

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Selectmen John H. Bruno II, Troy E. Garron and Michael J. Schleiff present.

The following business was discussed:

AGENDA

Selectman Garron added reports on the regionalization meeting in Hanson and a Metro Chamber of Commerce meeting at Stonehill College.

With the above additions, the Agenda for Tuesday, October 13th, was unanimously approved.

MINUTES

No Selectmen Meeting Minutes were considered or approved

ABATEMENTS/BILLS/COMMITMENTS/WARRANTS

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, Board unanimously affirmed approval for the payment of Vendor Warrant #29 in the amount of \$223,699.75

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, Board unanimously committed for collection Ambulance Commitment #9-B in the amount of \$21,758.00

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, Board unanimously committed for collection Mobile Home Park License Fee #10 in the amount of \$5,160.00

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

Payroll Warrant	#30	\$319,174.07
Vendor Warrant	#31	\$ 20,563.93
Withholding Warrant	#32	\$113,845.68

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

Halifax Postmaster (postage)	\$ 165.50
Mass Municipal Assoc (MSA Fall Conference/Schleiff)	\$ 35.00
Mass Municipal Association (ATFC annual meeting/Seelig) ...	\$ 55.00
National Grid (Town Hall/Sep)	\$ 404.83
South Coastal Legal Services (services Jul-Sep)	\$ 875.00
Cushman Insurance (bond)	\$ 100.00
Harry B. Harding & Son (printing STM warrant)	\$ 349.70
Enterprise (public hearing ad)	\$ 71.85
Deutsch Williams Brooks (legal services/Aug)	\$3,546.98
Deutsch Williams Brooks (legal services/Sep)	\$1,992.90
Gilman and Associates (legal services/Sep)	\$ 46.25
Spinale and Spinale (legal services/Sep)	\$ 860.50
Matthew Bender (law books)	\$ 140.46
Lycott Environmental (lakes weed study)	\$3,750.00

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending October 10, 2009 in the amount of \$6,050.50

GENERAL MAIL BUSINESS

A. Plymouth County Advisory Board

Moved by Bruno and seconded by Garron, Board unanimously voted Troy E. Garron the Town’s Representative and Michael J. Schleiff the Town’s Alternate to the Plymouth County Advisory Board for the Fiscal Year 2010.

B. Road Cut - Bay State Bas / Madison Road

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously approved Permit #2010-22 issued to Bay State Gas for a 2’ x 2’ x 1’ deep road cut to do maintenance repair and corrosion control at 45 Madison Road.

C. Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

Moved by Garron and seconded by Bruno, Board unanimously authorized the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Old Colony Planning Council to obtain funds through a grant program to update the 2005/2006 regional plan.

D. Vacancy - Library Trustee

The Trustees would like to fill the vacancy before the election in May 2010 (the person who is chosen could then run to fill the rest of the term). There are three people interested. If they need to operate at full capacity, Garron felt the

Trustees should meet with the applicants and make a recommendation to the Selectmen. Bruno agreed and did not want to choose which of three thus giving that person an edge when running in the May election. Seelig will so inform the Trustees.

E. Proclamation - United Nations Day

Moved by Garron and seconded by Bruno, Board voted as follows to sign a Proclamation designating October 24th as United Nations Day in Halifax:

John H. Bruno II	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	-	Opposed

Motion passed by a 2/3 vote.

F. Community Development Block Grant

Seelig relayed that Halifax has separate offers from Carver and Middleborough to join up with either community to apply for a grant for housing improvement funds. The funds would be loaned out to homeowners who need a low-interest source of funding for work (electrical, plumbing, heating, roofs, siding, handicapped access) on their homes to bring the homes up to code or to generally improve them. The two communities are looking for another town because joint applications do better under the State's funding criteria.

Middleboro has indicated that, if Carver is interested, Middleboro would be the lead town. They are waiting to hear back from Carver. He did not know if Plympton was interested. This is federal money channeled to the state and then to the cities and towns. Middleboro and Carver are looking to improve properties through housing rehabilitation. There would be a grant administrator who would run the program. The program would provide low interest loans to residents to improve their property. This is similar to the septic repair program that has been in effect for the past several years.

Schleiff asked if the lead town determines who gets the money. Seelig said they cannot shut Halifax out. Garron believed they just make sure the person who gets the funds meets the criteria. In response to a question from Schleiff, Seelig said Middleboro would not look to Halifax to contribute funding for administrative duties because the grant covers those costs.

Bruno suggested finding out if the three towns or more could apply together. He felt Halifax should inform both towns it is interested but not sure what the

configuration should be. Garron noted that the federal government looks more favorably on joint applications versus a single town application.

Seelig said, if Middleboro and Carver are not interested in a three-town application, Halifax would then have to decide which Town to join. The Town that writes the grant is considered the lead town and the one that will administer the grant. In neither case would Halifax be the lead town because it does not have the funding or manpower to write the grant.

G. Ambulance Fee Abatements

Seelig informed the Board that abating ambulance charges, including a 50%-off sale, for any charges billed since the Annual Town Meeting in 2006 (which approved the rates at that time) will require an affirmation from the Town Meeting that the Board of Selectmen can abate the charges. An article will be put on the May 2010 Annual Town Meeting warrant; the Town Treasurer-Collector has been notified.

H. Charging to Plow

Town Counsel believes that the Town cannot charge residents to plow unaccepted streets. Seelig has notified the Highway Surveyor and will continue to research with him how other communities have been able to do so. In addition, Seelig will check with the Planning Board to see what their subdivision approvals state about who has responsibility for road maintenance, including plowing, until the road is accepted.

I. Land Planning Bill - Earth Removal / Roach

Because of the failed attempt at resolving the Roach earth removal permit situation, the Town has an unpaid Town Engineer bill for which no funds are available given that the applicant has declined to pay for the services. The Board will submit a Reserve Fund Transfer request to the Finance Committee. If the request is denied, an article will be placed on the next Special Town Meeting to pay for Land Planning's services to the Town.

J. Comcast Cable - Contract Renewal

Even though the current license expires in September 2012, the law states that the renewal timetable can start now, per the request of the license holder. Comcast has asked that the process begin and Seelig has contacted both the Cable TV Advisory Committee and Attorney Epstein (who the Town used on previous cable contracts).

FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Fire Chief William Carrico introduced to the Selectmen the newest members of the call Fire Department. Nathan Jones and Justin Silva were hired to replace some of the call firefighters that have left the Department. Both are EMTs, and Silva has just passed his paramedic exam. One additional person is being considered for employment to round out staffing at nine on a group.

The Board welcomed Jones and Silva to the department and thanked them for their interest in serving Halifax.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT - JOSEPH GARUTI

Selectmen met with Joseph Garuti who outlined his plan to build and install community awareness boards at the Route 36 and Lingan Street town beaches so that the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, etc. can post information about the lakes. Garuti provided the Board with pictures showing the type of sign and planned location of the sign at each beach. The bulletin board fronts will have a plexi-glass hinged cover that can be locked. The estimated cost for materials is about \$500. He hoped to begin construction as soon as possible and provided information on where donations can be sent to offset the cost.

Bruno read a letter from Health Agent Cathleen Drinan supporting the project. Park Commissioner Thomas Schindler was presented and said the Commission is in favor of the project and will be involved in the final placement of the boards.

While community signage does not require a permit from the Building Inspector, the Board recommended Garuti clear his plans through Millias with regard to the schematics of the sign. Schleiff wanted to ensure that the placement of the bulletin board at the Route 36 beach would not block an abutter's view of the lake, and Garron wanted to ensure the materials used were approved by the Conservation Commission.

Garuti will work with Schindler and the Building Inspector to ensure he is in compliance with all regulations.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously approved the proposed Eagle Scout project by Joseph Garuti to construct (2) bulletin boards with outward-opening plexi-glass doors and to put one bulletin board at the Halifax Beach on Lingan Street and one at the Route 36 Holmes Street Beach to help raise public awareness about lake conditions. The size of the bulletin boards are to be approved by the Halifax Building Inspector and the Park Commission. Placement of the signs at each location is to be approved by the Park Commission. In placing the sign on the Route 36 Beach, Garuti will strive not to block the lake view of the residents in the area.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT (CHARLES SEELIG)

A. Veterans Agent

The Board discussed the list of applicants and agreed to interview the following candidates on October 27th: Benjamin Borsari, Gary LeBouef, Louis Avitabile, and Robert Charles.

B. Demolition By-Law

Seelig informed the Board the Historic District Commission has a new draft of the Demolition By-Law and will hold a hearing this winter. They plan on bringing it to town meeting in the spring. It would limit the by-law to structures built before 1900. Structures in the historic district are already subject to a demolition restriction which means that fewer than one hundred structures would be affected. The Commission welcomes all comments about the proposed by-law, a copy of which has been given to the Selectmen.

C. State Ethics Law

Seelig advised that the Board needs to designate a State Ethic Laws Municipal Liaison. The Town is obligated to give employees a summary of the State Ethic laws; each employee is obligated to sign off as well as undertake on-line training.

Moved by Bruno and seconded by Schleiff, Board unanimously appointed the Town Administrator as the Town’s State Ethic Laws Municipal Liaison. Bruno instructed Seelig to hold an educational forum with regard to the changes in the Open Meeting law and the Ethics Laws. It should be a general meeting, taped on Cable. Seelig will provide a plan to the Board by the next meeting (November 10th).

D. Annual Submission of Information

The Board reviewed deadline dates to submit information to the Board as well as Fiscal 2011 budgets, warrant articles, etc. Seelig noted that, last year, while the By-Law sets the deadline date at March 1st for the submission of annual town meeting articles, the Board required articles involving the expenditure of funds to be submitted at the same time as the budget request; articles received after that will be considered last unless a reasonable explanation is given for the delay in submission. Moved by Bruno and seconded by Garron, Board unanimously voted the following timetable:

INVENTORY LIST	DECEMBER 31, 2009
FISCAL 2010 BUDGET REQUEST TO TOWN ACCOUNTANT	JANUARY 7, 2010
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES TO SELECTMEN	JANUARY 7, 2010
ANNUAL TOWN REPORT TO SELECTMEN	JANUARY 28, 2010

E. HOPS Playground

Seelig stated the HOPS Playground has been deteriorating and in need of repair for a number of years and complaints were received during late summer/fall of this year. Some equipment needs to be repaired and some replaced. The Youth and Recreation Commission has contacted a firm to get the work done and the parts have been ordered. Seelig's inclination is to close the playground until the work is done. He recommended marking off the area and installing signage that says the playground is closed.

Garron had talked with Recreation Director Richard Steele who said they are awaiting delivery of the parts and hoped to have the repairs done by this month. Garron suggested waiting a short time. Bruno suggested putting up signage that states the playground is in need of repair. In response to a question from Schleiff, Seelig said that no repairs have been done, even those things that could be easily accomplished have not been done. Garron suggested asking Director of Building Maintenance Gerry Elliott to over and do the simple repairs - i.e. pound nails back in, etc. Perhaps Steele could over with Elliott and determine what could be done. Bruno agreed. Seelig will talk with Elliott tomorrow morning.

F. Storm Water Run-Off

Schleiff asked what Halifax was doing about storm water run-off. Seelig said that was a Highway issue. Schleiff thought the Town was mandated to do something about the drains. Seelig will check with Badore and report back.

AREA REGIONALIZATION MEETING

Garron has been attending regionalization meetings, noting there is some resistance to the concept. He felt it was something that could work and, if agreement could be made between towns, it would benefit everyone.

METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING

Garron reported the purpose of the meeting was to bring business people and legislators together to let them know what help was available and what the forecast looked like. The State is talking about a 10-11% cut in State aid next year.

The State will be running a program to send personnel to get the size of all buildings in towns and do an energy audit to see how well towns are using electricity. National Grid is willing to do an audit for free and will pay 70% of any improvements the town makes. One proposal was to combine one or more towns to get solar power for street lights, etc. Garron wanted Seelig to go on line and get the application for the audit so the Board could review it. Garron said National Grid will train people to do the audit. Hanover and Hanson used college students. Schleiff believed there was a State program that provided clerical help.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Bruno, Board unanimously instructed Seelig to get in touch with the representative from the State relative to the energy audit and grants available for solar street lights and report back to the Board.

Schleiff asked if the Town had any committees to investigate going "green." Bruno said the Building Committee is suppose to be doing an audit this year but have not been able to get it done. Schleiff felt someone needed to be given the responsibility to look at the town as a whole picture, noting that Kingston just got a sizable grant for windmills. Seelig said the Planning Board made a first attempt for wind turbines but had to re-look at the by-law.

Once the Board has the application, etc. it will discuss what course of action to take.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, Board voted as follows to enter into an Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. with Fire Chief William Carrico to discuss firefighter collective bargaining issues and separately with Board members only to discuss police collective bargaining issues:

John H. Bruno II	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes

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

Moved by Bruno and seconded by Garron, Board voted as follows to come of Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.:

John H. Bruno II	-	Yes
Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes

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

Michael J. Schleiff
Clerk

/bfs