

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:00 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 29th, was unanimously approved without revision.

MINUTES

No minutes were reviewed or approved.

ABATEMENTS/BILLS/COMMITMENTS/WARRANTS

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

Payroll Warrant	# 79	\$ 345,450.17
Vendor Warrant	# 80	\$ 321,402.62
Withholding Warrant	# 81	\$ 118,489.66

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously committed for collection the following:

Ambulance Commitment	# 3	\$ 27,929.66
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The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending March 26, 2011 in the amount of \$5,671.87.

GENERAL MAIL / BUSINESS

A. Letter of Commendation – Justin Silva

Fire Chief Carrico sent the Board a letter commending Firefighter/EMT Justin Silva on his quick decision making on an ambulance call he responded to on March 19th. Due to his prompt and decisive actions the patient arrived at the hospital in a timely manner which ultimately saved her life. The Board of Selectmen will send him a letter congratulating him on a job well done.

B. Multiple Hazard Community Planning Team

Old Colony Planning Council is looking for a representative from each community to work on a multi-hazard pre-disaster mitigation plan. Seelig has emailed the departments and the Fire Chief responded that he is interested. The Board suggested contacting the Recycling Center to see if anyone is also interested. Seelig will bring back to the Board at their next meeting on April 12th.

C. Regulations for Crowd Control at Establishments

Additional regulations for crowd control are being put forth for alcoholic beverage establishments with a capacity of 100 or more. The Fire Chief and the Building Inspector are aware of the new regulations as well as alcoholic license holders. Looking at the town's license holders, All Season and BR's Monponsett will be the only places affected. No action is needed by the Board Seelig just wanted them aware that these requirements will be needed for new licenses and renewals.

D. Suburban Coalition Annual Legislative Breakfast

This breakfast will be on April 26th. Seelig will not be attending this meeting due the fact it is a Selectmen's meeting night. Also the Board just saw our legislator at their last meeting.

E. Plymouth County Charter Commission

The district representative, Bill Harris, would like to meet with the Board. Seelig will schedule him to come in on April 12th.

F. 111F – Margret Logan

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to place Acting Captain Margret Logan on 111F status from 12:00 noon, March 28, 2011 until she re-evaluated at Jordan Occupational Health on Friday, April 1, 2011.

G. Concession Stand Contracts

Numerous contracts & purchases for the concession stand have been submitted from Lisa Hillcoat to be approved by the Board. The Municipal & School Building Committee has delegated this project to the Board of Selectmen. Garron was under the impression that this was the Building Department's territory and was stunned about this. Seelig will relay to the building department that the Board does not feel that this is their responsibility.

H. Blackledge Property – Land Abutting Kestral Lane

Back in 2003 the Board wrote to Rick Springer about possibly buying the land abutting Kestral Lane. Springer has called the office asking if the town was still interested in this proposition. The size of the lot is 60 acres and mostly wet. Not amount was give as to what he is looking for a price on the purchase.

I. Community Center Suggestion

A resident of Halifax, Jeff Anderson, suggested that the town could revise the plan for the Council on Aging building and have it become a community center. He felt that the project might get more support from the residents seeing as it could be used by all ages and groups. He also suggested the site for this could be using the land between the parking lot/HOPS playground and the site of the Water Department and Municipal & School Building Committee.

H. Town Government Study Committee & Fire Department Study Committee

This again was brought up as to what the Baord wants to do regarding these committees. Schleiff said that he will get moving on them within the next couple of weeks.

I. Superintendent of Insect and Pest Control

As part of Beverly Smith's research, she was unable to find any State statue authoring the appointment of a Superintendent of Insect and Pest Control. In 1985 this position was renamed Superintendent of Shade Tree Management and Pest Control. The only action the Board would need to take is to rename the position for future appointments (if any).

J. Fence – Walnut Street/Summit Street

In December 2010 the Board of Selectmen sent a letter to Raymond and Maureen Kingston regarding a fence that they put up that is in the town's right of way. Neighbor Edward Giampietro has complained that this fence, which borders his yard, is an obstruction. The office has yet to hear from Kingston and Giampietro is reiterating his complaints about the fence still not being moved. No deadline was stated in the letter that was mailed to the Kingstons in December.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to send a certified letter stating that Raymond and Maureen Kingston of 85 Summit Street need to move the fence within the next thirty (30) days.

K. Permit Fee for Memorial Day Parade

Move by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to waive the permit fee for the Memorial Day Parade permit that is taking place on Monday, May 30, 2011.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**Halifax in Lights Committee**

The Board wanted to meet with this committee to get an idea if the town's Fourth of July event/fireworks would be able to happen this year. Present from the committee were members Maureen Rogers, Judy Wall, Denise Rannou and former members Brian Evangelista and Steven MacFaun. Garron would really like to see this happen this year and asked what the committee needs from the Board to make this occur. What it really boils down to is money and volunteers committing for the day as well as committing the days leading up to the event, organizing everything, making calls, scheduling and setting up. Garron had asked if we could just do the fireworks seeing as people have cookouts during the day and are busy and what everyone looks forward to is the fireworks. Brian went on to say that the proceeds from the day pretty much pay for themselves and that they make about \$3,000. It's the night's event that cost. The fireworks themselves run about \$12,000 and then there is Police and Fire detail that is costly. Rogers had talked with Julie at Mutual Federal Bank and she was willing to display shirts that were from the 275th anniversary and sell them and Stop & Shop was also willing to do the same in addition to accepting donations at the store.

Evangelista would be more than willing to show a new member how to plan the event if someone wanted to take this on. Rogers voiced that that it is time for the younger crowd to get involved. The committee members have done their share of work and have put in the time over the years. MacFaun said that they have all the contacts and phone calls would just need to be made and they could secure them for this year's event. The big question is *money*.

Garron felt that if this year went by we would loose it. He went on to say that the way the economy has been this is something that brings everyone together in a time where everyone is just getting by.

Rogers had asked if we do the fundraising and it does not happen how do we justify it and it was said to let everyone know up front that if we don't have the money for this to happen this year that their donations will go towards next year.

Garron said that the Selectmen's office will send out letters and a phone bank could be organized here at the office or the use of the Selectmen's room could be used for meetings. He put a plea to the public that anyone interested please attend the Selectmen's next meeting on April 12th. Also anyone having any questions please call or come to the Selectmen's office.

Discussion with Wage and Personnel & Finance Committee

The Board has asked both committees to come in to ask if there were any particular articles that needed to be looked at. Peter Beals spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee and said that there are none at this time but wanted them to know that at the moment they were at a \$5,000 deficit but that could change seeing as they have not gone through all the articles and Article 5 still needs to be voted on. Next week the school budget, which will be level funded, will be voted on and as for Silver Lake vocational went up, which they are obligated to pay, as well as fixed costs increased.

As Garron was glancing through the articles he noticed a lot of equipment being bought. Beals explained that the Capital Planning Committee has looked at the schedule of when items need replacing and then presented to the Finance Committee and reviewed. Items that are being requested is life saving & safety items and if not replaced could be more harmful. Beals added that there have been lots of creative solutions brought to the table.

School Roof

There is an Article on the warrant to replace the Elementary School roof which is necessary because they are getting to the end of the life on the existing one (20 yrs. old) and it does need to be replaced.

Other Post Employment Benefits Liabilities Trust Fund

The Finance Committee has suggested that the town take action in funding a trust for post employment benefits offered to the town's retirees. Roy stated that we have a line item for health insurance and retirement that the town funds therefore was a little unsure that we should start this. She does realize that they need a plan but does not know what it is yet and suggested to meet after town meeting to review a policy regarding this issue. Peg Fitzgerald brought up a point that there could be a time that the bills are too big and cannot be paid therefore having this fund would come into play. She also would like the Board have town council review the wording on this article before it is submitted on the warrant. Beals added that this is a growing problem that needs to be addressed.

Merit / Step Increases

Rogers mentioned that Wage and Personnel voted on not to do anything on the merit increase and not to reclassify any of the positions. Fitzgerald added that the Finance Committee has voted to support all step increases and longevity that has been earned and said that W&P should make the decisions on the merits and Finance look at the finance part of it. Roy added that they all need to look at "merit increase" and what does it really mean and that the by-law also needs to be looked at regarding it. Karen Fava added that the Finance Committee has talked about merit increase and discussed calling it a bonus and a one time earning not every year.

10 Towns Comparison

The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and Wage and Personnel got together a couple months back and all agreed on "10 towns" to use for comparison on wage levels. W&P was to get back to the Board and Finance but as stated by Rogers W&P members have not officially voted on the "10 towns". Fava felt that at this point and time there is not enough time to get the comparison on the '10 towns" and would need to be discussed at a later time.

Senior Center

The Board of Selectmen as a whole felt that the seniors of the town are well deserving of a new senior center. Through the years they have given to the town through taxes for the schools and the fields here in town and now it is their turn. They are in a building that is not adequate and every square inch of it is used for something. In closing an "OPM" is needed to help get a glimpse of what the needs of the town are and see what is best for the town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining:

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

Garron 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 Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

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

There being no further business, moved by Schleiff and seconded by Roy, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Kim R. Roy
Clerk
/pjm