



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 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 6:30p.m.

Executive Session: L. Botts made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; and (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.

Topics of Discussion: Personnel Issue and Contract Negotiations

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

At 7:08p.m. J. Tito made a motion to return to open session. Second, L. Botts. Roll Call: Botts – Aye; Tito – Aye; Costello – Aye; Vadnais – 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: 14-38A, Withholdings, \$133,358.33; 14-39B, Payroll, \$98,711.73; 14-39, Invoices, \$7,233.93; 14-39V, Veterans \$14,406.48. J. Tito made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

Minutes: S. Pimental noted during Executive Session the Board reviewed and voted to approve and hold for release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2014 and release the Executive session Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2005 and February 14, 2005.

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3.0 Open Forum – Announcements: S. Pimental noted that the next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 starting at 7:00p.m. in the Senior Center.

Acting Chief of Police James Trombetta was present and praised the close cooperation between the Police and Fire Departments in responding to a difficult situation last Friday afternoon for about four (4) hours off of Route 6. A male party had climbed a tree and was approximately 100 feet high and was threatening to jump. Do to the skill of the public safety personnel responding the individual was talked down.

Jane Foster, Animal Control Officer was present and reported that someone was dumping dead goats on Pine Street. The goats were in plastic bags which she collected and took to a pet cemetery.

L. Botts reported that the Paws of Plainville rescued thirty (30) cats from Rehoboth last year. However, two (2) need operations and they are raising money for their needed medical treatment.

Fire Chief, Robert Pray was present to recognize firefighters for Years of Service Awards. He stated the criteria are at least twenty (20) years of service with the Rehoboth Fire Department.

Michael McKearney – 20 Years; Paul Magan – 20 Years; Tom Rose – 25 Years; Chris Botelho – 25 Years; Ken Marco - 25 Years; Alfred Noons – 25 Years; Daniel Noons - 30 Years; Jeff Rassol – 30 Years; Nat Dyer - 20 Years; Randy Larrivee – 25 Years; Robert Noons - 30 Years; Frank Barressi – 25 Years; and Robert Pray 35 years.

Chief Pray noted how hard all the firefighters work and dedication to the profession. He will be spending the next two (2) days in Boston to attend events of related to the two (2) firefighters who recently died in an accident in the Back Bay.

S. Vadnais stated that the Rehoboth Fire Department had always delivered and he was never disappointed in their response when called upon.

M. Costello said he attended the recent Firemen’s Ball and was impressed with the number of young people following in their parent’s footsteps by working for the Fire Department. The firefighters often spend a lot of time and their own money training to be prepared for any event.

Chief Pray thanked the Board but also reminded the Board and the public of the upcoming Bar-B-Que which will be held at the South Station on April 13th. The event is a drive through pickup your chicken and go home type of activity.

Finally, Chief Pray reported that he has promoted Lieutenant Mark Marco to be EMS Coordinator he will also assist with CPR and first responder training as needed.

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Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter stated the next meeting of the Finance Committee is this Thursday. He planned on attending. The Department Heads will hold their next meeting this Thursday at 10a.m. Last Friday Bob Ashton and Bill McDonough joined him in meeting with a potential developer of the former Anawan School. Proposals are due at the Selectmen's Office on Thursday, April 17th at noon. National Grid is continuing work on the step down locations along Rt. 44. Once the work is completed it should significantly improve the reliability for electric power along Rt. 44 and the businesses in that area. Especially, during times of prolonged power outages throughout town.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS

Action Item #1: Fixed Asset Listing: The Board reviewed the information that was submitted by departments. S. Pimental stated this is an important step in determined exactly what the Town owns and when certain equipment, buildings, and vehicles need to be replaced.

Further, now we have an inventory list it is possible to project out when certain equipment will need to be replaced. We can then use the Capital Stabilization Fund for that purpose.

J. Tito asked about the status if there really were twenty-seven tsars. Acting Chief James Trombetta confirmed that in fact the department did have 27 tsars.

Action Item #2: Review Capital Requests for FY2015 and Subsequent Years with Department Heads:

Highway Department: \$3,584 Request to construct a shed to house the emergency generator. M. Costello noted that D-R students would construct the building. But to move the generator outside a concrete slab would have to be constructed the budget breakdown is as follows: lumber, \$1,833 Electric \$1,750 for a total of \$3,584. The Board agreed this is an important project and should be supported.

S. Pimental asked about the status of the dump truck? M. Costello stated that purchase was on hold until the Fall or perhaps even next Spring.

Forestry Department: \$81,000 Ford Cab & Chassis w/Chipper Body: Rob Johnson, Tree Warden was present stated he needed a larger truck and that he needs at least a F550 for chipping. The vehicle should last thirty (30) years. The Department's current truck is down for repairs and we are investing a lot of money into an old truck. There was no objection from the Board. The Board agreed this is an important purchase for the Department and should be supported.

Board of Health: \$27,175 Explorer 4- Wheel Drive Vehicle, Robert Ashton, Health Agent was present and explained that the vehicle he uses every day is almost twelve (12) years old. It came from the Police Department to the Building Inspector down to him. Currently, he is

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putting in about \$1,000 per year in repairs to the vehicle. S. Pimental asked about providing a Police Department pickup truck?

The Acting Police Chief J. Trombetta stated that vehicle was secured by way of a drug bust and could not be traded or used by another Department for another purpose. He said any revenue from the sale of that vehicle has to go into the Department's drug fund. If he had a good vehicle for R. Ashton he would provide it to him for use.

J. Tito noted that the Health Agent must at times respond to underdeveloped site and the use of a 4 wheel vehicle would be beneficial to him and the Town. R. Ashton said he puts on about 17,000 miles per year and stated that he would rather keep his current vehicle than take a truck from the Police Department. The Board decided to defer action and to remove it from the Town for the Annual Town Meeting.

Police Department: \$218,454 request to purchase five (5) police patrol vehicles. Acting Chief J. Trombetta was present and explained to the Board why the Department needed to purchase five (5) replacement vehicles. He stated that as part of the ongoing capital plan the Department was setback several years ago and got out of the cycle of routinely purchasing new vehicles. Once back into the routine the Town should not have to ever purchase five (5) vehicles again all at once. There was a discussion about the number of vehicles the Department currently have, how they might be deployed more efficiently.

The Acting Chief stated the normal patrol vehicle puts on approximately 30,000 miles per year and we try to recycle the cars at the 120,000 mile level. The purchase of five (5) Interceptors would accomplish that objective. Then the Town could utilize a 2-2-3 purchasing plan.

S. Pimental asked how many vehicles are needed daily by the Police Department. J. Trombetta stated twelve (12) plus the Chief's car.

L. Botts asked if the Chief's car was included in the twelve (12). J. Trombetta stated no.

M. Costello stated that each vehicle would cost approximately \$43,000 which is fully equipped with all equipment and lap tops.

The Board decided to support the request from the Police Department.

Town Clerk Voting Equipment: \$14,850, Acting Town Clerk Laura Schwall, was present and discussed with the Board her need to upgrade the voting equipment in all three (3) precincts. The voting booths are fifteen (15) years old and beyond repair and are unsafe. The Commonwealth requires 19 booths at each district plus 1 handicapped voting booth. We

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normally have 18 plus 2 handicapped voting booths. We might be able to sell the old equipment on the Internet.

Animal Control: \$35,000 Ford – 150 Pickup Truck, Jane Foster, Animal Control Officer was present. Her current vehicle has about 140,000 miles on it and is at least twelve (12) years old. The ball joints were recently replaced and the new vehicle would have the ability to lift animals off the ground. The Board agreed to support this capital item.

Municipal Fiber Loop: \$11,000, Derek Rousseau from the Information Technology Committee was present and reviewed the proposal to create a municipal network using local access funds, town funds, and Comcast funds. This would improve communications between departments, improve picture quality, and drive the cost down for the use of telephones.

J. Tito stated that instead of having multiple phone lines, one slightly large line would work better.

George Solas asked if the deployment of the fiber network could help Comcast do further expansions of their networks into residential neighborhoods at the expense of the Town? D. Rousseau stated this proposal is a closed network and not designed for residential use. M. Costello noted that the local access group could have a windfall of cash shortly which could further assist with the project. The Board supported this project.

Information Technology: \$15,000, Derek Rousseau, from the Information Technology Committee said these funds would be used to purchase a new Town Hall server which was donated to the Town at least three (3) years ago. Also, the funds would be used to purchase six (6) new work stations. The supported this project.

Telephone System: \$20,000, Derek Rousseau, from the Information Technology Committee was present and reviewed with the Board the various options to replace the current phone system. That system was donated to the Town at least four years ago. It is out dated and antiquated and is in urgent need of replacement. The Board recommended a town-wide solution be explored. It is better to purchase a complete solution instead of doing one building at a time. D. Rousseau will gather the data and report back but \$30,000 should provide a good solution.

Tower & Communication Equipment: \$85,000, Fire Chief Robert Pray was present and explained to the Board that this solution would address several communications problems the public safety personnel are experiencing with dead spots by moving and installing a new communications tower at the Town Hall since that is the highest location in Town. It would also allow the Police and Fire Departments to communicate more effectively.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus: \$13,000, Fire Chief Robert Pray reported that the Fire Department received a grant in 2003 and the tanks need to be replaced every fifteen (15)

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years. We are now at year eleven and we need to start the replacement program. He noted the tanks are tested every five (5) years. S. Pimental stated that these need to be placed on the fixed asset list.

Ford Cab & Chassis, 13,000 GVW with 8 Foot Plow: \$45,000, Fire Chief, Robert Pray was present and explained the need for the Fire Department to immediately access private drive way to fight fires. This vehicle would replace an old army surplus brush truck which is a 1984 Chevy Truck with 157,000 miles located at Station Two. Pickups are the way to go, they are faster and quicker to respond.

S. Pimental stressed the need to have the replacement vehicles on the fixed asset list and the tanker will have to be replaced in 2016 or 2017.

Action Item #3: Review of the FY2015 Budget & Submission to the Finance Committee:

S. Pimental asked for a break out of one time free cash numbers from Cathy Doane for example the sale of real estate revenues which went to free cash needs to be flagged as non-recurring revenue.

S. Pimental recommended that all wages both union and non-union be level funded unless the Town is contractually obligated to pay for a salary increase. There was no objection from the Board.

Regarding the School Department budget, she recommended that this be resolved at the Finance Committee level. There was no objection from the Board.

The Board reviewed follow-up information regarding contracted services. The information was provided by Michael Tyler, Acting Highway Superintendent. The Board had requested this at their previous meeting.

Also, the following revisions to the FY15 Budget were noted: Selectmen's Salary increase from \$12,500 to \$13,500; Town Counsel increase from \$100,000 to \$125,000; Police Chief Salary increase from 0 to \$110,000 plus the incentive (estimated at \$11,000).

Senior Center Director, Nori Palmer was present to review the Council on Aging budget submission for FY15. S. Pimental noted a significant increase in part-time wages and we can't depend on a grant to fund this position or by adding an additional person at an annual cost of \$11,000.

S. Pimental asked J. Ritter to follow-up with the Library to explain why their salaries are increasing.

The Board agreed to submit the revised budget to the Finance Committee.

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Action Item #10: Discussion Re: Comcast License Renewal: Derek Rousseau, Chairman of the Cable Committee was present and reported the Board should have the license agreement by this Thursday. There are two (2) sections which are still being negotiated. The Cable Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, April 8th just before the Board's next scheduled meeting to resolve any open issues. The Board should be ready to sign the new license agreement next Tuesday.

Action Item #5: Update from the Animal Control Advisory Committee: Richard Panofsky was present and read the Committee's recommendations noting that the Committee had met three (3) times. The Committee recommended that the daily supervision of the Animal Control Officer fall under the jurisdiction of the Police Department.

S. Pimental asked why the Committee is recommending changing the reporting structure by placing a layer between the Animal Control Officer and the Board of Selectmen?

J. Tito stated that he wanted more time to study and reflect on the proposed change. S. Pimental stated this would be on the Agenda next week.

Action Item #4: Review May 12, 2014 Special town Meeting Warrant and Annual town Meeting Warrant Articles 5, 12, 14, 15, 22, and 23: The Board decided to remove Article 14, "Amend the Town's General Bylaws Regarding Town Meeting Notification."

Article 15, "Goff Memorial Hall Rehabilitation," there was a question if the \$160,000 in proposed renovations might trigger certain code requirements. J. Ritter will check with the Building Commissioner.

Article 5, Feasibility and Reuse/Building Site Study & Improvements to the Existing Public Safety Building," J. Ritter recommended bringing in Ted Rowse and Robert Ashton to provide and update. The project as proposed only addresses the Police side of the building a decision must be made to do half the project or the entire building. The current budget proposal is based on \$100,000 for the Owner's Project Manager and \$225,000 for the architect.

Article 22, "Allocation of Pilot Agreement Revenues for Capital Building Improvements," the Board agreed to support this article if funds could also be used from the Capital Stabilization Fund and language should be inserted into the article according and to confirm with Town Counsel.

Article 23, "Establishment of Agricultural Revolving Account," the Board referenced previous history that this was done seven or eight years ago and this is simply reaffirming a previous of at Town Meeting.

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Action Item #6: Vote to Nominate Animal Inspectors for the Town of Rehoboth: J. Tito made a motion in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of Chapter 129 of Massachusetts General Laws, that the Board of Selectmen hereby nominate as Inspector of Animals for the year ending April 30m, 2015 Jane Foster and Robert E. Johnson, III. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

Action Item #7: Vote to Approve Late Class II License Renewal for Lopes Auto Sales, Inc. dba First Class Auto Sales: The Board decided to invite the applicant in to meet with them at a future meeting.

Action Item #8: Vote to Approve One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for Ralph's Catering: L. Botts made a motion to approve the application for a one day wine and malt liquor license from Raffaele DeFusco, Ralph's Kitchen & Catering, 1418 Plainfield Street, Cranston, Rhode Island for an events to be held at Five Bridge Inn, 152 Pine Street, Rehoboth, MA on May 3rd and May 4th 2014 from 3:00p.m. until 11:59p.m. both for weddings. Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

Action Item #9: Vote to Appoint Bette Dyer as an Election Worker: J. Tito made a motion to appoint Bette Dyer, with thanks, per the request of Laura Schwall, Acting Town Clerk, as an Election Worker for Precinct I Unenrolled Inspector effective March 31, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

5.0 OLD BUSINESS: None

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0 OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: None

8.0 BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: S. Vadnais wished L. Botts well and recognized that this would be her last meeting as a member of the Board of Selectmen. He noted they did not always agree but they respected each other's opinions. M. Costello also thanks L. Botts for her service to the Town. J. Tito thanked L. Botts and hoped this would not be the last time she would be attending a meeting of the board of Selectmen. S. Pimental stated she always respected the opinions from L. Botts although they did not always agree.

L. Botts thanked the Board and the residents of the Town for giving her the opportunity to serve for the last two (2) years

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

10.) ADJOURNMENT: J. Tito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59p.m. Second, L. Botts. Voted 5-0

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Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator

Voted to Approve on 4/8/14