



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
148 Peck Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES  
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais; Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Michael Costello, and Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator.

**Absent:** Selectman James Muri

**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 August 17th, 2020:** D. Perry read the weekly Warrants; 21-07B Payroll, \$110,643.51; 21-06A Withholdings, \$33,493.64; 21-06 Warrant, \$49,107.86; 21-07R Refund Warrant, \$3,722.89; 21-07R1 Refund Warrant, \$4,084.74. D. Perry motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: 7/13/2020  
Executive Session Minutes: none.

D. Perry motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2020. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

**Open Forum – Announcements:**

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be held August 24 at 7:00 PM at the Rehoboth Senior Center, 55 Bay State Road.

Town Clerk Laura Schwall was present to speak to voters.

- Regarding mail in ballots, there is a brand-new drop box at Town Hall that is secure, please do not be worried
- Mailers going out this week 8/17 for mail-in votes with info regarding the one polling location for all precincts
- The week of 8/22-28 there will be in person voting at Town Hall
- This Saturday is last day to change voting party.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

The family of Mrs. Veader wanted to extend their appreciation for naming one of the streets at Veader Estates after their mother.

Linna Sherman along with Representative Howitt will be accepting a large mask donation for the Rehoboth Senior Center tomorrow at the Seekonk Senior Center.

The Council on Aging's air conditioning unit will need repairs, a motor costing approximately \$275.  
S. Vadnais- Any damage that would require an insurance claim?  
M. Costello- No

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item #1: Vote to Appoint Deputy Chief**

Chief Trombetta was present to respectfully request the Board's approval to appoint Sergeant Mark Rossi to the position of Deputy Chief.

M. Costello motion to appoint Sergeant Mark Rossi to Deputy Chief of Police, effective 8/17/2020 to 8/20/2022. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:**

The Board congratulated Deputy Chief Rossi on his promotion and thanked him for his 32 years of service.

**Action Item #2: Vote to Approve Appointments, as submitted**

With the resignation of Terri Moitozo last week from the Board of Health, they received talent bank form from Katie Eyer, interested in joining the Board of Health.

D. Perry motion to appoint Katie Eyer to the Board of Health, effective 8/17/2020 through 6/30/2023, a three-year term. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:**

S. Vadnais – She is an elected member of the Water Commission as well, which makes her a good fit for the Board of Health as they issue the well permits.

The Town Clerk is happy to accept Election Volunteers. She is greatly appreciative of everyone's willingness to help out.

D. Perry motion to appoint the following Election Day Workers. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

NAME	POSITION	PARTY	PRECINCT	EFFECTIVE DATES
Linda A. Coolidge	Election Day Worker, Inspector	Republican	Precinct 1	8/17/2020-10/30/2020
Judy Fuller	Election Day Worker, Inspector	Unenrolled	Precinct 3	8/17/2020-10/30/2020
Victoria Silvia	Election Day Worker, Inspector	Republican	Precinct 2	8/17/2020-10/30/2020

The COA accepts volunteers to help them out on occasion, especially this year with the pandemic they have been feeding the elderly in our community. CORI check has been performed.

D. Perry motion to accept Suzanne Flemming as a volunteer for the COA. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item #3: Vote to Accept Resignation**

On August 11<sup>th</sup> the Town Clerk's office received a resignation letter from an Election Worker from Precinct 1. Ms. Parella is grateful for the opportunity to help, but at this time has other obligations.

D. Perry motion to accept the resignation from Mary Ann Parrella as an Election Day Worker. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item #4: Vote to Authorize Signatory Authority**

The Accounting Department is looking for departments to update the signatory authority for incoming invoices. The Board of Selectmen need to authorize Debbie Arruda as the Signatory.

M. Costello motion to authorize Debbie Arruda, Interim Town Administrator as Signatory for incoming bills, invoices and payroll. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Agreement for Judgement for Lindley Lane**

Town Counsel has been working on this Land Court Case for some time and have reached an agreement to allow Mr. Michael Suriani the "right to use the road". It cannot be declared a public way.

D. Perry motion to approve Town Counsel to sign the Land Court Agreement C.A. No. 19 MISC 000208 JSDR Suriani vs. Town of Rehoboth. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:**

D. Perry – Don't disagree, just questioning, it can't be public way? They have the right to use- but no improvements allowed.

**Action Item #6: Discussion Regarding: DRRSD Request for Municipal Grant**

G. Schwall motion to enter into a grant with DRRSD for the purchase of 269 Chromebooks for Beckwith Middle School students in support of distance learning. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:**

- G. Schwall spoke to the Board regarding conference call with Paul Kitchen and Anthony Azar School is requesting from Towns (Dighton and Rehoboth) – DR has received over \$850K from grants and there might be another disbursement in October.
- Dighton BOS also have concerns on what the school is going to use funds on.
- G. Schwall has no issue helping students
- Paul Kitchen mentioned PPE was bought with FY20 encumbered funds from the Towns, so we have paid already.
- G. Schwall recommended to purchase 269 Chromebooks for Beckwith Middle School as Dighton has already.
- Estimated cost is \$63,484. First, we need to know if they can get them in time.
- G. Schwall will put together the grant as soon as we know total amount.
- D. Perry- We received money from the CARES Act. Did Dighton receive money as well?
- G. Schwall- Yes and they are going to help their Middle School
- G. Schwall went into further detail to explain how money is allocated and how we are allowed to disburse it.

**Action Item #7: Discussion Regarding: Green Energy and HomeWorks Energy**

Carolyn Panofsky, Chairman of the Green Energy Committee was present to discuss the energy and money savings from this program. We all contribute to it within our electric bill.

**Discussion:**

C. Panofsky spoke to the Board of Selectmen regarding the MassSave Program. They are partnering with communities to help get their word out since they cannot go door to door or Farmers Market at this time. Green Energy Committee met with representative to see how it works. They will work with Skype/FaceTime to communicate with homeowners to see how they can save them money, through using things like programmable thermostats, new energy saving power strips, insulation upgrades and other recommendations. The group will also donate items to communities as well.

Green Energy Committee question to the Board of Selectmen is - Does the Town enter into these programs?

Will town give out home addresses/emails of residents to let them be contacted by Homeworks?

D. Perry- Sounds like a great program, but I would rather partner with MassSave, not a private company like Homeworks. Cause is great, but wouldn't want to endorse a private company, as a Town.

C. Panpfsky- MassSave does not partner with communities. They are the conduit for these companies to do this work.

M. Costello stated that he cannot endorse this company as a Board of Selectmen member. He agrees with Selectman Perry.

S. Vadnais senses the group (BOS) does not want to promote Homeworks. In support of the program but not of endorsing a particular company.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:**

None.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

**Costello:** Reminder to our local establishments with liquor on premises, per order of the ABCC you must order food with beverage. Golf locations needs to follow these rules too. Also, the number of people in attendance at indoor establishments has been lowered from 50 to 25.

**Schwall:**

- Has been told Park Commission had over 200 people at music concert at the gazebo over a week ago.
- We need to set an example as a municipality. We are not exempt.
- Have spoken to Health Agent to enforce.
- Both D. Perry and M. Costello also heard the same thing.

**Vadnais:**

- Send letter to all boards/committees to adhere to rules set forth by Governor, by Board of Selectmen.
- D. Perry need to set example and follow what Governor says, whether we agree or disagree.
- G. Schwall- We are the Board to enforce rules, we are responsible for public safety.
- S. Vadnais suggested a written notice- "No outdoor events that exceed 50 people on Town Property. We will enforce rules if over 50, the event will be cancelled!"

**Perry:** Will speak to J. Kramer regarding the concerts.

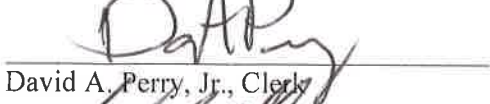
**Muri:** absent

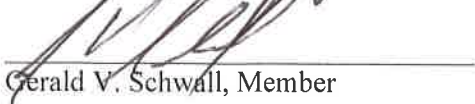
**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen M. Costello made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:10 PM., Second by Selectmen D. Perry. Perry – aye; Costello – aye; Schwall – aye, Vadnais – aye.

  
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


absent

James Muri, Vice Chairman

  
David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk

  
Gerald V. Schwall, Member

  
Michael Costello, Member

  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy McDonough  
Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Approved: 9/21/2020**