



Office of  
**SELECTMEN**  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

**Present:** Joseph Tito, Chairman; Michael Costello, Vice Chairman; Susan Pimental, Clerk; Donald Leffort and Lorraine Botts

**Also Present:** Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

**Call to order at 7:00p.m.**

**Executive Session:** At 7:00p.m. on a motion by Selectman S. Pimental, seconded by Selectman L. Botts, it was voted by roll call to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

**Topics of Discussion:** Town Accountant Contract and Dighton vs. Rehoboth (Vocational School Issue)

The Chairman declared an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Pimental – Aye; Botts – Aye; Costello – Aye; Leffort – Aye; Tito – Aye. Voted 5-0

At 7:33p.m. S. Pimental made a motion to exit Executive Session and to reconvene the open meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Seconded, L. Botts.

Roll call vote: Pimental – Aye; Botts – Aye; Costello – Aye; Leffort – Aye; Tito – Aye. Voted 5-0

**1.0) Call to Order:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

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**2.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants:** J. Tito read the weekly payroll and expense Warrants. S. Pimental made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants, 13-35A Withholdings, \$18,476.05; 13-36B, Payroll, \$97,298.91; 13-36, Invoices, \$41,237.08; and 13-36R Refunds, \$13,969.38. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Minutes:** S. Pimental made a motion to approve and release the Board's Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2013 as edited. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Announcements:** J. Tito stated the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Senior Center starting at 7:30p.m.

M. Costello stated the annual Pasta Night would be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6:00p.m. which would be a good opportunity to meet the candidates.

J. Tito read a letter from Kathy Conti in that Susan Roberts has indicated that she has chosen not to seek re-appointment as a member of the Board of Registrars. Also, that a Republican Registrar is needed to fill this position. The term would be from April 1, 2013 – March 3, 2016.

**3.0) Open Forum – Announcements** – Robert McKim was present and stated that it would be very helpful to collect information from residents who are interested in signing up if they are in need of special medical attention during emergency situations.

**Town Administrator's Report:** J. Ritter reported that the Town anticipates receiving approximately \$23,000 as a reimbursement from FEMA for Hurricane Sandy. This would be 75% of the total cost for the Highway Department and the Forestry Department. FEMA will be meeting with Police and Fire shortly regarding their expenses.

The Initial Damage Assessment Reports (IDA) paperwork has been filed with FEMA regarding the recent blizzard "Nemo" and it appears Bristol County will be eligible for FEMA funding for that storm.

The bids for the emergency generator project at the Senior Center are due on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

There was a Department Heads meeting last Thursday.

There will be an insert into the June tax bill asking residents to voluntarily provide medical information if they need assistance during a local emergency.

He attended the fundraiser kick-off meeting at the Hillside Country Club for the proposed Veteran's Memorial.

**4.0) NEW BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1: Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Reviews:**

**Council on Aging:** Norie Palmer, Senior Center Director was present along with members of the Council Aging Board. N. Palmer provided an overview of the proposed FY14 budget and the services provided.

M. Costello noted the request for a salary increase for the Director and asked how that was determined and he would like to see a more incremental approach toward increasing her salary.

N. Palmer stated it was based on similar communities with a Council on Aging Directors and the salary adjustment was reviewed and approved by the Council on Aging Board.

L. Botts noted that the old Director was paid a similar amount to surrounding communities.

S. Pimental noted the staff working for the Director is new and should not receive a 15% increase.

N. Palmer stated she was trying to bring the budget back to where it was before the cuts and reductions were made several years ago now that the Senior Center attendance, services, activities and staff efforts have increased.

S. Pimental made a motion to increase the kitchen workers to \$9.75 per hour; the Outreach Worker to \$12.00 per hour and the Assistant Director to \$13.00 per hour. Second, M. Costello. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to increase the Director's annual salary to \$36,500 per year. Second, L. Botts. Voted 4-0-1(Costello).

**Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School:** Dr. Gross was present along with Nadie Rose, the Business Manager for the District and Jim Clark (Rehoboth's representative).

Dr. Gross reviewed the proposed FY14 budget and stated the assessment for Rehoboth for FY14 would be \$75,577 and there would be a budget hearing on April 2 at 5:00p.m. All were welcome to attend that Hearing.

S. Pimental asked about the Capital Budget. Dr. Gross stated that there not any in the works at the moment. But if there were the cost would be assessed the same as the transportation calculation.

**Animal Control:** Jane Foster, Animal Control Officer and Rob Johnson, Assistant Animal Control Officer was present. J. Foster reviewed with the Board her proposed FY14 budget.

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It was noted that Rehoboth does not charge for barn inspection. Stable inspection fees go to the Board of Health and then to the General Fund.

S. Pimental asked about the adopt a pet program. J. Foster stated she is working with other communities and the program has been successful. Rehoboth is now down to two (2) dogs and nine (9) cats. Animals are advertised in the Petfinder and in the Reporter.

R. Johnson noted that barn inspections is a large part of the job.

D. Leffort recommends the Animal Control Officer receive a pay increase bringing her annual salary up to \$40,000 per year.

S. Pimental made a motion to approve the request. Second, D. Leffort. Voted 5-0

**Highway Department:** Michael Tyler was present and provided an update on the most recent snow storm and then he provided an overview of the Highway Department's FY14 Budget, he is requesting hiring two (2) employees. The salary line item for the Director's wages has been completed. He is awaiting direction from the Board.

S. Pimental stated she would not be in favor of hiring two (2) new employees without looking at the DPW concept.

M. Costello stated the only advantage of considering a DPW is that would allow the Town access to Chapter 90 funds for forestry work.

J. Tito stated there are advantages and efficiencies for both public works functions to keep the roads open.

S. Pimental asked for a list of what the Department is currently doing, what is not getting done and what would get done if two (2) more employees were added?

J. Tito noted that we need someone in the Department in charge of allocation personnel.

M. Tyler was invited to return to the next Board meeting with answers to these questions.

**Police Department:** Acting Police Chief James Trombetta and Lieutenant Michael Brady were present. M. Brady reviewed the proposed FY14 budget including the addition of another police officer to make up for the School Resources assignment.

S. Pimental asked about the incentive program and that new hires do not receive that benefit.

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M. Brady stated that this will lead to a pay disparity between older and newer police officers in that older police officers will be earning 20% more than younger ones with the same qualifications.

M. Costello asked about the mobile computers. M. Brady stated that CMTI is now charging the Department \$750 per month to back up information.

M. Costello asked about why they were seeking four (4) vehicles next year. J. Trombetta stated there were several high mileage vehicles and the replacement schedule of or 2 a year is not working well for the Department. Often vehicle put on 100 miles per shift.

S. Pimental asked that they look at which vehicles are coming of the fleet and advise accordingly.

J. Tito asked if the proposed security fence could be paid for from the funds which were provided to the Town from the sale of the North School.

**Town Counsel Budget:** J. Tito questioned if \$75,000 was enough money?

**Library Budget:** S. Pimental asked for additional detail which would explain the 3% increase.

**Action Item #2: Vote to Incur Deficit Spending of \$23,526.19 in Invoices for Deficit Snow & Ice Spending:** M. Costello made a motion that the Town incur liability and make expenditures for fiscal year 2013 in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal pursuant to G.L. 44, Section 31D. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #3: Vote to Approve Payment of \$23,526.19 in Invoices for Deficit Snow & Ice Spending:** M. Costello made a motion to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$23,525.19 which will result in a Snow & Ice Account deficit of \$23,500.43. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #4: Pool Table & Entertainment License Applications from Dosanjh Group, Inc. dba Apna Punjab:** The Board reviewed two (2) license applications from the Manager of Apna Punjab for a pool table license and to expand the type of entertainment license to include any type of musical instrument, DJ, and or Karaoke.

The Board decided to schedule a public hearing for Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:45p.m. and 8:00p.m.

**Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Appointment of Eileen Ryan & Nona Maiorano to REMA Per Request of William Mariorano:** M. Costello made a motion to appoint to the Rehoboth Emergency Management Agency as was requested by the Director Eileen M. Ryan

and Nona Maiorano for a term from March 11, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Second, L. Botts. voted 5-0

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**Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Budget Amendments: REMA \$130.00; Fire \$320.00; Police \$6,954.31, \$1,710.64, \$6,054.60; BoS Facilities Maintenance \$400.00; CoA \$103.71:**

S. Pimental made as motion to decrease budget line item 012052-51520 Police Holiday by \$6,054.60 and to increase budget line item 012052-51310 Police Compensation Overtime by \$6,054.60. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 012103-51920 Police Training by \$1,710.74 and to increase budget line item 012103-51310 Police Training Wages, Overtime by \$1,710.74. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 012052-51520 Police Holidays by \$6,954.31 and to increase budget line item 012052-51310 Police Compensation Overtime by \$6,954.31. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 012203-53010 Fire Department Physical by \$320.00 and to increase budget line item 012203-55100 Fire Department Education/Training by \$320.00. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 012913-57349 Rehoboth Emergency Management Agency (REMA) EMT Training by \$130.00 and to increase budget line item 012913-55800 REMA Supplies Other by \$130.00. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52411 Board of Selectmen Town Office Building Repairs by \$400.00 and to increase budget line 011873-52416 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Highway Repairs by \$400.00. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 015413-55800 Council on Aging Supplies Other by \$103.71 and to increase budget line 015413-54200 Council on Aging Office Supplies by \$103.71. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #7: May 13, 2013 Special and Annual Town Meetings:** The Board reviewed the proposed Town Meeting Warrant schedule. It was decided to move the funding articles for the Capital Improvement plans to the Special Town Meeting warrant. Also, to provide the Finance Committee a draft of the Warrant and the budget after the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action Item #8: Vote to Approve One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License Application from Dighton Dandi Lions:** M. Costello made a motion to approve the application for a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for the Dighton Dandi Lions Club (Gretchen Olney) for an event to be held at the South Seekonk Gun Club, 61 Reed Street, Rehoboth, MA on April 20, 2013 from 6:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

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**Action Item #9: Vote to Sign MEGA Annual Meeting Proxy Ballot:** S. Pimental made a motion to approve and sign the proxy ballot and to approve the nomination of Kurtis Johnson, Kristeen Leveeillee and Steve Maio to the Board of Trustees of the MEGA Property & Casualty Group, Inc. Second, L. Botts. voted 5-0

**Action Item #10: Discussion Re: Selectmen's 2012 Annual Report:** J. Ritter volunteered to draft the Annual Report for the board to review at a future date.

**Action Item #11: Vote to Approve Request for Reserve Fund Transfer for \$207.30 for Council on Aging Dues:** S. Pimental asked that CoA take a look at their current budget to see if there is any way to accommodate this request and if the money can't be located for the request to come back before the Board. Second, L. Botts. voted 5-0

**5.0) OLD BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1: Appointment of Interim Town Clerk:** The Board reviewed the qualifications of each of the candidates. J. Tito noted that he spoke with the references provided by Ms. Kilian Sullivan-Silva and found them to be excellent. S. Pimental read a statement prepared by Ms. Laura Schwall. D. Leffort stated he would support Ms. Kilian Sullivan-Silva.

S. Pimental made a motion to appoint L. Schwall to the position of Interim Town Clerk from June 21, 2013 through April 7, 2014. Second, L. Botts. Voted 4-1 (Leffort)

**Action Item #2: Follow-Up Discussion RE: Town Counsel Bills:** The Board decided to invite Special Town Counsel William Hewig to a meeting during April to review his bills.

**Action Item #3: Local Broadcast Access Update:** None

**6.0) OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:**

**8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS:** L. Botts stated that a better definition of exactly what a junk dealers license includes. Also, she is working with Town Counsel on Article "W" the Humane Treatment of Animals article for Town Meeting.

**9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**10.0) ADJOURNMENT:** S. Pimental made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 4-0

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator

DRAFT