



Office of  
**SELECTMEN**  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Michael Costello arrived at 6:31p.m.

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

**Call to order at 6:00p.m.**

**Executive Session:** J. Tito made a motion 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; (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Topics: Properties auctioneer Contract negotiations; 295 Winthrop Street; 138 Chestnut Street; 366 Winthrop Street.

Second, L. Botts. Roll Call: Botts – Aye; Tito- Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Pimental – Aye. Voted 4-0

At 6:59p.m. Tito made a motion to return to open session. Second, L. Botts. Roll Call: Tito – Aye; Botts – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye; Pimental – Aye. Voted 5-0

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

**2.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants:** S. Pimental read the weekly Warrants. J. Tito made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants, 13-53A, Withholdings, \$2,406.40; 14-01A Withholdings, \$19,564.34; 14-02B, Payroll, \$79,003.22; 13-54, Invoices, \$26,483.54; 14-02, Invoices, \$332,446.01. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

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**Minutes:** J. Tito made a motion to approve and release the regular session meeting minutes from June 24, 2013. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0.

L. Botts made a motion to approve and release the regular session meeting minutes from July 8, 2013. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

**3.0 Open Forum – Announcements:**

S. Pimental stated the next regular meeting of the Board will be on Monday, July 22, 2013 starting at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

M. Costello noted that 78 people attended the last meeting regarding the Wheeler Street Bridge project and hoped they would attend Town Meeting and are watching this evening.

L. Botts stated there is a thank you sign to the Selectmen at the corner of Reed and Water Streets and the weekly Wednesday breakfasts are from 8:30a.m. – 10:30a.m. at the Senior Center.

J. Tito reported that the Selectmen's E-Mail and telephone numbers will be posted to the web site by the end of this week.

**Town Administrator's Report:** J. Ritter reported as a follow-up from the meeting last week that there is a new section on the Town's web site (front page) devoted to the Wheeler Street Bridge project. This is where updates will be posted.

The Light Maintenance position advertisement will be published in the Sun Chronicle and the Taunton Daily Gazette either this week or early next week.

There will be a Department Heads meeting on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00a.m. all are welcome.

Finally, he reviewed the Board Agenda for July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**4.0) NEW BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1: Discussion with Don Backlund, Farrell Backlund Insurance Agency Re: Update on Town Insurance for FY2014:** D. Backlund and Mark Cuddy were present.

S. Pimental reviewed the current status of all the claims and open issues by classification and asked for an explanation as to why there is an overall thirty (30) percent increase?

D. Backlund said M. Cuddy manages several municipal accounts. However, Rehoboth received a termination notice from Trident several months ago. There are only three (3) providers of municipal insurance in Massachusetts Trident (terminated coverage); MIIA was approached by

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opted not to quote; and Glatfelter who has written the policy this year. However, it has proven expensive. Auto is now being written on replacement values instead of cash value.

M. Costello asked if they consider how a fire truck responds including mileage. D. Backlund stated the insurance company does review run times and response when they write the policy.

S. Pimental asked what the town could do to reduce the scope of the increase, perhaps more training is needed. D. Backlund stated the loss control people would be in touch with J. Ritter shortly.

S. Pimental asked about the “tailing” provision. D. Backlund stated that this is coverage which is an additional cost to the Town to provide coverage for any open items up to July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new policy kicks in. This will be needed for a three year period to cover claims that might be lurking out there but we have not been made aware of them yet.

D. Backlund noted the \$25,000 deductible for police and fire has been in place for at least ten (10) years.

M. Costello asked about the terrorism coverage. D. Backlund stated that this came into play after 9/11 and the recent Boston bombings. S. Vadnais asked who declares an act of terrorism?

D. Backlund said it is the Federal government.

**Action Item #2: Review Draft Charge for Zoning Bylaw Review Committee:** S. Pimental reviewed the draft Charge for the Committee and current appointees representing to the Board of Selectmen are J. Tito and Michael Costello. Representing the Planning Board are Michael O’Hern and James Muri. The Zoning Board of Appeals have two appointees which they have to appoint.

L. Botts stated that it appears there are four current or former members of the Planning Board and the Economic Development Committee should have representation. J. Tito said this Committee is a review Committee to cleanup language to ensure compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth and the Economic Development Committee members are free to attend the Open Meetings of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee and provide input at that time.

S. Vadnais said the bylaws have not been reviewed in at least thirty (30) years and the intent is not to propose detailed revisions. All changes would have a Public Hearing and would have to be approved by Town Meeting.

L. Botts stressed the need for more diversity.

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S. Vadnais made a motion to approve the Committee Charge. Second, J. Tito. Discussion: The Board decided to communicate to the Zoning Board of Appeals that they could designate the Zoning Enforcement Officer, William McDonough to serve on the Committee along with one member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Voted 4-1 (Botts)

**Action Item #3: Vote to Approve Budget Amendment for \$2,808.84 (Police Department):**

L. Botts made a motion to decrease budget line item 012052-51310 Police Wages Overtime and to increase budget line item 012052-51120 Police Wages Full Time by \$2,808.84. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #4: Vote to Approve Payment to the Antiquarian Society for \$106,175.50 for Blanding Library:**

J. Tito made a motion to approve the request for the first FY14 payment in the amount of \$106,175.50 to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for the operations of the Blanding Public Library for Fiscal Year 2014. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #5: Vote to Waive Town's Right to Purchase Chapter 61A Parcel on Tremont Street Map 69, Lot 110 (Bliss Brothers Dairy, Notice of Intent (NoI) to Convert Land:**

J. Tito made a motion to waive the town's right to purchase parcel known as Assessors Map 69, Lott 110 located on Tremont Street owned by Bliss Brothers Dairy and to sign the release. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**5.0) OLD BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1:** None

**6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: Departmental Reports:** J. Tito asked for routine reports to be submitted in writing by the Police Department, Fire Department, Highway Department, Animal Control and Forestry. The Board discussed the role of the liaisons and decided that the Board liaisons working concert with a brief written monthly summary is the best approach. J. Ritter will communicate this to the Departments.

**7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** Ronald Whittemore, 21 Pond Street, asked how insurance coverage would address any environmental issues that might come up at WigWam. S. Pimental said that is private property and they can't simply walk away from their responsibilities to clean-up the site.

**8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS:** M. Costello reported that there were 78 people here last week and he heard that the residents want to keep the Wheeler Street Bridge open. He was also concerned about the condition of the Town Hall and asked about any restrictions on the use of the property from the Federal government. J. Ritter will locate the deed.

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He said he received a call from a resident asking why the catch basins had not been cleaned? M. Costello reviewed the current staffing in surrounding communities, Rehoboth had the smallest number of Highway Department workers. Consolidation will not solve the need to get more work done and more staffing. The Highway Department needs additional staffing.

Also, the mower is expected this week.

S. Pimental asked that he prepare a plan and present it to the Board.

L. Botts thanked whoever cleaned up the Village Dam area. There is a visibility issue at Bay State Road and Winthrop Street (Rt. 44).

J. Tito asked if we have heard anything from WigWam. J. Ritter stated today we received his cleanup plan and that would be sent to the Board next week. Also, he hosted several people from Texas over the week-end for a wedding at his home. They were very complimentary about the business community and the appearance of the Town.

S. Pimental stated there needs to be a question and answer session with the Veterans Memorial Committee. J. Ritter will invite Ken Abrams to meet with the Board before the end of July.

J. Tito suggested that a notice be placed into the Special Town Meeting Warrant. S. Pimental stated that they need an additional \$15,000 to get it up.

**9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

**10.0) ADJOURNMENT: J. Tito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator