



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

Present: Michael Costello, Chairman; Fredrick “Skip” Vadnais, Vice Chairman; Joseph Tito, Clerk; Susan Pimental; and David Perry

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.1) EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:30p.m. J. Tito made a motion to enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21; (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Second, S. Pimental. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Tito – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

Topics of Discussion: Collective Bargaining, Police Patrolmen Contract; Personnel Issues.

1.0) Call to Order at 7:19p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

2.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants: M. Costello read the weekly Warrants: 15-32A, Withholdings, \$17,040.86; Payroll: 15-33B, \$83,752.56; Invoices: 15-33, \$3,833,182.62. J. Tito made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Minutes: S. Pimental made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from December 29, 2014. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

J. Tito made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2015. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

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3.0 Open Forum – Announcements: Jane Foster, Animal Control Officer stated she is not receiving many calls at the Animal Shelter and encouraged the public to call the Animal Shelter if their animals are missing. Please leave a message and don't hang up.

M. Costello stated that Mike Tyler was scheduled to be present to provide an update on snow removal operations but he is out plowing. He informed the public that the Town is doing the very best it can with the limited resources and personnel available due to budget reductions.

He noted that the Town does not use pure salt due to the large number of ground wells and possible contamination issues. That's why surrounding communities appear to have better road conditions.

M. Costello stated the next regular meeting of the board of Selectmen will be on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter thanks all the Town staff and public safety personnel for responding above and beyond the requirements of the job to help ensure Rehoboth residents were safe during the most recent snow storm and blizzard.

He particularly thanks Rob Johnson, John Sousa, and Jane Foster for being at the Animal Shelter and Town Hall last Saturday when it was discovered there was no heating oil for the buildings.

The MMA will be holding a Legislative briefing on Friday, March 13th at the Mattapoissett Library starting at 8:00a.m.

The feasibility study for the proposed regional dispatch center is now complete. It is anticipated that the consultants will make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, March 9th.

The FY16 budgets are being entered into the computer by Helen. Further, review and discussions will take place in the coming weeks.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #1: 7:15p.m. Pole Location Hearing – Brook Street:

J. Tito made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Second, S. Pimental. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Tito – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

M. Costello invited National Grid representative Michael Brandon to explain the project. M. Brandon stated that the placement of a riser pole was needed to provide service to a barn at 180 Brook Street. M. Costello noted the Police Department, Fire Department and the Tree Warden have no objections. M. Costello was if there were any public comments. None were heard.

S. Vadnais made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Second, S. Pimental. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Tito – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

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J. Tito made a motion to approve the petition submitted by National Grid for a new riser pole along Brook Street in the area of 180 Brook Street to provide electrical service to a barn. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #2: Presentation of Preliminary FY2016 School Budget by Superintendent Dr.

Azar: Dr. Azar (Superintendent); Catherine Antonellis (Business Manager); Kevin Braga (Principal, Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School); Kyle Riley, Director of Special Education; and Tasha Peters.

Dr. Azar provided a summary of his experience and background. This included a high level summary of the proposed FY16 Preliminary Budget which included a 7.19% increase. Each member of the staff present explained the need for additional services.

Dr. Azar stated his objective is to have an excellent school system; there have been many joint meetings between the Towns so far. He wants to focus on what works and what needs to have further attention or improved. We need to develop a way to work together not in silos as a community.

Turnover at the Central Office has had a negative impact on education. The first budget was proposed at an 8 percent increase now it is down to 7.19 percent increase there is still a lot of work to do between now and the next School Committee meeting on February 24th.

M. Costello stated he is not interested in revisiting the past. He wants to establish a new environment where there is mutual respect.

K. Braga explained the importance of “Blended Learning,” the virtual High School concept, the use of electronic text books, the need for a new backup computer server. Also, the District is planning to lease new computers instead of purchasing them which will save money. There is a need to upgrade security at the entrance to the High School and to have a School Resources Officer on site.

T. Peters explained to vocational aspect of the curriculum and the resulting academic opportunities for students especially at the High School. There are currently 67 students at Bristol Plymouth and Bristol Agricultural High Schools. Staff has met with both Superintendents and they support expansion of the nursing and culinary curriculums.

M. Costello pointed out that it costs less to educate a student at B-P and asked why the District did not use zero based budgeting in developing their budget. Dr. Azar said they are trying to provide the best education with the available revenues.

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S. Pimental asked for data relating to the number of proposed new hires. C. Antonellis said approximately \$204,000 is for additional instructional support and para professionals. S. Pimental questioned the appropriation for \$100,000 in legal settlements and the use of E&D.

D. Perry understands the need for a quality education but the question comes how to pay for it.

J. Tito said the Town absorbed the increase last year. But we need to live within our available revenues. The proposed 7.19 percent increase will be a challenge to get approved at Town Meeting.

Action Item #3: Vote to Approve Animal Advisory Policies: J. Tito made a motion to approve the policy on Behavior Evaluation of Companion Animals in the Shelter; Policy on Transfer of Companion Animals from the Shelter to Another Shelter or Rescue Organization; Policy on Euthanasia of Companion Animals; and the Policy of Adoption of Companion Animals. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #4: Vote to Approve Budget Amendments for Board of Selectmen and Police Department: J. Tito made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52121 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Town Office Building Electric by \$500.00 and to increase budget line item 011873-52128 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Annex Electric by \$500.00;

to decrease budget line item 011873-52132 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Council on Aging Gas and to increase budget line item 011873-52126 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Highway Electric by \$830.00.

It was decided to hold the Police Department request for clarification. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve One Day Liquor License for Dighton Lions Club: J. Tito made a motion to approve a one day Liquor License for Darlene Araujo, Dighton Lions Club for an event to be held at the Seekonk Rod and Gun Club, Reed Street, Rehoboth, MA on March 14, 2015 from 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

Action Item #6: Vote to Appoint South Coast Rail Task Force Representative: The Board decided to hold this matter until their next meeting.

Action Item #7: Vote to Accept Check from Comcast for \$2,414.55 for PEG Programming for October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014: J. Tito made a motion to accept from Comcast a check in the amount of \$2,414.55 as a quarterly installment payment and funding for PEG Programming to the Town for the period of October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

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Action Item #8: Vote to Issue All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License to Compadres Restaurant, Inc. dba Don Tequila's 569 Winthrop Street: J. Tito made a motion to approve and issue an All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License to Compadres Restaurant, Inc. dba Don Tequila's for use at 595 Winthrop Street effective from February 17, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and further, the Board of Selectmen the undersigned, attest that we are in possession of the Certificate required by Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004, signed by the Building Inspector and the Rehoboth Fire Department for the above named license. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

5.0) **OLD BUSINESS:** None

6.0) **OTHER BUSINESS: Snow and Ice Removal Deficit:** J. Tito made a motion to incur deficit spending in Fiscal Year 2015 for snow and ice removal expenditures pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D, which will currently result in a deficit of \$12,782.65. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Full Regionalization/De-Regionalization Committee: M. Costello stated that last Wednesday the Board met with the Dighton Board of Selectmen and both Boards agreed to establish a six (6) member Committee with three (3) from Dighton and three (3) from Rehoboth. The Committee will evaluate the pros and cons of full regionalization and de-regionalization of K-8 and report back to both Boards in a joint meeting. S. Vadnais made a motion to affirm the previous vote of the Board as described by M. Costello. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

"Alice Program," S. Vadnais made a motion to reaffirm a previous vote of the Board while meeting with the Dighton Board of Selectmen and to notify Rehoboth's Acting Chief of Police to designate a Sergeant to work with Dighton on the "Alice Program," which is designed to protect children in the event of a crises. This would help to provide a unified response. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

7.0) **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** Tish Vadnais questioned why the Board of Selectmen would be issuing at Liquor License to the Dighton Lions Club? J. Tito stated because the event will be held in Rehoboth.

8.0) **BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS:** S. Pimental asked to revisit the snow removal policy. It is understood that the policy is modeled after the Town of Seekonk. However, Rehoboth is also different than Seekonk with a lot more rural roads and secondary streets.

There is a need to revisit the condition of the Public Safety Building. Even if the Town were to work at it in stages. Fire Chief Barresi was present and confirmed a water leak in the ambulance bay close to the medical supplies.

D. Perry stated that Habitat for Humanity is working on the construction of a tool shed at the Senior Center this Spring. The size of the shed is approximately 16x10.

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Regarding snow removal operations, this is a no win situation. The public needs to be reasonable given the weather and budget situation.

M. Costello stressed the importance to clear off roofs, make sure vents are clear of snow, and CO2 detectors are working properly.

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

10.0) ADJOURNMENT: D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07p.m.
Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator
Approved 2/23/15