



Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, MAY 18th, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

Present: Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Jim Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, and Selectman Mike Costello.

Remote: Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator, took notes remotely, per the Chairman's direction.

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for May 18th, 2020: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-47B Payroll, \$128,623.31; 20-46A Withholdings, \$33,323.92; 20-46 Warrant, \$4,559,594.18; 20-47R Refund Warrant, \$22,982.11; 20-47R1 Refund Warrant, \$1,472.39; 20-47V Veterans Warrant, \$9,302.11. M. Costello motion to approve the Warrant as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 1/6/2020, 1/15/2020, 1/27/2020 & 2/3/2020

Executive Session Minutes: none.

M. Costello motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the 1/6/2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry.
Vote 5-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the 1/15/2020 meeting. Second by S. Vadnais.
Vote 5-0.

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the 1/27/2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry.
Vote 5-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the 2/3/2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry.
Vote 5-0.

Open Forum – Announcements:

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th, 2020 at the COA Building, 55 Bay State Road. Members of the public may observe the Board's deliberations by watching live on Channel 9 or stream from RehobothTV.org.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Taskforce Update

G. Schwall read the COVID-19 updates, including current COVID-19 case information, the Governor's four-phased plan to reopen Massachusetts, and the plan for the Annual Town election and early voting by mail ballot. He encouraged everyone to avail themselves of the early voting by mail option today. Interested election workers can contact Town Clerk for more information and then send in a Talent Bank form. He recognized that May 17- 23 is National EMS week and thanked all of our emergency medical personnel in Rehoboth and beyond.

Each Selectman reported on their assigned departments in regards to COVID-19 impact:

D. Perry reported on Memorial Day plans. We still need to remember our Vets. There will be a small gathering to remember our Veterans. Flags are outlining the former parade route. Jake did a fabulous job.

S. Vadnais announced that Governor Baker has dedicated \$39 million to Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in order to ensure that we have a safe and plentiful source of food here in the Commonwealth. The assistance will help us take control of our food source and rely less on outside sources.

J. Muri is working with the director of the COA and the Blanding Library to put together their reopening plans. The library will only have curbside pick-up until we enter the later phases of reopening. The COA will have a delayed opening as most of the people it serves are at high risk. It will be part of a larger reopening plan which will include our Town's Municipal Services.

M. Costello will check with Dr. Azar on graduation plans.

Action Item #2: Vote to Authorize Town Treasurer to Disburse Funds for Payment of Bond Anticipation Note

G. Schwall relayed that when the Town purchased the land across the street from the Highway Department, we indicated that the source would be the Solar Revenue account, in four payments. Usually we vote to disburse the funds at Town Meeting.

J. Muri motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to disburse \$90,639.50 from the Solar Revenue Fund for the annual payment of principal and interest on the Bond Anticipation Note for the 2018 purchase of 2 South Old Anawan Street. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Discussion: We have encumbered these funds when they come in every year for this purpose.

Action Item #3: Vote to Postpone Annual Town Meeting

J. Muri motion to postpone the June 16, 2020 Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting to an unspecified date after July 1, 2020. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #4: Vote to Impose Spending Constraints on FY20 Budget

J. Muri motion to direct the Interim Town Administrator to notify all department heads that by order of the Board of Selectmen all departments are frozen, and any request by a department head to expend funds beyond meeting contractual obligations must be approved by the BOS liaison and Interim Town Administrator. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

Discussion:

Each month we will need to review and vote on a spending budget until we hold a Town Meeting. Cannot exceed the 1/12th budget already in place.

S. Vadnais remarked how it is absolutely necessary to do this. We need to proceed with caution.

M. Costello voiced his concern over his department having the ability to buy materials needed on a daily basis.

G. Schwall: responded that we are not stopping people from doing their jobs and getting necessary materials, but larger expenses should be looked at.

J. Muri commented that we (at the COA) have money that are formula grants that if we don't spend it goes back to the State. So, in case anyone sees the COA purchasing things and gets upset.

D. Perry asked that M. Costello reach out to School Committee to watch their spending as well because the town will not get the same help from the State next year as in the past. We need to help each other.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: no report

Costello:

- Highway Department has been out sweeping the town roads, will be done by months end.
- Working many hours at back of Public Safety Building
- Mechanic has been working on trucks.

Schwall:

- We appreciate the help of our citizens with enforcing the laws.
- Please call the Board of Health with your information: your name, the issue, address, etc.
- Please do not call if you are not going to give all the necessary information.
- We get a lot of calls, so please try to keep them relevant.
- The Board of Selectmen or the Board of Health Agent have to witness, but can take the information and research the issue/call
- D. Perry added that all departments outside of COVID-19 when taking any complaints, need all information before proceeding, this is no different.

Perry: no report

Muri: no report


ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:12 PM. Second by Selectmen M. Costello.

Roll call vote: Perry – aye; Vadnais – aye, Costello – aye, Muri, aye; Schwall - aye. Vote 5-0.

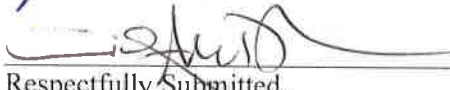

Gerald V. Schwall, Chairman


James Muri, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Member


Michael Costello, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough
Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved 6/22/2020