



Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

Present: Joseph Tito, Chairman; Michael Costello, Vice Chairman; Susan Pimental, Clerk; Lorraine Botts, and Frederick “Skip” Vadnais

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

Call to order at 7:30p.m.

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

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

J. Tito took a moment to recognize Skip Vadnais as the most recently elected member of the Board of Selectmen. Also, he recognized Michael Brady who was just elected to the Seekonk Board of Selectmen.

J. Tito made a motion to nominate S. Pimental for the position of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Second, L. Botts.

S. Vadnais made a motion to close nominations. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

Action on the main motion. Voted 5-0 (Pimental Elected Chairman)

S. Pimental asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

S. Vadnais made a motion to nominate J. Tito for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Second, M. Costello.

S. Vadnais made a motion to close nominations. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Action on the main motion. Voted 5-0 (Tito Elected Vice Chairman)

S. Vadnais made a motion to nominate L. Botts for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Second, J. Tito.

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J. Tito made a motion to close nominations. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

Action on the main motion. Voted 5-0 (Botts Elected Clerk)

2.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants: S. Pimental read the weekly Warrants. J. Tito made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants, 13-38A Withholdings, \$134,725.96; 13-39B, Payroll, \$74,222.65; 13-39, Invoices, \$17,178.30; and 13-39S, Snow Removal, \$30,620.13; and 13-39V, Veterans, 14,950.06. Second, M. Costello. Voted 5-0

Minutes: L. Botts made a motion to approve and release the Board's Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2013. Second, J. Tito. Voted 4-0-1 (Vadnais)

Announcements: Robert Pray, Fire Chief announced that on April 24th from 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. there was going to be a Chili Dinner and Bake Sale to benefit TRIAD.

William Saunders, Veterans Agent stated the Veterans Memorial web site was up and running the site is now active and to date they have raised \$6,000 for the Memorial. The goal is \$150,000. Also, the American Legion would be holding a meat raffle this Friday.

L. Botts stated tomorrow morning at the Senior Center at 8:30a.m. – 10:30a.m. there will be an egg McMuffin breakfast.

Acting Chief of Police Trombetta provided an update on the REPAC investigation. Officer Ramos was present as the lead investigator on the case. Five (5) search warrants were issued. Officer Ramos assisted the District Attorney with the investigation which has resulted in four (4) indictments being issued against resident Edward Schagrin, 17 Hickory Ridge Road. Also, Officer Ramos and the District Attorney were able to seize \$167,000 which has been recovered out of the \$283,000 taken.

S. Pimental congratulated Officer Ramos and reviewed the current status of the civil case and noted the \$167,000 case only be used for local access broadcast activities.

J. Tito noted that when the former REPAC terminated an important Planning Board meeting broadcast that was when he decided to run for the Board of Selectmen.

M. Costello congratulated the Department and Officer Ramos on a great job.

S. Pimental noted the Community Recycling Day, sponsored by area Lions Clubs, will be held on April 20, 2013 at the DL Beckwith School, Rt. 44 from 9:00a.m. to Noon – a fee of \$3.00 will

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be charged for most items – document shredding will be .45 cents per pound. They will also be accepting non-perishable food items for the Rehoboth Food Pantry.

S. Pimental stated the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be Tuesday, April 8, 2013 at the Senior Center starting at 7:30p.m.

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements – None

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter reported that the Town should receive from FEMA reimbursement for Hurricane Sandy in the amount of \$31,316.78. Also, the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Reports were file last week with MEMA for the March 6th-9th event and eligibility by the federal government is still being determined.

He and the Acting Highway Director met with engineers from Greenman Pederson regarding the status of the Wheeler Street Bridge project. The Board provided direction that a shorter timeline, while important, it is more important to have the state and federal government pay for as much as possible even if it takes more than two years.

The Finance Committee will be meeting this Thursday evening at the Senior Center starting at 7:00p.m. There will be Department Heads meeting this Thursday starting at 10a.m. all are welcome.

He received notice from the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Personnel Board that a member from each Board had missed more than 50% of the meetings. Therefore, pursuant to the Town's bylaws the positions have been vacated and a letter will be going out this week to those individuals. He will seek from the Board a confirmatory vote of his action next week since the item is not on the Agenda this evening.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS

Action Item #1: Discussion with Police Department Re: Transfer Requests/Special Town Meeting Warrant Article: Lieutenant Michael Brady and Acting Chief of Police James Trombetta were present and briefed the Board regarding the Special Town Meeting Article and request for \$95,000 in additional funding.

S. Pimental asked about the number of supervisors assigned to each shift.

M. Brady stated there were currently at least one (1) supervisor assigned to each shift, but they are also expected to be on the road if necessary.

J. Trombetta noted that with the newly reassigned School Resources Officer and the fact that the promotional exam was recently given there is a need to adjust some of the duties and responsibilities of the officers assigned to work for the Department.

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J. Tito asked if the Sergeants were expected to also do patrols?

J. Trombetta stated that supervisors are expected to be available for work 24-7, but yes, Sergeants are expected to be on patrol as needed.

S. Vadnais noted the Department only had two administrative officers in M. Brady and J. Trombetta and that M. Brady manages the administrative functions for the Department and J. Trombetta manages the operational side of the Department.

J. Trombetta noted there were no administrative supervisors assigned to only work at the station.

S. Vadnais stated the Board should take a look at reorganization of the Department and the Special Town Meeting Article is only a short term solution we need to have a longer view.

M. Brady stated it is possible to provide more supervision for less money and those expenses can be absorbed into the FY14 proposed budget.

S. Vadnais asked to have a week to think about the plan. There was no objection.

Special Town Meeting Articles (Police Department): The Board decided to move the request for three (3) mobile lap top computers for the patrol vehicles from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to the Special Town Meeting Warrant. That would allow for the purchase of the computers in this fiscal year.

The Board decided to remove the propose security fence from the Warrant and to implement the project as soon as possible with the financing coming from the sale of the North Rehoboth School. The total project is estimated to cost approximately \$43,000.

M. Costello made a motion to go out to bid on the project as soon as possible. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Copier Machine (Police Department): J. Tito noted the Department wanted to purchase a new copier and they have the money in their budget to do so. M. Costello made a motion to approve the purchase after the Department met with the Information Technology Advisory Committee is ensure town-wide consistency and standards were being met. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Action Item #2: Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Review: The Board reviewed a draft letter to the residents of Rehoboth that would be included in the Warrant. Several edits were noted. The Finance committee is meeting this Thursday and they are planning to take a final vote on the budget at that time.

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Action Item #3: Review of Special Town Meeting & Annual Town Meeting Warrants

Prepared to Date: S. Pimental asked that J. Ritter check with the Veterans Agent to determine if he has enough money in his Veterans Benefits line item to make it until June 30th.

The Board agreed that Special Town Meeting, Article 1 and the snow and ice deficit article would be funded through the use of Free Cash.

Regarding the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, the Capital Improvement Planning article would be funded through the use of onetime non-recurring revenues.

S. Vadnais asked if the Finance Committee have approved the Capital Improvement Planning article?

J. Ritter stated the Finance Committee will be meeting this Thursday and he anticipated a decision to be made at that time.

Regarding the Emergency Generator Article at the Senior Center. M. Costello stated he would like to see the \$23,000 already approved for the project to be reallocated. J. Tito stated that the project has taken on a life of its own. At one point we thought it would be addressed for \$5,000-\$10,000 but now as a result of the bids we are looking at a \$60,000 project and he had difficulty justifying that expense.

S. Pimental stated the intent was good but the expense of the project could not be justified.

J. Tito made a motion to remove the Article from the Warrant. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Regarding the Humane Treatment of Animals Article, S. Vadnais stated this was an issue across the state and he did not understand how the Animal Control Officer could enforce the proposed bylaw when the MSPCA is charged with enforcement throughout the State.

J. Tito asked how the proposed bylaw would be different from the MSPCA standards for enforcement?

S. Vadnais asked if the intent of the bylaw was only for dogs and cats or for livestock as well?

S. Pimental noted that enforcement would be subjective and would place a burden on the Animal Control Officer.

S. Vadnais stated that most abuse of animals happens when people are not well educated about the issues.

L. Botts made a motion to remove the article. Second, M. Costello for further discussion. Voted 5-0

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M. Deignan (resident) asked if the MSPCA could enforce or address any abuse issues?

S. Vadnais stated the article was well meaning.

L. Botts made a motion to remove the article. Second, S. Vadnais on the condition that he and L. Botts work together to come up with some revised wording. Voted 5-0

Action Item #4: Vote to Approve Payment of \$2,782.52 in Invoices for Deficit Snow & Ice Spending: J. Tito made a motion to approve payment of invoices totaling \$2,782.52 which will result in a Snow & Ice Account deficit of \$59,656.69. Second, M. Costello. Voted 5-0

Action Item #5: Reserve Fund Transfer (Police \$2,500): J. Tito made a motion to approve the following Reserve Fund Transfer request and to refer it to the Finance Committee for consideration, Police Training Programs, \$2,500, into budget line item 012123-51920. Second, L. Botts. Vote 5-0

5.0) OLD BUSINESS

Action Item #1: Local Broadcast Update – None

6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: Michael Deignan, Chairman of the Finance Committee notified the Board that a vacancy has occurred on the Finance Committee.

8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: S. Vadnais asked about the health insurance issue and why the elected Board of Assessors were not grandfathered? S. Pimental stated the elected Assessors work less than twenty (20) hours per week and are not normally eligible. However, a previous Board had voted to grandfather those who currently hold the position. S. Vadnais questioned if the Assessors were being treated fairly.

The Board agreed to discuss this matter with the Board of Assessors at a future meeting.

M. Costello reported the irrigation system has been at the Senior Center at no cost to the Town and that a letter of thanks should be sent to David Perry and Matt's Landscaping.

J. Tito thanked everyone for the support during his tenure as Chairman over the last year.

L. Botts thanked Rob Johnson (Tree Warden) for the clean-up efforts from the last storm.

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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10.0) ADJOURNMENT: J. Tito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator