



Office of  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

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

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

**Executive Session:** L. Botts made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, (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 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:** Morra vs. Casey; Union Contract Negotiation; REPAC vs. Rehoboth; Litigation Issues; 295 Winthrop Street

Second, J. Tito. Roll Call: Botts – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye; Tito – Aye; Pimental – Aye. Voted 5-0

At 7:08p.m. J. Tito made a motion to return to open session. Second, S. Vadnais. Roll Call: Botts – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Tito – 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: 14-29A, Withholdings, \$17,393.80; 14-30, Invoices, \$107,576.53; 14-30B, Payroll, \$89,129.36. J. Tito made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

**Minutes:** L. Botts made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from January 13, 2014. Second, J. Tito. Discussion: S. Pimental noted that on page three, fourth paragraph, the language should read, “S. Pimental asked G. Buckley are quarterly payments to the Town considered a charitable donation? G. Buckley stated no.” Voted as revised 5-0

**Page Two**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

L. Botts made a motion to approve and release the meeting minutes from December 30, 2013. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 4-0-1(Tito)

S. Pimental noted that in Executive Session the Board voted to approve and hold for release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from December 30, 2013 and January 13, 2014.

Also, the Board voted to approve and release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2005 Session 2 of 3; May 31, 2005, Session 1 of 3; and May 23, 2005, Session 3 of 3.

**3.0 Open Forum – Announcements:** S. Pimental noted that the next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Monday, February 3, 2014 starting at 7:00p.m. in the Senior Center.

Fire Chief Robert Prayer was present and stated the Fire Department had to respond to another home structure fire last week and he reminded the public that they need to be really careful especially when using a fireplace to help heat a home. Last week there was another chimney fire. The Fire Department personnel are there to assist residents with smoke detector tests and to provide advice to Rehoboth residents.

M. Costello thanked all those expressed sympathy over the recent death of his mother.

**Town Administrator's Report:** J. Ritter reported that State Representative Steven Howitt last week filed an amendment to the State Transportation Bond bill to include the redesign and reconstruction of the intersection of Rt. 44 & Rt. 118. The estimated cost is \$2.0 million dollars and has been identified by the regional planning agency as among the most dangerous in the region.

He thanked the Board of signing the conflict of interest statement and stated that training is scheduled for Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> with Town Counsel. Topics include the conflict of interest law, open meeting law, public records law, and ethics.

The Board has several upcoming collective bargaining dates. There was an onsite tour of the landfill last week with potential bidders in anticipation of solar developers submitting proposals on February 6<sup>th</sup> for the reuse of the landfill for a large solar array generating facility.

Next week Greenman Pedersen, the Town's consulting engineers for the Wheeler Street Bridge project will provide a project update. Landowners who are direct abutters to the project have been invited to attend and we are hopeful they will consider a donation of their land as temporary construction easements.

Without objection from the Board he will draft the Town Report on behalf of the Board.

**Page Two**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

Interviews for the Owner's Project Manager for the Public Safety Building project will start shortly.

The Rehoboth Agricultural Commission will hold an informational session on February 13, 2014.

**4.0) NEW BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1: Pole Hearing – Petition by National Grid for River Street:** At the start of the Hearing there was not anyone present representing National Grid. M. Costello provided an overview of the project in that National Grid was seeking approval to install eight (8) solely owned poles on River Street beginning at a point approximately one hundred (100) feet north east of the centerline of the intersection of Winthrop Street and continuing approximately five hundred and eighty (580) feet in a north east direction.

Glen Harper, 19 Broad Street was present and asked if any trees were to be taken down, how tall the poles would be, if the wires would be single phase, and if any easements would be needed?

M. Costello stated there is nothing on the proposed plan that he could see that would indicate the need for any easements.

S. Vadnais said that any tree with a diameter larger than ten (10) inches would require a public hearing to be removed. This would also require the approval of the Tree Warden. It appears that several of the trees could be trimmed.

M. Costello said that the trimming would most likely take place above the wires and that he had no problem with the proposed locations.

G. Harper stated he was concerned about privacy and asked if any trees to be removed would be replaced?

M. Costello stated that if that were to happen the Town would work with National Grid to secure the appropriate plantings.

M. Costello made a motion to approve the eight (8) pole locations. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

S. Vadnais asked that J. Ritter follow-up with the Tree Warden and National Grid.

Arthur Avakian representing National Grid arrived later in the meeting and confirmed that no trees would be removed unless they were diseased and the project called for heavy trimming only.

G. Harper asked if the wires would be three phase down Broad Street and if trees were to be taken down they would be replaced with what and if any easements are needed? A. Avakian stated the

**Page Three**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

poles would be forty five (45) feet tall with spacer cable, no easements will be needed, and work is scheduled to start this Spring.

Rob Johnson, Tree Warden will be contacted and he will work with the arborist from National Grid to ensure that all local regulations are complied with.

**Action Item #2: Route 6 at Barney Avenue Traffic Signal Analysis:** Paul Mission with the South eastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District was present and briefed the Board regarding a request for a street light at Route 6 and Barney Avenue.

He reviewed the data collection process based on traffic volume, the number of vehicular traffic accidents as well as pedestrian accidents.

S. Pimental stated the intersection is dangerous and there is nothing to slow traffic down between Seekonk and Swansea. P. Mission stated that in order for a traffic light to be considered there is a specific federal criterion that must be met, which based on their analysis that criteria has not been met.

J. Tito said we understand the volume data coming out of Barney Avenue might not meet the test but what about the speed data?

P. Mission stated that the weighted average speed is 42mph. MassDoT wants traffic flow and patterns to keep moving which is linked to clean air, time savings for the driver as well as less frustration by the driver. However, speed is a secondary criteria vs. volume and accidents

The only thing that might change the results is if a major development were to be built in the area.

Fire Chief Robert Pray questioned the reliability of the data and when it was collected and analyzed.

**Action Item #3: Wheeler Street Bridge Repairs:** M. Costello briefed the Board regarding the current status of the Wheeler Street Bridge reconstruction project. There was a question from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation if sidewalks were needed on the project. This would cause the total cost of the project to escalate and given public safety concerns it would not be appropriate to have sidewalks at that location. The Board reviewed a letter to Patricia A. Levenworth, P.E., and Chief Engineer at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in opposition to the placement of sidewalks and agreed to send the letter.

**Action Item #4: Bristol Elder Services Agreement:** L. Botts made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Rehoboth and the Bristol Elder Services for

**Page Four**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

the Council on Aging Nutrition Program and as approved by Town Counsel. Second, J. Tito. Voted. 5-0

**Action Item #5: Veterans Services Officer Position:** J. Ritter briefed the Board regarding the current status of finding a replacement for William Saunders. The opening has been posted at several public buildings around Town and on the Internet. The Board approved without objection J. Ritter's recommendation for him and Assistant Town Administrator Helen Dennen and outgoing Veterans Service Agent William Saunders to complete the first round of interviews and to present to the Board to several names for the Board to consider and interview.

**Action Item #6: Chapter 70 Task Force Report:** S. Pimental reviewed the recent report received from the Chapter 70 Task Force Committee which was appointed by the School Committee. There is a long history regarding the wealth formula and forcing towns into an override situation. The Regional School Agreement needs to be revisited and updated. Further, she questioned that value for Rehoboth to part of a regional school district and what it would take and cost to establish a Rehoboth only school system..

M. Costello agreed the Agreement has not been revised or updating since 1987.

J. Tito stated it is important for the Agreement to reflect the needs of both communities in today's world.

Ron Whittemore asked who authored the Report and stated there was a consultant hired by the School Committee to investigate the Chapter 70 disbursements and the assessments to the member communities.

S. Pimental said this is a part of a long trend. First, there was the issue of vocational education expenses. Second, then there was the cost of special education that was not properly calculated and now we have the issue coming forward on the member community assessments that have apparently been miscalculated since 2007.

J. Ritter reported the School Committee is meeting tomorrow evening and this discussion will take place around 7:30p.m.

**Action Item #7: One Day Liquor Licenses:** L. Botts made a motion to approve and grant a One Day All Alcohol Liquor License for Dean Botelho, Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity, 43 Broad Street:

February 8, 2014 for sale of Alcohol February 7, 2014 & February 9, 2014 for transportation of alcohol.

March 8, 2014 for sale of Alcohol March 7, 2014 & March 9, 2014 for transportation of alcohol.

**Page Five**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

April 26, 2014 for sale of Alcohol April 25, 2014 & April 27, 2014 for transportation of alcohol.

May 31, 2014 for sale of Alcohol May 30, 2014 & June 1, 2014 for transportation of alcohol.

September 27, 2014 for sale of Alcohol September 12, 2014 & September 14, 2014 for transportation of alcohol.

November 1, 2014 for sale of Alcohol October 31, 2014 & November 2, 2014 for transportation of alcohol. Second, M. Costello. Voted 5-0

L. Botts made a motion to approve and grant a One Day Wine & Malt Beverages License for Dean Botelho, Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity, 43 Broad Street:

August 15, 2014, August 16, 2014 and August 17, 2014 for the sale of alcohol and August 8, 2014 through August 14, 2014 and August 18, 2014 for transportation of alcohol only. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #8: Budget Amendments:** L. Botts made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52415 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance South Fire Station Repair by \$200.00 and to increase budget line item 011873-52414 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance North Fire Station Repair by \$200.00. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

L. Botts made a motion to decrease budget line item 012103-57320 Police Expense Conference by \$135.00 and to increase budget line item 012103-57310 Police Expense Dues by \$135.00. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #9: 2014 License Renewal:** L. Botts made a motion to vote to approve the renewal effective on January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 a Livery License for one vehicle to Priscilla Mahler, LEA Limousine Service, dba Dr. Feelgood Limos, LLC, 66 Fall River Avenue in the amount of \$25.00. Second, M. Costello. Discussion: M. Costello noted that this application for renewal was late and a \$50.00 late renewal fee should be imposed. There were no objections. Voted 5-0

**Action Item #10: May 12, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** The Board reviewed a list of articles as presented by the Town Administrator. Work is continuing on the development of the Warrant and several new articles were added from last week including a land donation at 26 Old South Anawan Street.

**Action Item #11: FY2015 Budget Review:** The Board reviewed the Town Accountant's budget and the Town Report budget as proposed for FY15. There were no comments. S. Pimental stated she would like to see all the budgets at one time and perhaps a special meeting

**Page Six**  
**Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

will be necessary to review those who might need further discussion. J. Ritter will continue to prepare budgets and provide them to the Board weekly through February.

**Action Item #11: Library Payment:** M. Costello made a motion to approve payment to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for the first of two (2) support payments received by the Town from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner for FY2013-2014 for the Bland Library. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

**5.0) OLD BUSINESS:**

**Action Item #1: Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District Capital Project Task Force:**

The Board reviewed the proposed timetable for the Special Town Meeting on March 1, 2014. J. Tito noted that he would not be available for a special meeting of the Board on Wednesday morning February 12, 2014. There were no objections or corrections to the timetable.

**6.0) OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** None

**8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS:** S. Vadnais reminded J. Ritter the Board will need a report from the Fire Chief regarding WigWam for next week. M. Costello asked about the talent bank for submitted for the alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**10.) ADJOURNMENT:** J. Tito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter  
Town Administrator

Voted to Approve on 2/10/14