



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

Absent: Joseph Tito

1.1) EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:30p.m. S. Pimental made a motion to enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, and Section 21; (2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiation with nonunion personnel; (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. Second, D. Perry. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 4-0

Topics of Discussion: Contract Negotiation – Clerical; Non-Union Personnel Contract Negotiation

1.0) Call to Order at 7:21p.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: 15-34A, Withholdings, \$129,933.59; Payroll: 15-35B, \$83,783.12; Invoices: 15-35, \$44,399.85; Refunds, 15-35R, \$6,049.07; Veterans, 15-35V, \$14,510.47. S. Pimental made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Minutes: S. Pimental made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2015. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 3-0-1 (Perry)

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S. Pimental made a motion to approve and hold the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2015. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 3-0-1 (Perry)

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements: Acting Chief of Police James Trombetta was present and detailed the heroic actions of two (2) police officers for two (2) separate events over the last week.

First, Sergeant Medeiros on February 2, 2015 single handily detained two (2) suspected drug dealers after a pursuit from East Providence into Rehoboth the chase lasted several hours along Route 195 and Route 6. Sergeant Medeiros has twenty-nine (29) years with the Department, twelve (12) which are in a supervisory position.

Second, Officer Craig Forget, which working the four (4) to twelve (12) shift stopped a truck traveling West bound on Route 44. While approaching the vehicle the truck took off. However, Officer Forget was able pursue the suspect into Providence resulting in a foot chase where he detained the suspect until backup arrived and was able to make the arrest. The individual under arrest was also wanted for an incident along County Street several months ago there approximately three hundred thousand (\$300,000) dollars' worth of drugs was discovered along with the suspect's vehicle. Officer Forget has fifteen (15) years with the Department.

S. Pimental made a motion that two (2) letters of commendation be prepared. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

S. Pimental noted that the Board met in Executive Session with the Acting Chief of Police and announced that he and the Town have reached an agreement and a multi-year contract. The Acting Chief will be sworn in as Chief in July.

M. Costello announced that passing of Richard "Dick" Luthi. Mr. Luthi was not only a highly decorated veteran of our country but also served as Veterans Agent and Treasurer for the Town of Rehoboth for many years before retiring.

Jane Foster, Animal Control Officer was present and reminded the public about the importance of clearing snow from roof. There was a roof and barn collapse this morning there three horses narrowly escaped injury.

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter stated the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

Interviews for the Equipment Operator position at the Highway Department will be held this Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. There is a planning meeting scheduled for March 20th at Mass Highway District 5 regarding the redesign and reconstruction of the Rt. 44 and Rt. 118 Intersection. Architect Ted Rowse and Public Safety Building Committee Chairman Bob Aston

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will be meeting this Thursday morning to discuss the next steps for the reconstruction renovation of the Public Safety Building.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #1: Discussion with the Animal Control Advisory Committee re: Two New Policies: Richard Panofsky, Chairman of the Animal Control Advisory Committee was present along with Committee members Richard Cohen and Amy Hurd.

R. Panofsky reminded the Board that they recently adopted four (4) new policies. This evening the Committee is asking approval of two (2) more policies. The first, is a “Shelter Veterinarian Use” policy. And the Second, is a policy for “Shelter Volunteers.”

R. Cohen stated it was important to locate individuals who can volunteer and have specific kinds of expertise. It is also important to formalize and codify the current relationships and conditions at the shelter.

S. Vadnais reminded the Board that the Committee is only implementing state regulations and formalizing the program.

S. Vadnais made a motion to adopt the “Shelter Veterinarian Use Policy.” Second, S. Pimental. Voted 4-0

Regarding the policy for “Shelter Volunteers,” J. Ritter expressed some liability concerns and informed the Board he ran the draft policy by Town Counsel and the Town’s insurance carrier. Town Counsel acknowledged the Wavier provision. It helps but is difficult to enforce. Don Backlund, the Town’s insurance carrier, said liability concerns can be addressed by beefing up the training language. It was agreed that R. Panofsky would meet with D. Backlund to discuss this concern and report back to the Board at a later date.

J. Foster, Animal Control Officer stated that unless a volunteer has worked with animal, and even then someone is going to get hurt. S. Vadnais said we should task the Committee to look into implementation plans and he views the Animal Control Officer as the enforcement role. R. Cohen stated it is clear from the policy that volunteers are under the control of the Animal Control Officer.

Action Item #2: Michael McBride (Regionalization/De-Regionalization Committee): Michael McBride was present . The Board thanked him for expressing interest in serving on the Committee. There are currently three (3) open positions for Rehoboth. Dighton has already made their appointments. The Committee will review deregionalization K-8 and the other option of full regionalization. S. Pimental made a motion to appoint Michael McBride effective today, March 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 4-0

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S. Vadnais made a motion to appoint George Solas for a term effective today, March 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Action Item #3: Discussion With Town Clerk Laura Schwall re: Hours Polls Are Open for April 6, 2015 Town Election: L. Schwall presented data regarding voting patterns and the times polls are open. S. Pimental made a motion for the Polls to be open from 7:00a.m. until 8:00p.m. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Action Item #4: Vote to Sign April 6, 2015 Annual town Election Warrant: D. Perry made a motion to sign the April 6, 2015 Annual town Election Warrant as presented by the Town Clerk. Voting will take place at all three precincts, Precinct I - Town Offices, Precinct II –Senior Center, Precinct III – South Fire Station. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 4-0

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Budget Amendments: \$600 Board of Selectmen and \$950.77 Police Department: S. Pimental made a motion made a motion to decrease budget line item 012052-51990 Police Holiday Replacement by \$950.77 and to increase budget line item 012052-51550 Police Court Time by \$950.77. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 4-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52132 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Council on Aging Gas by \$600.00 and to increase budget line item 011873-52148 Board of selectmen Facilities Maintenance – Annex Oil by \$600.00. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Action Item #6: Vote to Incur Deficit Spending for Invoices Snow & Ice for \$48,941.13 for a Total Deficit of \$61,723.78: S. Pimental made a motion for the Board to vote to authorize payment of invoices totaling \$48,941.13 for snow and ice removal which will result in a total deficit of \$61,723.78. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Action Item #7: Vote to Issue All Alcohol Package Store Liquor License to Winthrop Street Liquors, Inc. per Approval of Transfer from the ABCC: S. Pimental made a motion for the Board to issue an All Alcohol Package Store Liquor License to Winthrop Street Liquors, Inc. Manager, Paul G. Rebelo, 537 Winthrop Street per approval from the ABCC for the transfer of this license, No. 102000038 from Azevdo's Mini Market, Ltd. The Licenses effective date is March 2, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 4-0

Action Item #8: Vote to Approve Payment of \$6,370.64 to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for Funds Received from State Support: S. Pimental made a motion for the Board to approve payment to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society in the amount of \$6,370.64 which was received from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as the first half of the State support for the Blanding Library for FY15. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

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Action Item #9: Vote to Accept Petition Submitted for Article to be Placed on the May 11, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Authorizing the Town to Sell Parcel off Farm Road:

S. Vadnais made a motion to include the Article as written and to identify the lead Petitioner. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 4-0

Action Item #10: Review of May 11, 2015 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles Received to Date:

The Board reviewed both Warrants and J. Ritter provided an update on recent additions.

Action Item #11: FY2016 Budget Review: S. Pimental stated that she is looking for a little more detail on some of the budgets. For example, the budgets that are increasing like postage, revaluation (Assessors), salary increases in the Treasurer/Collector's budget, computer maintenance is being proposed to increase by \$7,000, Town Clerk salary, police compensation, dispatch, Fire Department lease is increasing \$36,342, as is Forestry.

We need the net minimum spending number even if it is an estimate. Why is Other Tuition increasing so much? Next week invite Highway, Fire and we can review the Selectmen's budgets. On March 16th the Police and on March 23rd we can review the revenue numbers.

5.0) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: None

8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: S. Vadnais said the Regional School District Agreement Committee has been meeting and they will be producing a preliminary draft Agreement shortly. On April 9th at 7:00p.m. there will be a presentation outline the work completed to date.

M. Costello asked that people be careful clearing off their roofs.

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

10.0) ADJOURNMENT: S. Pimental made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35p.m. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator
Approved 3/9/15