



Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

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

Absent: Selectman Mike Costello.

Remote: Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

At 5:30 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a) (1)** To discuss a complaint against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

Roll Call Vote: Schwall, aye; Vadnais, aye; Perry, aye; Muri, aye. Vote 4-0

Call to Order at 7:15 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 2/10/20, 2/24/20, 4/6/20

Executive Session Minutes: 6/17/19, 7/22/19, 8/5/19, 9/19/19

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the February 10th, 2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the February 24th, 2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the April 6th, 2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0

Open Forum – Announcements:

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Monday, June 1st, 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.

D. Perry reported on the Memorial Day Service, it was very well done, small and focused. Thank you to Veterans Officer Jake Kramer for doing an outstanding job, especially considering the restrictions. It was very moving.

G. Schwall reported that we hit two milestones this week:

- Police Chief Trombetta celebrated his 36th year of service to the Town. He is a credit to our Town and his department.
- Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda graduated on Friday via Zoom from the MMA/Suffolk University Municipal Leadership Certificate Program. She excelled in her program, maintaining a straight A average.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

G. Schwall read the COVID-19 updates, including current COVID-19 case information, a list of Phase I businesses that are open, the Memorial Day Service, the postponement of the rabies clinic, and the logistics of the June 30th Election.

S. Vadnais complimented the citizens on their cooperation thus far and commented that he has been getting many questions about the reopening plan, specifically when will Town Hall be open to the public? Please include that in your update next week.

G. Schwall responded that there is a plan, in phases. The restrictions are placed by the Governor, not by us. Probably not till July, and then with strict regulations. The municipal reopening plan requires significant input from the Board of Health.

J. Muri added that we need to be particularly cautious as we have so few employees and each plays a vital role. Unlike larger municipalities where there are redundancies, if we had an employee out, there would be a major loss of services.

Action Item #2: Reappointment of Michael J. O'Hern as Constable

S. Vadnais motion to reappoint Michael J. O'Hern as Constable effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0

Discussion:

J. Muri remarked that Mike has been serving our community in numerous roles over for many years, and he is the longest serving Constable. He thanked Mr. O'Hern for all his years of service to the town, and to the military as well.

Action Item #3: Vote to Accept Grant on Behalf of Rehoboth Police Department

D. Perry motion to accept the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Grant in the Amount of \$6,000 on behalf of the Rehoboth Police Department. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0

Discussion: Thank you to Chief Trombetta for securing this grant.

Action Item #4: Request for Special Budget Amendment

D. Perry motion to approve the following Special Budget Amendment. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 4-0

Account Number	Dept.	Account name	Increase	Decrease
011222-51140	Selectmen Office	Selectmen's Office Wages Part Time		11,831.00
011241-51110	Town Administrator	Town Administrator Salary	11,831.00	

Action Item #5: Vote to Accept Quarterly Comcast Payment

D. Perry motion to accept the quarterly Comcast franchise fee payment of \$56,439.23. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0

Action Item #6: Vote to Set Polling Location and Place Hours for Annual Town Election

D. Perry made the motion to designate the COA Building, 55 Bay State Road in Rehoboth, MA as the polling place for the June 30, 2020 Rehoboth Annual Town Election, and to set 12:00 PM -- 4:00 PM as the hours the polling place shall remain open for in-person voting; and to take another action as may be required to comply with guidance provided by Town Counsel and the Massachusetts Elections Division. Said motion is made in recognition of the extraordinary challenges of conducting an Election during a public health emergency. Seconded by Skip Vadnais. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

G. Schwall remarked that this is for the safety of all.

D. Perry commented that if you can go shopping, you can go to vote.

J. Muri encouraged people to request a mail in ballot.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Muri: Thank you to the Boy Scouts for flag handling at the Memorial Day Service as the Sergeant in Arms was unable due to health concerns.

Perry: The footings have been set and concrete will soon be in place for the new Police Department. Thank you to Mike Costello for working Saturday and Sunday to get this done. It's moving along perfectly.

Vadnais: no report

Costello: absent

Schwall:

There appears to be a problem with over-weight trucks traveling on Elm Street. Residents are concerned. Working with M. Costello on new signage and placement. Police Department has been notified as well.

-Selectman Vadnais voiced his displeasure that this was not handled earlier, and will take up his concern with the Highway Superintendent.

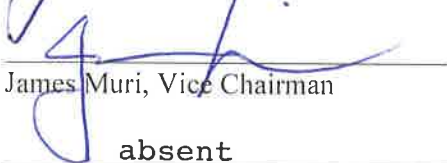
-D. Perry, the Highway Department's liaison, said that he worked with M. Costello and signage was put up. I think he is working on something bigger and more locations. I think truckers are using it as a cut-off.

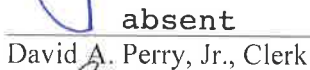
-J. Muri agreed with D. Perry, people are using Elm Street as a short cut.

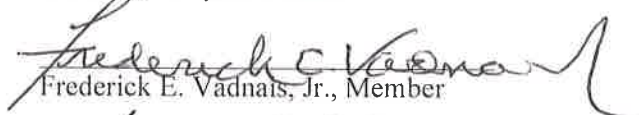
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen J. Muri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:11 PM. Second by Selectmen D. Perry.

Roll call vote: Perry – aye; Vadnais – aye, Muri, aye; Schwall - aye. Vote 4-0.

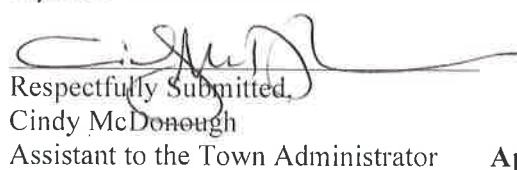

Gerald V. Schwall, Chairman


James Muri, Vice Chairman


absent
David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Member


Michael Costello, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough
Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved 07/27/2020