

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.0) Executive Session: At 6:00p.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 sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and (3) 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. Vadnais. Roll Call Vote – Pimental – Aye; Perry – Aye; Vadnais – Aye; Schwall – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

Topics of Discussion: Police Superior Officers Association Negotiation; Godfrey vs. Rehoboth

1.1) Call to Order at 7:29p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants: M. Costello read the weekly Warrants: 15-41A, Withholdings, \$23,386.39; Payroll: 15-42B, \$89,794.98; Invoices: 15-42, \$102,425.20; and Warrant 15-42R Refunds, \$5,418.19. S. Pimental made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

Minutes: G. Schwall made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2015. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Page Two
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements:

M. Costello announced the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, April 27, 2015 starting at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

Robert McKim made a statement about the importance of the upcoming May 11th Annual Town Meeting and that all residents should attend.

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter reported that a lot of time has been committed to preparing the Warrant and he thanked Assistant town Administrator Helen Dennen for doing an outstanding job. This year was especially complex and confusing.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #1: Vote to Appoint Arthur L. Beaudoin, Jr. as a Reserve Office for the Police Department: S. Vadnais made a motion to table this matter until a later date. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #2: Presentation on Feasibility Study for Southeastern Massachusetts Multi Community Public Safety Communications Center: Ross Perry from the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District, John Higgins, President and CEO from the Skyline Group and Sheldon Cohen, Independent Consultant were present.

M. Costello welcomed the consulting team to Rehoboth.

S. Cohen reviewed the recommendations and findings from the Feasibility Study. He pointed out that shortly Rehoboth will have to add one (1) additional dispatcher and that the study is recommending that Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth start working on an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) which would be presented to the Commonwealth's E-911 Department.

The Dighton Board of Selectmen has voted to proceed along this course of action and to commence the discussions with the City of Fall River.

S. Cohen said the Feasibility Study determined there were three (3) options. 1.) Combine emergency dispatch services among the City of Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth with Fall River as the lead community. 2.) Dighton and Rehoboth might combine dispatch services with Dighton as the lead community. 3.) A new yet to be determined configuration.

The Feasibility Study identified Option #1 as the preferred option. It would allow for a significant enhancement in services provided and upgrades to information technology infrastructure. Also, in a geographically large community such as Rehoboth, mobile computing is very important and would have significantly positive impact when responding and providing services.

Page Three
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

The Commonwealth supports regional dispatch centers but have not as of yet come through with the financial incentives to make it feasible. However, if Rehoboth were to participate in the new grant round more study would go into the use of fiber optics and microwave technology as backup systems.

M. Costello stated in order for Rehoboth to move forward we need to see a long term financial commitment from the Commonwealth. Most importantly we need to be guaranteed that public safety would not only be protected but enhanced. S. Vadnais asked about how changes in local protocols would be addressed. What would happen if one of the Chiefs wanted to change these during the year how would that work?

R. Perry said the transition would be seamless and the public could not experience any disruption to the services currently being provided. Also, the Chiefs would need to make changes to the dispatch protocols at any time; not just once a year.

S. Pimental said the proposal does not make sense given it appears that under this scenario it would cost Rehoboth an additional \$94,000 per year.

S. Cohen said the next step forward would be to simply have the three (3) communities work together to draft an Inter-Municipal Agreement and that it does not cost anything to continue the discussions.

S. Cohen said he would be looking for a minimum ten (10) year commitment from the Commonwealth but it remains a hard sale to the residents. When they call the dispatch center they want to feel comforted that whoever answers the phone knows where they live and the issue being addressed.

G. Schwall said he met with both Chiefs and discussed this proposal. He questions how under this proposal it would further the missions of their departments and if there would be annual cost increases? He said both Chiefs expressed concerns when he met with them a few weeks ago to discuss. Additional concerns were expressed regarding the level of E-911 grant funding support and gaps in the level of support for implementation and technology upgrades. Gaps in financial support will need to be filled at the local level; increasing the costs to member municipalities.

R. Perry said much of the implementation costs are covered by the E-911 grant.

S. Pimental made a motion to discontinue discussions until answers to these and other questions are received. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

Action Item #3: Discussion Re: Open Meeting Law Complaint: The Board acknowledged an Open Meeting Law Complaint received from Patrick Higgins. S. Vadnais made a motion to

Page Four
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

acknowledge the Complaint and to authorize J. Ritter and Town Counsel J. Talerman to respond on behalf of the Board. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

Action Item #4: Vote to Accept Resignation of Gerald Schwall from the Finance

Committee: S. Pimental read the letter of resignation from G. Schwall. S. Vadnais made a motion to accept the resignation. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0-1(Schwall).

Action Item #5: Review Board of Selectmen Annual Report for 2014: G. Schwall made a motion to accept and adopt the 2014 Annual Report from the Board of Selectmen. Second, D. Perry. S. Pimental questioned if the Board voted to place the Proposition 2 ½ Override question on the ballot. S. Vadnais reminded S. Pimental that the Board did vote this after the conclusion of the Annual Town Meeting last year. Voted 4-0-1(Pimental)

Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Budget Amendment for Board of Selectmen \$500.00;

Board of Selectmen \$1,100; Board of Selectmen 175: and Fire - \$115.48: S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52132 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance COA/Gas by \$1,100 and to increase budget line item 011873-52126 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Highway/Electric by \$1,100. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental 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. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011253-53820 Board of Selectmen Contracted Services Test Control by \$175.00 and to increase budget line item 011253-52930 Board of Selectmen Contracted Services Snow Removal by \$175.00. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

Action Item #7: Vote to Approve Snow & Ice Invoices for \$5,226.43 for a Total Deficit

Balance of \$169,134.98: S. Pimental made a motion to deficit spend for snow and ice removal authorizing payment of invoices totaling \$5,226.43 for snow and ice removal which will result in a total deficit balance of \$169,134.98. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

Action Item #8: Vote to Appoint SRPEDD BoS Representative & JTPG Delegate: S.

Pimental made a motion in accordance with Chapter 40B, Section 12 to appoint Michael Costello as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. With a term from May 27, 2015 through May 31, 2016. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to appoint Michael Costello as a delegate to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Joint Transportation Planning Group

Page Five
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

(JTPG). With a term from May 27, 2015 through May 31, 2016. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

S. Vadnais made a motion to appoint Susan Pimental as an alternate delegate to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG). With a term from May 27, 2015 through May 31, 2016. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 4-1(Pimental)

Action Item #9: Library Payment: S. Pimental made a motion to amend the Board's vote from the previous week correcting the amount to be paid to the Antiquarian Society from \$6,370.64 to \$6,422.58. Second, G. Schwall. Voted. 5-0

Action Item #10: May 11, 2015 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting Warrants: S. Vadnais made a motion to approve the Warrants. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

5.0) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: Tish Vadnais was present and asked the Board why other communities were not included in the Regional Dispatch study? M. Costello state that other towns were asked to join the study but only Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth responded.

8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: G. Schwall reminded the public about the upcoming Town Meeting summit that will take place on Thursday, April 30th. We need to advertise the event. Local access will provide coverage. J. Ritter will invite all sponsors to articles.

G. Schwall also noted that as a result of last week's vote of the Board, it was his understanding that he would be part of the School Committee's Collective Bargaining subcommittee. But his designation to be on the subcommittee must be made by the School Committee. There are currently three (3) contracts up for renewal, the teachers, secretaries and custodians.

S. Pimental asked what happens if you are not appointed to the subcommittee? G. Schwall stated that as the municipal representative he would still have an opportunity on the final vote and recommendation from the subcommittee once that recommendation is received by the School Committee. But under the scenario described by S. Pimental he might not have a role as an appointee to the subcommittee. He wants to be transparent and the public needs to understand the protocol.

D. Perry acknowledged the opening of the new Mexican restaurant and he said it was very good. Residents should try to keep their business in town if possible.

Page Six
Board of Selectmen, Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter, Town Administrator

Approved on 4/27/15