

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011 - 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

The Agenda for Tuesday, March 22nd, was unanimously approved without revision.

MINUTES

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

Selectmen Meeting 3-8-10 - Regular Session
Selectmen Meeting 3-8-10 - Executive Session

ABATEMENTS/BILLS/COMMITMENTS/WARRANTS

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

Payroll Warrant	# 75	\$ 303,611.17
Vendor Warrant	# 76	\$ 69,022.33
Withholding Warrant	# 77	\$ 113,705.38

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

Vendor Warrant	# 78	\$ 32,443.55
----------------	------	--------------

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

Peter J. Epstein, Esq. (legal services/Feb.)	\$ 50.00
Gilman & Associates (legal services/Feb.)	\$ 1,072.18
Attorney Lawrence P. May (legal services/Feb.)	\$ 1,250.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending March 12, 2011 in the amount of \$5,682.81.

GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS**A. Redistricting Hearing**

There will be two redistricting hearings held; one on May 2nd at Massasoit Community College and the other on June 6th at Quincy High School. The times for both hearing are at 6:00 p.m. The Board was asked if they had any comments of this issue. For the past 20 years Halifax has been split into two precincts, which has its advantages and disadvantages to it. Garron stated that the town should have never been split in the first place and that there are larger towns that are not. In Garron's opinion he could not say whether it is a positive or negative thing but felt that the town has not gained anything by having two precincts.

B. Resignation – Susan Basile / Holidays in Halifax

Susan Basile has submitted a letter of resignation from the Holidays in Halifax Committee to the Board of Selectmen. Garron noted that Susan has done a lot of work on this committee over the years and hopes that others will step forward to help fill the gap. Along the same lines Garron wanted to mention that he received a letter from the manager of Stop & Shop stating that he would like to help out in the community and is opening their board room to the community for small meetings or workshops. Seelig will look through the talent bank forms we have on file to see if there are any volunteers who have shown an interest on this committee.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Susan Basile from the Holidays in Halifax Committee, effective immediately. A letter will be sent to Ms. Basile thanking her for her time and hard work.

C. Trailer Permit – 781 Old Plymouth Street

A trailer permit has been issued by the Building Inspector for the resident at the above address. No action is needed by the Board its just an FYI. Seelig will inform the resident that if the permit is to be renewed (expires on May 18th), then they would need to start the application about three weeks before a hearing date. Because the Board is scheduled to meet on May 10th (seconded night of Town meeting) and then their next meeting would be May 24th and the permit expires on May 18th, the resident will need to start the application by April 5th or April 19th.

D. Halifax in Lights

Members of the Halifax in Lights Committee have informed the Board that since there is not enough involvement or time at this late date, the 4th of July event may not take place this year. Seelig suggested that the Board invite the three committee members as well as others who may want to volunteer for this event to the Board's next meeting. Garron stated that we have a lot of

organizations throughout the town and if we can get them together we might be able to make this happen. He addressed the audience asking for interested parties to come to the Board's next meeting on March 29th at 7:45 p.m.

E. Memorial Day Parade

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously approved the Memorial Day Committee to hold a Memorial Day Parade on May 30th beginning at 9:30 a.m. from Shelby Plaza to the Town Hall.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Brogg Sterrett – 13th Relay

Mr. Sterrett came before the Board this evening to provide information about 13th Relay and to ask permission to use Vaughan parking lot (to be used for the team vehicle) as an exchange location for the race and the sidewalk in front of the parking lot. 13th Relay is a 189 mile race starting in Easton and ending in Providence. This is a *for profit* organization that makes donations in exchange for volunteers to volunteer for this event. They also help out the local schools where they have their major exchanges at, donate to an organization that provides services to the mentally ill and give to the Live Strong Cancer Foundation. The first runner will come in a little after 2:15 p.m. on Friday, May 6th and the last one will be around 7:30 p.m. There will be 12 to 20 runners sent out every 60 to 90 minutes. They will have porta potties and trash boxes at the location and once the last runner leaves the site they will be picked up. Chief Manoogian expressed to Sterrett how busy Route 106 is during the late afternoon into the evening, especially on a Friday, and stressed to be careful. Sterrett added that there will be volunteers that will look to make sure that runners and vans are not pulling out into traffic. Manoogian also asked him to stop by the Police Station the day before the event and talk with the sergeant. Sterrett was open to any suggestions Police, Fire, Highway and Selectmen had to offer to help this event run smoothly. First aid was brought up and Sterrett said that each van has a first aid kit and at all major exchange locations there is an EMT there. All three Board members were agreement with Mr. Sterrett's request and added that they would like him to submit a general letter about the runners coming in and out of town.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously granted permission for the 13th Relay to use the parking lot at Vaughan Field located on Route 106 between the Police Station and the Brockton Store on Friday May 6th between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Allyson Bradford – Applicant / Beautification Committee

Allyson Bradford has expressed an interest in serving on the Beautification Committee. She has lived in the town for eights years and loves it here and wanted to get involved with the town. She has never volunteered for anything and thought joining a board or committee would be a good place to start. She enjoys working in her own yard; therefore joining this committee would be a good fit.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Allyson Bradford of B2-2 Lydon Lane, Halifax, to the Beautification Committee.

Dylan Capaccioli

This evening the Board of Selectman invited Dylan Capaccioli to come in so that they could commend him on his actions on getting help for one of his neighbors who had fallen. Dylan was presented with a certificate from the Board. He also was presented an award from Senator Tom Kennedy and Representative Tom Calter, who also praised him for his quick response and thoughtfulness.

Senator Tom Kennedy & State Representative Tom Calter

The Board had asked the Senator and State Representative to come in to give them some insight on the following topics.

Budget

Senator Kennedy stated that the budget goes through multi stages. The Governor submits his budget. The house conducts its hearings one by one before the committee (this takes about 5 weeks). They then issue a report with their recommendations for the budget and present. It then goes to the Senate they issue their recommendation. Goes to the Governor, reviewed and sent back with certain lines they want revised. Once revised then goes back to the Governor and can be approved, amended or veto. This whole process needs to be done by July 1st.

In 2008 there was a 4% deficit but the budget balanced because of substantial cuts, contribution from stimulus money and the rainy day fund. Again last year a balanced budget was presented due to rainy day funds, contribution from stimulus and cuts in financial aid. This year there is no new money, no stimulus money therefore the only way to balance is cuts which will be in health and human services and higher education. As our revenue went down health care went up.

As forecasted 2012 will be our toughest year. We will continue to eat up reserves as unemployment goes down. Calter went on to say that money has been added to Medicare Insurance, Veterans' services and core services in order to cover these programs. As we go into this budget season the plan is to make cuts in health care by increasing group purchasing and not repeating the same test. There is going to hard cuts with an increase in Chapter 70 and decrease in Chapter 90. Calter wanted to add that for a long time people said there was no money they really meant it and no one believed it.

Redistricting

Garron wanted to know if Calter & Kennedy thought that Halifax needed two representatives. Representative Calter explained that when the census comes out a committee will go through the data and they then will be able to see what is in the best interest for the towns that they represent. He hopes to have this plan done by December 2011 and added that they are aware that Halifax would like to be just one. Roy had asked Calter if he saw a benefit of having two reps for Halifax and he said yes because issues get resolved and things get done when you have two representatives pushing for you. He does realize that if someone would want to run for a higher office they are two steps behinds. Garron's feels that the town should not be split but whatever decision is made is what it will be.

Northland Property

Calter spoke with house council on the Northland property and they had an opinion if the state is buying land from the town then special legislature is needed but if the town is buying from the state no legislature is needed. Seelig added that at this point the town wants the land. Senator Kennedy had asked what would the land and the abutting property be used for and Garron said that it would be used the same as it has been and that they have never denied access to the land to anyone in the past and have no intention in doing so. Garron's main concern was that they had an agreement that the town was to either get the land or the money then was told that there was no agreement. Calter thinks that there was a misunderstanding and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife are willing to move forward on this matter. Seelig added that an article will be presented at Town Meeting. Calter also asked if the town had legally surveyed the land and suggested that it might be wise to have town council talk with DFW's council to set the boundaries.

Crosswalks

Lastly the Board wanted to address the law regarding crosswalks. At this time under state laws, drivers are to yield at crosswalks. Two years ago a young boy was killed here in Halifax in the crosswalk while riding his bike with his family. The Board of Selectmen and the Town Traffic Safety Committee would like to see it changed from yielding to stopping at all crosswalks. They realize that it is not going to stop all accidents but this could prevent another tragedy from happening. Both Representative Calter and Senator Kennedy were in agreement of the Board's request and will speak to the chairs of public safety and introduce this requested change to them.

GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS (CONTINUED)F. Ambulance Abatements

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

February 2011	FOR	\$ 12,505.43
---------------	-----	--------------

G. Bottle Bill

MassPIRG has asked the Board of Selectmen to support the H. 890 which would extend the bottle bill to bottles and cans of water, sports drinks, juice, etc. as well as other changes to the law. Seelig has asked the Board if they would like to support this. Roy's thought was that it would cut down on trash but realized that everyone would be taxed on these beverages and did not want to see more taxes being place on the consumers. Garron agreed with Roy regarding to keeping the grounds clean. Schleiff does not think it is a good time to be adding five cents on to these beverages when people are just trying to get by. No action was needed from the Board.

H. Land Donation – Margaret O’Leary – Buttonwood Road

Margaret O’Leary of 211 West Street, Quincy would like to donate two lots she owns on Buttonwood Road to the Town of Halifax. At this time the 2010 taxes are due on the land and generally the town does not accept land when taxes are owed. The lots are valued as buildable house lots. Since taxes are unpaid it would save the town on tax title if the town took the land. Garron said that we could accept the land then abate the taxes but before doing anything we need to look at the land to make sure its not a dumping area. Also he would like to hear from Conservation to see what they think. Seelig will notify Conservation and place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

I. Town Government Study Committee & Fire Department Study Committee

Seelig has asked the Board how they would like to move forward on these two committees. Schleiff said at the moment he needs to tend to his own work related stuff but has all intentions of devoting some time on these committees once his work is settled. Chief Carrico is aware of Schleiff’s goal.

J. Concession Stand Septic System Proposal

The updated septic system contract from Andrews Brothers needed to be approved by the Board this evening. A revised plan was submitted and has been approved by the Board of Health and reviewed by the Building Committee. A trench permit also needs to be signed off by the Chair of the Board.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously accepted the proposal from Andrews Bros. Construction Corporation in the amount of \$20,000 for the Concession Stand septic system.

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to have the Chair sign the trench permit.

K. Town Hall Siding Contract

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to sign the contract between the Town and Keene contractors for the Town Hall siding in the amount of \$44,700.

L. Fee Waived for Concession Stand Building Permit

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously waived the building permit fee for the concession stand.

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Kim R. Roy
Clerk
/pjm