

Office of
SELECTMEN
148 Peck Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769



Tel.: (508) 252-3758
Fax: (508) 252-5342

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator

1.0) 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; (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; Schwall – Aye; Costello – Aye. Voted 5-0

Topics of Discussion: Police Department Grievance

1.1) Call to Order at 7:27p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

M. Costello welcome new member G. Schwall to the board and congratulated S. Pimental regarding her re-election.

Re-Organization of the Board of Selectmen: Due to the absence of a Clerk to the Board S. Vadnais, as Vice Chairman, asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. G. Schwall made a motion to nominate M. Costello to serve as Chairman. Second, D. Perry. Voted 5-0

M. Costello asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. D. Perry made a motion to nominate S. Vadnais to serve in the position of Vice Chairman. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

M. Costello asked for nominations for the position of Clerk. S. Vadnais made a motion to nominate S. Pimental to serve in the position of Clerk. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

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2.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants: M. Costello read the weekly Warrants: 15-39A, Withholdings, \$20,209.67; Payroll: 15-40B, \$84,088.80; Invoices: 15-40, \$48,726.03; and Snow Removal, 15-40S, \$17,737.72. D. Perry made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 4-0-1 (Schwall)

Minutes: S. Pimental made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2015 and March 30, 2015. Second, D. Perry. Voted 4-0-1 (Schwall)

D. Perry made a motion to approve and release the Meeting Minutes from March 30, 2015. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 4-0-1 (Schwall)

M. Costello extended on behalf of the Board, condolences Gene Campbell, member of the Board of Assessors regarding the recent loss of his wife Carol who passed away on Thursday morning April 2, 2015.

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements:

M. Costello announced the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 starting at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

Town Administrator's Report: J. Ritter that unless there was an objection he would prepare and draft the Annual Town Report on behalf of the Board to review next week.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Town's risk management consultant to roll out a consistent performance evaluation system he is working with the Town's Personnel Board regarding evaluations which will be tied to the employee's anniversary date.

Unless there is an objection from the Board, he will pursue a Spring surplus equipment vehicle sale. Items to be submitted by Departments by April 27th, public display of items May 18th – June 3rd. Bids will be due on June 3rd at 3:00p.m.

The pothole repairs contract or "WRAP" has been received from District 5 in the amount of \$92,369. As a result, work has started by the Highway Department with the repairs of potholes.

Finally, he reviewed upcoming Agenda (4/13) items with the Board.

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #1: 7:15p.m. Roadway Layout Hearing for Liberty Lane:

S. Pimental made the following motion, whereas the Board of Selectmen of the town of Rehoboth, acting pursuant to G.L. Chapter 82 Sections 21-24, having deemed that the common convenience and necessity requires the lay out as a public way of Liberty Lane and hereby lays out Liberty Lane as a public way as shown on the plan referenced below, and;

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Whereas the boundaries of said way as laid out are shown on the Town of Rehoboth Board of Assessors Map 19, which map is hereby adopted as part of this order, and all land lying within the above described boundaries of Liberty Lane is hereby laid out as a Town way.

The aforementioned layout plan is hereby forwarded to the Town Clerk for filing and the foregoing layout is hereby reported to the Town for acceptance. Second, S. Vadnais. Voted 5-0

Action Item #2: Discussion with Chief Trombetta Re; Police Department Capital Plan: S. Pimental asked for an updated list of the Department's capital plan. Chief Trombetta said he reviewed the capital plan for the Department with Sargent Rossi. Originally, they were seeking four (4) replacement vehicles. However, they have decided to only ask for three (3) next year.

Also, the Department was recently awarded a \$30,000 equipment grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety which would offset some of the expense in equipping the new vehicles. He will provide to the Board an updated inventory next week.

Action Item #3: Continued Public Hearing – Application for a Class II Auto License for Car Crazy Auto, LLC, 51 Winthrop Street/Report of Zoning Officer O'Hern: S. Vadnais made a motion to reopen the Public Hearing. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

M. O'Hern was present and stated that the site plan did not match what was currently there. This is a major issue. However, he reviewed the Bylaw and the use is permitted at that location which requires 44 parking spaces. S. Vadnais stated therefore the Board can't issue the permit because it would violate the Town's Bylaws unless the applicant requested relief from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The owner of the property could ask the ZBA for a variance.

D. Perry stated the current spaces are grandfathered and eleven (11) new spaces could be created in the reserve area. M. O'Hern stated it might be alright for the applicant to setup in the display area.

M. Costello stated the Bylaw requires two (2) spaces for every 200s/f or 42 parking spaces with a reserve of 11 spaces. G. Schwall said he was on site today and counted 13 spaces on the side of the building with 17 other lined spaces and 4 handicapped spaces.

Robert Spigel and his wife were present and stated there were other spaces and they just needed to be lined.

M. Costello said the Board must follow the Bylaws of the Town and it would appear the only option for R. Spigel is to go before the ZBA and seek a variance.

S. Vadnais made a motion to continue the Public Hearing. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

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Action Item #4: Request to Access Town Roadways from Endurance Fitness Systems for October 18, 2015 for a Half Marathon: Jason Paganelli from Endurance Fitness Systems was present and reviewed with the Board the details of the Narragansett Fall Half Marathon which will be held on October 18, 2015 starting at the Swansea Mall at 7:30a.m. The route would take the Marathon along several Rehoboth roads.

The Fire Chief and Police Chief both have approved the plan. M. Costello asked the applicant to touch base with Rehoboth Ambulance to make sure they are aware of the event. The applicant would be responsible for picking up all the trash and there would be six (6) or seven (7) water stations along the way.

D. Perry asked why did they pick Rehoboth? J. Paganelli said because of the location and the beauty of the community.

S. Vadnais made a motion to approve the plan and routes to be used including the use of police details as described in the proposal. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Job Description for Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer as Submitted by the Personnel Board: J. Ritter recommended tabling this matter until more comments are received from Michael O'Hern and Town Counsel. S. Pimental made a motion to table this item for two (2) weeks or until April 21, 2015. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Budget Amendment for Board of Selectmen \$260; Board of Selectmen \$460: S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011223-57320 Board of Selectmen Office Expense – 1 Day Conference in the amount of \$460.00 and to increase budget line item 011223-54200 Board of Selectmen Office Expense – Office Supplies by \$460.00. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

S. Pimental made a motion to decrease budget line item 011873-52412 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Council on Aging Repair in the amount of \$260.00 and to increase budget line item 011873-52418 Board of Selectmen Facilities Maintenance Annex Repair by \$260.00. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 5-0

Action Item #7: Review May 11, 2015 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting Warrants Including Board of Selectmen Budget Statement: S. Pimental stated the Board can approve the budget statement next week. She recommended deleting reference to the “non-override budget.”

G. Schwall recommended the use of one time revenues to purchase the two (2) fire trucks. However, the Board, next week, would like to hear a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

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Chief Barrasi was present and addressed the \$50,000 need for a new tank on Tanker #3.

Action Item #8: FY2016 Budget Review: M. Deignan, Chairman of the Finance Committee was present and stated the Finance Committee twice last week. There was a follow-up discussion regarding the revenue estimates. The Finance Committee voted to reduce the motor vehicle excise revenue estimates.

Also, the Finance Committee voted to accept the recommendations from the Board of Selectmen. However, there remains an estimated \$1,196 million budget shortfall and we need to reopen the dialog with the School Committee. Further, he stated it is not fair for Town employees not to receive and salary adjustments. S. Pimental agreed that this would be the third year in a row and something has to be done and noted there is approximately \$1.6 million in free cash.

M. Deignan continued and stated the Finance Committee has identified funding sources for all the articles in both the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting Warrants. However, this approach is not sustainable and unless the revenue or the spending issues are addressed we will need an override every year going forward. He asked J. Ritter to prepare a separate article for the Public Safety Building project.

G. Schwall said the Finance Committee needs direction from the Board as to where they should start reducing the Town side of the budget.

M. Deignan said he would recommend if you take the total projected deficit of \$1.2 million and you allocate 34% to the Town and 66% to the School District. In round numbers that would mean a \$400,000 reduction for the Town and \$800,000 for the School District. That, as an example, this would mean the Board could not backfill the needed police officers or the Highway Department Superintendent position.

G. Schwall said we are trying to deal with what the town can afford and create a realistic approach toward solving the problem and come to a resolution. We need to focus on the municipal budget to insure it is as tight as possible and the communicate the help we need to bridge the gap to the School Department.

M. Deignan said the Finance Committee will be meeting again twice this week and will continue the work.

The Board decided to invite the School Committee and the Finance Committee to a special joint meeting on Wednesday, April 15th to discuss the FY16 budget.

G. Schwall said we also need to have a pre-town meeting after the Warrant is sent to the printers.

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5.0) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.0) OTHER BUSINESS: None

7.0) OPEN PUBLIC FORUM: Michael O'Hern was present and explained the process for appealing a decision to the ZBA. An individual can go to the ZBA if they are appealing a decision, of for example, the Building Commissioner or if they are seeking a relief from zoning and applying for a variance, but the hardship must be demonstrated and there is no guarantee the ZBA would agree to the appeal.

M. Deignan stated for the public that there is currently an opening on the Finance Committee anyone who is interested should contact the Selectmen's Office.

8.0) BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS: S. Vадnais said the Regional School District Agreement Committee will be holding a Public Hearing next Thursday, April 16th at the High School. Public input is important to the process before it gets to Town Meeting.

S. Pimental welcomed G. Schwall to the Board and said he would make a good addition.

G. Schwall asked about the liaison assignments. M. Costello said he would take on all of J. Tito's assignments.

D. Perry congratulated G. Schwall on a well-run campaign.

G. Schwall acknowledged he was not the top vote getter that went to Laura Schwall.

M. Costello welcomed G. Schwall to the Board. He also cautioned residents that the Highway Department is on the roads fixing potholes and to be careful.

9.0) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

10.0) ADJOURNMENT: S. Vадnais made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24p.m. Second, S. Pimental. Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Town Administrator
Approved on 4/13/15