



Office of
SELECTMEN
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***BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL***

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectmen Michael Costello and Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.: The Board participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for November 9, 2020: D. Perry read the weekly Warrants; 21-19B Payroll, \$139,506.66; 21-18A Withholdings, \$31,392.05; 21-18 Warrant, \$42,141.63. D. Perry motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: none
Executive Session Minutes: none

Announcements:

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, November 16th at 7:00 PM, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall, 148 Peck St.

On Wednesday, November 18th the Chairman of the Finance Committee will be holding a financial summit Meeting to review the upcoming annual Town Meeting budgets and information.

Town Administrator's Report:

- The Town would like to thank all of the residence for taking the time out of their day to vote this year and in following the procedures that were set forth for everyone's safety. It was greatly appreciated.
- In your packets I have provided the Highway Superintendent's contract for your review and comments. Please pass them along to me as soon as you can, so I can provide Counsel with them. The chairman will then schedule final review for an upcoming meeting.
- Our Veteran's Officer Jake Kramer has asked me to announce that there will be a small social-distanced Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11th at 11:00 AM at Red Way Plain. The Minutemen will be present to fire a volley to honor all veterans, and the Boy Scouts will present their Eagle Scout project of granite benches.

- Town Nurse updated the total COVID cases in Rehoboth to 149. She is receiving numerous new cases daily. She has been working closely with the schools both in town and with residents who attend schools in the commonwealth and neighboring Rhode Island.

Selectman Schwall recognized the poll workers and the Clerk's office for putting themselves in harm's way in order to make sure democracy was served safely, for all three major elections, during a pandemic. The Clerk's office has worked a 7-day work week since October 1st. This is all to give as many people as possible the opportunity to vote in a manner that was comfortable and safe for them. There was 80% participation. 7800+ came out one way or another to vote. He personally thanked them for putting in the many hours required to make it happen.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Vote to Approve the Warrant for the ATM on December 1, 2020

With the help from Town Counsel, Finance Committee Chairman Mike Deignan and others, Interim Town Administrator Deb Arruda presented the Warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting for the Boards' review and input.

Discussion:

S. Vadnais asked if his letter is acceptable as written.

G. Schwall asked if we can set the expectations as to the conduct that is expected at the meeting. The Ramada Inn is requiring masks and one chair every six feet. People will need to follow the safety precautions, they must wear facial coverings/masks, no moving of chairs, must stay 6' apart. Seekonk Board of Health will expect this and we will need people inside the room to enforce it. Should be written on the Warrant, on the cover.

J. Muri asked Deb to submit a letter to the Rehoboth Reporter regarding the new location, and the need for masks, etc. at the meeting.

M. Costello asked Deb to check if we can put one or two of our electronic signs there to let people know about these requirements before they enter the building.

S. Vadnais stated that the Moderator is in charge once we enter the chamber. We can assist, but he is in charge. Deb will ask him what assistance he will need.

G. Schwall let the Board know that any cost incurred above what we already have budgeted for our annual town meeting can be covered by CARES Act.

Deb stated that the Ramada asked that we provide volunteers to escort residents in to make sure that the room is seated from the center out.

Election workers will check them in at the poll pads. Ticket will be printed. People at door will make sure that people have tickets to get in. Then escorts will seat the residents.

J. Muri addressed typos in warrant.

G. Schwall -page 7 under Consent Agenda, need to include "Acceptance of Reports" from Library, Ambulance, Housing Authority and Board of Health. Need to accept in order to include in Annual Report. If they didn't meet, that is their report that they didn't meet because of the pandemic.

J. Muri motion to remove Article 15 (Acceptance of proceeds-Horton Estates) from warrant and add to another Town meeting at a different time, after the pandemic. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

G. Schwall motion to remove Article 13(PILOT agreement-297 Winthrop St) at this time. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

The Board discussed Article 14, regarding the new fire truck. 100% paid for by Capital Reserve Account. The truck has been special ordered and takes a year to build. Finance Committee approves. S. Vadnais read how the Article should read.

G. Schwall motioned to change vote wording to "To See if Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Reserve Account up to \$600K for the purchase of one Pierce Saber 1500 GPM Pumper Truck". Under comments we will include that a quote has been received for \$587,463.00 and that this is tax neutral. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Chief Barresi was present to discuss issue and show maintenance log for (current) truck, Engine One, which is over 20 years old.

J. Muri motion to remove wording after "\$19,479,237" in Article 8, removing the per student cost. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

J. Muri motion to remove per pupil cost from Article 9, striking the wording after \$791,501 and adding "This represents an increase due to student enrollment being more than last year" and striking cost per pupil. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

G. Schwall motion to change Article 11 comments to read "BOH is requesting State authorization for \$138k which exceeds the actual revenues of \$127K, if the approval is not received by time of Town meeting the amendment will be offered on the floor to reduce to \$127K". Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

G. Schwall motion to approve warrants with the amendments made this evening. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #2: Vote to Approve AG&NR Appropriation of Funds-Ormond Farms

The AG&NR Council are seeking approval from the Board of Selectmen to appropriate \$20,000 from the Agricultural Trust Fund to preserve the Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the Ormond Farm on Davis Street. This appropriation does not need Town Meeting vote; this has been confirmed with our Town Counsel.

J. Muri motion to approve the appropriation of \$20,000 from the Agricultural Trust Fund to preserve the Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the Ormond Farm on Davis Street. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #3: Vote to Exercise "Right of First Refusal"-Rehoboth Country Club

The BOS Office received on 9/14/2020 notification of Chapter 61B for the Rehoboth Country Club at 155 Perryville Road. Notification went out to the proper Boards/Committees and we heard back from the Planning Board and Conservation that they will not be "exercising their right of First Refusal" with this property. We did not receive word from CPC/AG& NR, or Agricultural Committee.

G. Schwall motion to table whether or not to exercise their "Right of First Refusal" for Chapter 61B Rehoboth Country Club, 155 Perryville Road; until after 11/16/2020 meeting with Town Counsel, Jay Talerman. Second by J. Muri. Vote 3-2.

Discussion:

G. Schwall- We have Town Counsel coming in 11/16 to speak on Chapter 61 land, I have questions to ask Counsel regarding how we can put together a package to save some of this land. Our open land is disappearing at record pace all of a sudden. I'm not sure what the rush is. We are waiting for Carol Williams on decision. I've asked Daniel Roach as Conservation Agent to look into other means of preserving this land. I don't understand why we are pushing this.

D. Perry we can pull together with other groups to save land. I agree to table. Request that AgCom and CPC/Carol Williams to respond to email.

G. Schwall we don't need to wait 45 days after pandemic but we need to do our job, our due diligence for the voters, to try and preserve.

Need to get written report from Daniel for meeting in 2 weeks.

The Board went into further discussion after vote was taken to table to discuss other ways to preserve land.

Action Item #4: Vote to Accept "PEG" Payment of \$55,350.96

This is the 3rd quarter payment from Comcast PEG funds for the Town.

D. Perry motion to accept \$55,350.96 for the 3rd quarter payment from Comcast PEG. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #5: Discussion Re: Cares Act Update

Selectman Schwall updated the Board and residents on the CARES Act funds received.

All funds have to be used/in-service by 12/31/2020 in order to qualify.

First Round -The Town received - \$436,487.

Projects must be virus related. We had earmarked some money for the police department thinking they would be in by November. However, those funds will not be able to be used-unless extension is taken by Feds. So, some of those funds will need to be returned if not spent by 12/31/2020.

Second Round - \$561,607 was approved and waiting for check to be received. Combined we will have \$998,094 available to us. Projects could include:

- \$100k to replace computers
- \$30k-to continue to upgrade remote work
- \$27k- to upgrade phone system to help with remote work
- \$63k- computer network- upgrade
- \$5k integrate payroll PD

Doors will be worked on at Town Hall next week 11/16/2020

Key fob will be implemented at Town Hall entrance

Part-time Nurse-Cares funds will pay for

PPE/disinfectant additional in place by Jan 1st

All Election Expenses, CARES Act helped

Selectmen Schwall asked for the Boards approval on listed projects. Board approved.

Discussion:

M. Costello inquired about upgrades at PSB

Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Retreat Lot at 22 Birchwood Drive

The Planning Board is asking for the approval and signature of the Board on the Restriction on Retreat Lot Parcels at 22 Birchwood Drive. This information must be recorded at the Registry of Deeds as a separate document. Per Town Counsel, they need approval from the Board. Plans and the restrictions have been presented for the Board's review.

J. Muri motion to approve and sign the Retreat Lot Restriction for 22 Birchwood Drive, and have the Planning Board have it recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

Discussion:

J. Muri discussed the background of the request from the Planning Board to the Board.

G. Schwall inquired if the BOS is to approve retreat lots moving forward?

M. Costello and J. Muri both replied, no, only if there are restrictions.

Selectmen's Reports:

Perry: Saturday 11/7 drove around to celebrate 90th birthdays in town. Heartwarming and touching. Senator Feeney and Rep Howitt were present.

Muri: Will be interviewing Interim Town Nurse on 11/12 with Debbie and Dave Scanlon.

Costello: Paving RFP is large and may scare people away from bidding.

Discussed PD building and what needs to be done. Can we take from old building to new building? (i.e. locks, cameras, etc.)

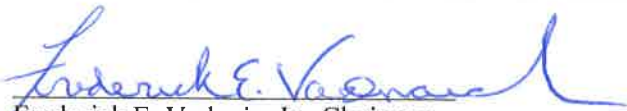
S. Vadnais Board decides to work on electric/plumbing/fiber. Can we wait on cells?

Dave, Deb, & Mike need to work together.

Schwall: Francis Farm issue -we need to get this resolved. "Miller Hall" can be used for COA. Francis Farms is trying to help us with COA, helping with services. We can use CARES Act funds to get in.

Vadnais: no report.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen Schwall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 9:10 PM., Second by Selectmen Perry. Perry – aye; Muri – aye, Vadnais – aye, Costello-aye, Schwall-aye.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

David A. Perry, Jr., Vice Chairman


James Muri, Clerk


George M. Solas, Sr., Member


Michael P. Deignan, Member



Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough

Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved: 4/12/2021