



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.1) EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:00p.m. J. Tito 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, S. Pimental. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Tito – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

Topics of Discussion: Litigation Issues and Updates with Town Counsel

1.0) Call to Order at 7:00p.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: 15-37A, Withholdings, \$22,221.93; Payroll: 15-38B, \$110,556.02; Invoices: 15-38, \$37,331.14; 15-38S Snow Removal \$21,813.23. 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 January 26, 2015. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0-1 (Tito)

S. Pimental noted the Board approved in Executive Session and voted to hold for release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2015.

Page Two
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements: D. Perry said that he was at the Senior Center today and he met Gert from the well-known Gert's Kitchen, he said hello to Gert.

M. Costello stated the town Election will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015. The poles will open 7:00a.m. until 8:00p.m. Voting will take place at all three (3) polling locations: Town Offices – Precinct I, Senior Center – Precinct II, South Fire Station – Precinct III.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center. The next regular meeting after that will be on Tuesday April 7th the day after Election Day.

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter referenced a letter from the Superintendent of Schools to the Dighton and Rehoboth Board of Selectmen. They are seeking a Selectman to be designated to work on the collective bargaining discussions. S. Pimental suggested that this discussion be held after the April 6th election. There was no objection. This matter will be placed on the April 7th Agenda for Board action.

The Landfill Solar project is progressing and Mass DEP recently approved the work to be completed on top of the former landfill. There will be a project meeting during the second week in April with the developer BlueWave.

Pot hole money will become available shortly. The \$92,000 for Rehoboth will be used to complete crack sealing. MassDoT has a pot hole hot line, the number is 857-368-4636 and a press release will be issued shortly for pot holes in state roads to be reported.

There was a project meeting last Friday at MassDoT District 5 Offices. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Rt. 44 & Rt. 118 redesign, reconstruction and signalization of the intersection a follow-up meeting will be held in May with the Selectmen. MassDoT need to hear the concerns of residents.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #11: Resignation and Appointment of Building/Zoning Enforcement Officer: J. Tito made a motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Tom Nerney. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0 J. Ritter will prepare a letter of thanks to T. Nerney.

J. Tito made a motion to appoint Michael O'Hearn as the Temporary Assistant to the Building Inspector for Zoning Enforcement. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

Action Item #7: Vote to Approve Budget Amendments for Board of Health (\$200); Highway (\$200); Board of Selectmen (\$340) Board of Selectmen (\$600): J. Tito made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52411, Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Town Office Building Repairs, by \$340.00 and to increase budget line item 011873-52410 Board of Selectmen Maintenance Shelter Repairs by \$340.00; and to decrease budget line item

Page Three
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015

014273-54111 Board of Selectmen Gasoline Town Vehicles/Gasoline by \$600.00, and to increase budget line item 014273-52429 Board of Selectmen Gasoline Town Vehicles/Repairs by \$600.00;

and to decrease budget line item 014203-53000 Highway Professional and Technical by \$200.00, and to increase budget line item 014203-55000 Highway First Aid by \$200.00;

and to decrease budget line item 0152113-53000 Board of Health Professional and Technical by \$200.00, and to increase budget line item 015113-571100 Board of Health in State Mileage by \$200.00. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

Action Item #1: 7:15 Pole Location Public Hearing Reynolds Avenue: J. Tito made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Second, S. Pimental. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Tito – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

Verizon representative Thomas Blicharz was present and reviewed the proposal to place eight (8) new jointly owned poles along the westerly side of Reynolds Avenue for the purpose of providing service to new homes being built on Reynolds Avenue.

M. Costello asked if there were any questions or statement in favor or against the proposal. None was heard. M. Costello also noted that Police, Highway, and Forestry Departments have reviewed the proposal and are recommending approval.

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

J. Tito made a motion to approve the joint petition from Verizon and Massachusetts Electric for the placement of eight (8) poles along the westerly side of Reynolds Avenue. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #2: Forestry, Veterans Services & Cemetery Commission Budgets: Rob Johnson reviewed with the Board their proposal to shift funds around and away from the Cemetery Commission for the maintenance of the Town's cemeteries. There were a few questions from the Board but overall the Board supported the approach as presented by R. Johnson, Tree Warden.

Jack Taylor, Veterans Agent was present and reviewed his proposal FY16 budget with the Board.

Beverly Baker, a member of the Cemetery Commission was present and reviewed with the Board the proposed FY16 Cemetery Commission budget. There were no questions.

Page Four
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015

Action Item #3: Council on Aging Budget: Linda Sherman, Council on Aging Director and Council on Aging Board member Marjorie Johnson were present to present the FY16 budget to the Board.

L. Sherman reviewed each line item and explained the small increases. M. Johnson stressed they are providing services not only to the elderly but to the entire community. Also, the Director deserves a salary increase. S. Vadnais asked that the Council on Aging revisit that if necessary and return with a new budget.

J. Tito stressed this is in no way a reflection on the skills, abilities or commitment of L. Sherman but it does reflection the financial reality the Town is facing.

Action Item #4: Revenue Projection for FY2016 Discussion with Town Accountant Cathy Doane, Finance Committee and Board of Assessors: Cathy Doane Town Accountant provided a recap of Fiscal Year 2014. The exceeded the revenue estimates by almost \$500,000. During Fiscal Year 2015 the Finance Committee did what they had to do and increased the revenue estimates. Currently we are working with about a \$92,000 cushion which is far too small in her opinion.

Gene Campbell from the Board of Assessors outlined the building permit applications and estimated there was about \$106, 559 so far to date. However, he expressed caution because in FY14, 46 new homes were built to date in FY15 there are 26 so far.

The Assessors estimated new growth at \$186,000 and \$140,000 can be released from the Overlay Surplus account.

S. Pimental said we need to take as much of the surplus as we can. C. Doane said she was very cautious with the motor vehicle excise tax estimated revenues and collections in that actual vs. the estimated. The actual collected in FY14 was \$1,580,000 in FY15 it is estimated to be \$1,587,540.

M. Deignan expressed concern about local estimated receipts and motor vehicle excise and how that was going to be reconciled. C. Doane stress the town needs to have a long term budget reserve and one (1%) percent in her opinion is not enough. S. Pimental said we should try to end up around three (3%) percent. M. Deignan said the important take away is the slope of revenue is declining.

Action Item #5: Vote to Appoint Diane Morris as an Election Worker: J. Tito made a motion pursuant to the recommendation of the Town Clerk, Laura Schwall to appoint Diane C. Morris as an Election Work (Precinct 1 – Republican Inspector) effective March 23, 2015 through October 31, 2015. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Page Five
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015

Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Snow & Ice Removal Invoices for \$6,945.47 for a Total Deficit of \$139,654.65: J. Tito made a motion to approve the deficit spending for snow and ice removal and to authorize the payment of invoice totaling \$6,945.47 for snow and ice removal which will result in a deficit balance of \$139,654.65. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #8: Vote to Approve Application from Arya Ayan, Inc. dba The Grapevine for Sunday Morning Liquor Sales from 10a.m. – 12 Noon: J. Tito made a motion to approve the applications received from Arya Ayan, Inc. dba The Grapevine, 289 Winthrop Street, Unit 9 and 8, for Change of Hours adding Sunday morning, 10a.m. until 12 noon, to their All Alcohol Package Store Liquor License No. 102000029 and for the Board to approve and sign Form 43, and to issue the revised license.

Action Item #9: Review Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting Warrants: It was noted that a new article was received from the Police Department regarding parking regulations. There was no objection in including the article into the Warrant.

S. Pimental made a motion to remove under Article 3, item number 8 from the Special Town Meeting Warrant (Exterior Painting and Repairs to Town Hall) Second, S. Vadnais. Motion failed 2-3(Tito, Perry, Costello).

S. Pimental suggested combining the insurance line items into one line item in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

J. Ritter will work on drafting the budget statement for the Board.

Action Item #10: Vote to Forward the Preliminary FY2016 Budget to the Finance Committee: J. Tito made a motion to forward to the Finance Committee the preliminary budget to get the Finance Committee started on their review. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

5.0) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: Laura Schwall, Town Clerk announced that absentee ballots are now available. Also, the Town Clerk's Office will be open Good Friday from 8a.m.-12noon. Finally, dog tags are now available.

Michael Deignan was present and provided the Board with an update regarding the Dunkin Donuts sign at Tremont and Fairview. He decided to leave it up.

8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: M. Costello reported that he attended a silent auction and education sponsored fundraiser at Hillside Country Club last Saturday evening. He

Page Six
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2015

also attend the Fireman's Ball at Hillside Country Club and he wanted to recognize all the volunteer on call fire fighters. Finally, crack sealing of the roads will start shortly.

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

10.0) ADJOURNMENT: S. Pimental made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31p.m.
Second, J. Tito. Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator

Approved on 3/30/15