agreement. The twenty-five cents per ton represents about one hundred and seventy dollars for a year. Seelig and Sue Johnson, Recycling Secretary, agree that the town should go with the one year increase, which will disappear on June 30, 2012. Seelig informed the Board that the increase is in affect.

E. Negotiations for Patrol Officers

Negotiations for the Patrol Officers are ready to begin. Seelig suggested that the Board meet with Chief Manoogian to discuss potential contract changes with that being said, Roy and Schleiff has asked Seelig to set that appointment up for February 22nd.

F. Ambulance Abatements

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

December 2010 FOR \$ 6,562.81

G. Animal Control Officer Position

There have been approximately fifty applications submitted for this position. Chief Manoogian has recommended that two candidates share this position for better coverage. Seelig will set up appointments for them to meet with the Board on February 8th. He also will get their resumes together for the Board to review.

H. Building Inspector Merit Increase

Building Inspector, Tom Millias, has requested a merit increase and seeing as the Board is his appointing authority the Board will need to decide if they want to support this request. Roy and Schleiff would like to wait on this until a full Board present. Schleiff wanted to say it is not just the Building Inspector looking for this but there are a couple of others who also are and he realizes that some town employees have reached their top step and are looking for an increase. He added that that they wait and see what Wage & Personnel are considering for this year. Roy mentioned that she thinks the merit part of the by-laws need to be look at for anyone at their

top step for five years because there is no real criteria tied to a merit increase and that the way it is set up is that it is basically a seventh step. She added that some taxpayers have not gotten increases at their jobs therefore asking for a merit increase is a little hard to endure.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Lamppost Drive – Mike Peterson

Michael Peterson, president and Treasurer of Hometown Builders, would like to submit a petition for the town to accept Lamppost Drive. This is Mr. Peterson second petition; his first was withdrawn after the torrential 2010 March rains that caused a temporary puddle to form on the pavement (drained shortly after it stopped raining). He wanted to fix this problem before submitting another petition.

Mr. Peterson began by conveying that the road was built in accordance with the approved design. The road base was installed five years ago in which no flooding occurred until last March. To rectify the problem Mr. Peterson has opened the system and corrected a small kink in one of the pipes that basically lowers the back up level by three inches. He also removed sediment from the sediment trap and has kept an eye on the situation throughout the year. He believes that water comes off Hudson Street and feels that water has always been here in this area. He added again that he has done everything according to the design that was approved but cannot guarantee that nothing will happen in the next fifty years.

Roy had asked if water had drained by the end of the day and Bob Badore, who was present for this meeting, said that it takes longer for the puddle to drain and had taken pictures of the water that puddled on the street last spring. He also wanted to say that this is the only development that holds water and does not recommend that this street is accepted yet, and would like to see what happens if/when we get heavy rains this spring. Also Badore said that he does not have any proof that this work has been done by Peterson and mentioned that he should have been notified so he could have seen what was done.

Schleiff added that Badore would like to see that the problem is taken care of because once the street is accepted he will be getting the calls of complaints if this issue is not resolved.

One resident has complained that he is getting water in his basement due to the design of the road. Peterson thinks that this is happening because his basement is approximately three feet higher than anyone else's in the area. Peterson stated that he was there when the development was built and things were done according to the plans. He has built four houses in the development and none have gotten any water.

Roy suggested to wait and see how it reacts in the spring and asked Badore if he was okay with that and he was. Peterson was in agreement and stated he wanted the Board aware that he is working on getting this cleared up.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board voted not to accept Mr. Peterson’s petition for the town to accept Lamppost Drive this year but to take it under advisement for next year.

GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

I Recycling Abatements

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously voted to abate the following Fiscal 2011 Recycling Fee for the reason shown:

BILL #	REASON	ABATED
002404	Home is unoccupied	\$40.00

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously voted not to abate the following Fiscal 2011 Recycling Fee for the reason shown:

BILL #	REASON	ABATED
001523	In-law exists & can be occupied at any time	\$ 0.00

If the owner can provide verification by the Building Inspector that the in-law apartment is no longer used, has been dismantled somehow and the special permit granted for the in-law apartment has been surrendered, the Board will reconsider the request.

J. Snow Day Declaration

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously declared Monday, December 27, 2010 and Wednesday, January 12, 2011 as snow days for the Town Hall and Council on Aging Building.

K. Selectmen’s Budget FY2012

The Selectmen’s budget was presented to the Board for their review. Roy and Schleiff could wait until they had a full board to vote on it but they both felt comfortable voting this evening.

Following is a synopsis of discussion:

Selectmen – Salary
Remains the same (**\$4,500**)

Town Administrative – Salary
Increase of \$100 due to longevity (from \$82,751 to **\$82,851**).

Selectmen – Expense
Decrease of \$40 (from \$3,990 to **\$3,950**).

Selectmen – Clerical

Decrease of \$1,517 (from \$62,390 to **\$60,873**).

Due to Beverly Smith retiring and the current Selectman Assistant being paid at a lesser rate as well as the new hire of Selectmen Secretary being compensated at a lesser rate

Law

Increase of \$3,500 (from \$33,500 to **\$37,000**).

Seelig is seeing that the Town is involved with more cases as well new Town Council is more expensive then Mr. Spinale.

Town Hall – Electricity

Decrease of \$625 (from \$15,375 to **\$14,750**).

Town Reports

Remains the same (**\$5,500**).

Audit

Increase of \$500 (from \$18,000 to **\$18,500**).

Recruitment & Employment Costs

Remains the same (**\$4,500**).

Patriotic Celebrations

Remains the same (**\$500**)

Insurance

Seelig feel that this will increase (will be getting quotes in February) due to a couple of claims that have been submitted this past year.

Move by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously voted to approve the Selectmen's Budget FY2012 for the above amounts that highlighted in bold.

L. Autumn Lane

In November 2010, John Drolette of 5 Autumn Lane had submitted a letter regarding the status on Autumn Lane being unaccepted and the developer, Jake Development, has walked away from the project. At this time Seeig cannot provide Drolette with any solution but did mention the following options that that Board could consider:

- Take the road over by eminent domain and then spend \$100,000 on completing work on the road.
- Continue to make minimal repairs as needed, sand, and keep road safe.
- Take legal action against Jake Development
- Do nothing in the hopes that Community Bank, the mortgage holder, does something with the last lot which will allow money to flow and the road work to be done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining:

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 Roy and seconded by Schleiff, Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Kim R. Roy - Yes
Michael J. Schleiff - Yes

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

Kim R. Roy
Clerk
/pjm