

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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Rehoboth, MA 02769



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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015  
MEETING MINUTES  
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

**Also Present:** Helen Dennen, Assistant Town Administrator

**Absent:** Mike Costello, Chairman; Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

**1.0) Call to Order at 7:00p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of a Allegiance to the Flag.

**2.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants:** S. Vadnais read the weekly Warrants: 15-36A, Withholdings, \$32,310.02; Payroll: 15-37B, \$85,301.12; Invoices: 15-37, \$32,223.89; and Snow Removal, 15-37S, \$40,130.49. S. Pimental made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, J. Tito. Voted 4-0

**Minutes:** none

**3.0) Open Forum – Announcements:** Laura Schwall announced election on April 6 from 7am -8pm. Absentee voters can get ballot at Town Hall or one can be mailed to you. Final registration is 3/17/2015 at Town Hall from 8am – 8pm. L. Schwall registered 38 from DRHS. L. Schwall attended rabies clinic at Seekonk Highway Department and it was a success vaccinating 176 dogs and registered 100.

S. Vadnais announced next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday March 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

S. Vadnais also announced April 9 7 pm at DRHS auditorium there will be a meeting to discuss Amended Regional Agreement as it is now to get it out to the public.

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**Town Administrator's Report:** none

**4.0) NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item #1: Joint Meeting**

Dr. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Azar, Chairperson for School Committee Eliza Couture, Catherine Antonellis School Business Administrator, along with Finance Committee; Spokesperson Mike Deignan, Gerry Schwall, George Solas: and many others from Finance and School Committee.

Eliza thanks Board of Selectmen for having this meeting to maintain communication.

She also mentions there is a vacancy on the Capital Task Force for a Finance Committee member from Rehoboth. FY2016 Budget Dr. Azar presented two Assessments: the first on was at 6.24 budget increase, reduced considerably to 3.44 budget increase; although it has not been voted on by the School Committee. The changes will go before Committee next week for a vote.

Dr. Azar would like to have the budget settled by Town Meeting May 11, 2015. He has no doubt everyone wants a great education for the kids we just have to find a way to fund that.

Catherine Antonellis reads the breakdown of the changes to FY19 Budget (see attached).

S. Pimental asked what School Choice meant and how fee is assessed. Catherine answers by stating School Choice allows student from other areas to attend DRHS and the State assesses the fees at \$5,000.00 per student with a 30 student limit. Dr. Azar hopes to have student enter school in ninth grade and attend all four years. Brings in \$150,000.00 in school choice revenue if all spots are full. This revenue of choice has to be voted on by School Committee. We have also made some adjustments to the salaries to reflect 1.5% change. Substitute budget was also cut but you never know as for last year it was cut and the schools went over the allowed dollar amount. There were a lot of new moms in the school system that were out on maternity leave. We reduced one full time secretary, three school year secretaries, and one part time secretary. Also we reduced eight paraprofessionals knowing that the budget is written to have two paraprofessionals. Making other adjustments we have reduced the budget by \$808,000.00 which brings us down to 3.44%.

G. Solas questioned the position of Paraprofessional and if we still have them in school systems.

C. Antonellis answered yes we have 72 with some designated to I.E.P. G. Solas requested a copy of year to date budget spending and how much was actually spent last year. Where does the money go if not spent? It goes in the E & D account, answered C. Antonellis. C. Antonellis will provide a detailed binder of the year spendings at March 24 meeting. Dr. Azar stated there will be more cuts that are severe in order to be able to fund education for the kids. D. Perry asked where the money goes after cutting and C. Antonellis will provide that at next meeting.

J. Tito asked about McKinney Vento and how it is not on 6.24% budget? C. Antonellis explained it is for homeless children to be transported to their previous school and it is hard to know how many students we will get. \$10,000.00 is a very conservative amount based on past history and we have received revenue from this program. It is a guesstimate.

Finance Committee member asked why Teacher's Workshop was increased from \$33,000.00 to \$243,000.00. Anthony Azar answered: (video was very choppy hard to know exactly what he is

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saying). Instead of hiring consultants from outside sources that might not get along with staff, to work with individuals to see what is needed as far as education, we are working within school staff to support all systems available, such as Keys to Literacy, etc. Teachers are vested in their building and are able to work well together is the better way to go. Making sure all our children have an equal opportunity to learn. Questions were raised as to why patrolmen our on school budget and not police budget. FinCom member asked about Position of Director of Opportunity and A. Azar stated that position has been removed.

S. Pimental states that we started the year with 1 million dollar deficit and are looking at a 1.6 million dollar deficit at this point. S. Vadnais stated we want to avoid and override if we can and he is impressed with how many people he sees that are involved with trying to solve the budget issue. Eliza Couture made a motion to adjourn.

**Action Item #2: Roadway Access Permission or Marathon**

We have received a request from Gary Minissian, Race Director for Ocean State Multisport asking permission to use Town of Rehoboth roadways to hold a half marathon on 11/1/15. Hours of event appear to be 5:30 am to 12:00 noon. Unsure of the number of participants. S. Vadnais stated that if race exceeds 300 people to come back in front of the Board to discuss safety measures.

This individual presented himself to Board a couple of weeks ago and was advised that written permission must be received from the Police and Fire Departments prior to the BOS approving the request. Both Lt. Trombetta and Chief Barresi have approved this request with Lt. Trombetta requiring three detail officers. They plan on donating money raised to Senior Center.

Motion made by J. Tito with stipulation of three detail officers, no more than 300 people and donation made to Senior Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Pimental All Vote 4-0

**Action Item #3: Review of FY2016 Police Department Budget**

Gerry Schwall states budget was revised and in Chief's salary and incentives. One line that needs revision is contract replacement cost under vacation went up significantly. That is a matter we will work through. Other than that Chief Trombetta and Lt. Brady have worked through and incorporated the changes that were requested by the Board of Selectmen. S. Vadnais turns floor over to S. Pimental. She asks Lt. Trombetta and Lt. Brady if they would like to highlight parts of budget with changes. Officer Brady explains of he highlighted parts of budget with significant changes, one being: Chief wages. Lt. Trombetta, soon to be Chief Trombetta needs to be funded, he has been acting Chief for quite some time now. The transfer of funds is coming from the full time wages line of the police budget namely \$95,065.00 of wages will be transferred over to salary for the Chief's line. \$10,506.00 will be transferred from the incentive line to the Chief of Police incentive line. Balance to come from another source of funding since the incentive Quinn Bill went away no one can get into the program unless grandfathered in. Lt. Brady stated would like to add three officers and using one as a school resource officer, replacing Trombetta's full time patrolman position. The school resource officer was eliminated last year and all agree should be funded by the Police Budget. This would also allow Detectives back since they were

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reassigned to Patrolman duty. Line item for vacation compensation did go up due to adding three more officers to budget. S. Pimental stated we will commence this issue in Executive Session. The next line item is court time which we have already exceeded due to a lot of big cases. I would be wise not to cut because we still have cases pending. The same thing for training over time, we have already spent 60% so we are a little bit above where we should be at this point. Lt. Brady stated training is very important. S. Pimental explained to everyone that we are trying to come up with a realistic amount due to a 1 million dollar cut last year. Lt. Brady stated next line item is holiday pay increase which the younger officers tend to use it as a day off because they don't have a ton of vacation time, whereas; the senior officers use it as a paid day. This would allow officers 12 ½ paid holidays. G. Schwall states that this budget is much more manageable. Next line item is Police Department building repairs and maintenance. Lt. Brady stated \$2,000 is not realistic due to the age of the building. He has already had to submit two budget amendments for repairs. Medical and Physical line item increase for the three new officers appointments they need to have before becoming hired. Good news the telephone budget has decreased by \$500. Programs and Registration increase for three new officers; also, an increase for gear and ammunition for three new officers. Lt. Brady explained Verizon may not be able to fund 911, which helps cover costs for equipment and pay for dispatchers. He does not want that line item cut. We always need a dispatcher on duty no matter what. Increase in the wages for part time and overtime pay for dispatchers and also do not cut training budget for training dispatchers. S. Pimental requested a Capital Spreadsheet for inventory of all vehicles and look at the Capital. J. Trombetta mentioned that computers were looked at and also rifles and were incorporated into purchase of equipment. (Video was non audible for several seconds). J. Trombetta mentioned when giving citations (parking tickets, throwing snow into streets, etc.) to people we don't have anything that goes to registry and stops them from registering their vehicle until they have paid town and would like something in place. Lt. Brady has done some research on this matter and is going to put something together and will show town council to be able to put together proper wording. Lt. Brady said you adopt a provision to the Mass General Law that will notify Registry and put a stop to renewing and registering vehicles. Lt. Brady also thanked IT Committee for the new laptops and help getting them up and running.

**Action Item #4: Nominations for Inspector of Animals**

This is an annual notice from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources asking the Town to appoint Inspectors of Animals for a term running from 5/1/15 thru 4/30/16.

Vote to appoint Jane Foster and Robert E. Johnson, II as Inspector of Animals for the Town of Rehoboth in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of Chapter 129, General Laws, as amended for year ending 4/30/16. R. Panofsky stated there was change in Mass Law and we need to update job description and bring it to compliance.

Motion made by S. Pimental 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tito All Vote 4-0

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**Action Item #5: One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License**

Vote to approve application for a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for Barbara Spencer of Rehoboth Antiquarian Society. Licensed premises is; Carpenter Museum, 4 Locust Street on 3/19/15 (3/18/15 & 3/20/15 for transportation of liquor) from 5:00pm – 9:00pm.

Motion made by J. Tito to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Pimental All Vote 4-0

**Action Item #6: Snow & Ice Invoices**

Vote to approve deficit spent for snow and ice removal authorizing payment of invoices totaling \$27,974.08 which will result in a deficit balance of \$132,709.18.

Motion made by J. Tito to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Pimental All Vote 4-0

**5.0) NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item #7: Budget Amendment**

Vote to approve the following budget amendment:

Acct. No. 011873-54508 Dept. BOS Facility Maintenance Annex/Custodial Increase \$100.00

Acct. No. 011873-52134 Dept. BOS Facility Maintenance NFS/Gas Decrease \$100.00

Motion made by J. Tito to approve budget amendment 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Pimental All Vote 4-0

**Action Item #8: Sign Request from Antiquarian Society**

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society has submitted request to display signs for upcoming events at the following locations:

1. Intersection of Rts. 118 & 44
2. Intersection of Bay State Road & Rte. 44
3. Island in front of Rehoboth Congregational Church
4. Intersection of County Street & Bay State Road (on the side of the road where the Francis Farm sign is located)
5. Intersection of Fairview Ave. & Rte. 118 (soccer field corner)

Upcoming events include:

1. March 19 Pint, Pizza Pie, Play
2. April 19 Bus tour of historic homes
3. May 6 Annual Meeting
4. May 31 Strawberry Country Festival/Family Day
5. September 23 Wine Tasting/Silent Auction
6. November 13 & 14 Folk Art & Artisans Show
7. December 6 & 10 Winter Events (TBD)

Signs will be placed in location approximately three weeks before event and removed immediately following.

Motion made by J. Tito to approve signage 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Perry All Vote 4-0

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**Action Item #9: Directional Signs**

Discussion regarding the placement of directional signs for businesses around Town on telephone poles.

Bob Benoit of Tremont Street spoke about people not abiding by town laws in regards to signs being screwed into telephone poles without permission and it also compromises the integrity of the pole. On Fairview Avenue there is a sign looking right at you from a local businessman also there are EMT signs that have nothing to do with our town. They should be asked to take them down. Not fair for others who follow laws. He is an EMT and has cut his hand on staples from signs on poles and banged his head on signs. J. Tito states we don't have an enforcement agent for this because we can't afford one and it angers me. M. Deignan has been helping with this but admits he has been lax due to snow build up. He has made notes and is getting back out there to remove them. If it is a directional sign it can stay and also Rainbow Turkey has been there for over twenty years. D. Perry suggested calling if there is a number on sign or sending letter if there is an address. M. Diegnan has called people and told them to take down or they can pick sign up at the Highway Department. We do not own telephone pole but M. Diegnan considers it abandoned when they leave it. D. Perry stated existing/ historical signs can stay and new advertising signs should come down. He says to use common sense don't take down lost dog or something like that. M. Diegnan gives out his cell phone number and email so that people can contact him to report a sign and he will go out and eradicate it.

Bob Benoit brought up separate issue of safety that he had previously spoken to D. Perry about. He state that every winter four poles are taken down on his road due to bridge freezing and people driving fast. He is asking for two signs 'Bridge freezes when icy' and has been asking for years. D. Perry said he has discussed this issue but budget did not allow for more signs, he will bring it up again and put it on an agenda for future.

**Action Item #10: Mobile Home**

A request from Scott Abrahamson to place a mobile home on his property at 166 School Street. Zoning bylaws allow placement of a mobile home by special permit from the Board of Selectmen for a period of six months. Permit may be renewed only for two consecutive six month intervals, not exceeding a total of 18 months.

Motion to vote to approve placement effective 3/16/15 thru 9/16/15 made by S. Pimental 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tito All Vote 4-0

**Action Item #11: DRRSC Request Municipal Representative to work with School Committee**

DRRSC requests the Rehoboth and Dighton BOS designate one municipal representative to work with the School Committee on the impending negotiations for: DR Regional Teachers' Association; DR Regional Secretaries' Union; DR Regional Paraprofessionals' Union. Individual will meet with the DRRSC at their next meeting 3/24/15.

S. Pimental states we should call Dighton and see if they have anyone in mind. All Board of Selectmen agreed.

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**6.0) OTHER BUSINESS:** R. Panofsky, friends of Animal Shelter asked about process for putting up a sign for an event of a fortune teller, tarot card reader on the upcoming Saturday. The Board of Selectmen voted to allow them to put up a sign for event and take down with 48 hours after event.

Motion made by S. Pimental to approve sign 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tito All Vote 4-0

**7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:** nothing

**8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS**

**S. Vadnais:** We had a water issue at COA D. Perry will explain.

D. Perry stated water pump fried due to frozen pipes it was replaced right away by a local plumber and then there was no water pressure. We called Highway Department to get a back hoe and dig out pipe then we found another pipe that we didn't know about going to Anawan School that had frozen and defrosted. The water was pumped out and within 48 hours everything was fixed. D. Perry thanked Bob Ashton, Mr. Shrine, Highway Dept.

**D. Perry:**

**J. Tito:** It's St. Patrick's day tomorrow  $\frac{3}{4}$  Irishman want to wish everyone a happy and safe day.

**S. Pimental:** I have a meeting with Dr. Azar and Jeff coming about to keep dialogue open regarding budget. People think it's only 3% but it's not, we voted on a budget we can't afford because we are in a huge deficit. She reads a lengthy report from Fire Chief regarding areas that need to be repaired in all fire stations from ladies room to furnaces that don't fire up when they should. We have a 1 Million gap and now we have to back fill the Fire Department and other areas of the town. J. Tito added that every department is asking more than we can give and that's the nature of the beast. We have to make sacrifices in other areas to help out others. We will support the Finance Committee in finding out where that money goes.

**9.0) ADJOURNMENT:** S. Pimental made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20p.m. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted -0

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly J. Hathaway

Approved 11/30/15