



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

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

At 6:00 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a) (3)** *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.*

Roll Call Vote: Vadnais, aye; Muri, aye; Perry, aye; Schwall, aye; Costello, aye. Vote 5-0

Call to Order at 7:23 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for September 21st, 2020: D. Perry read the weekly Warrants; 21-12B Payroll, \$117,418.34; 21-11A Withholdings, \$31,756.67; 21-12 Warrant, \$96,023.83; 21-12R Refund Warrant, \$2,947.83; 21-12R1 Refund Warrant, \$1,798.31. D. Perry motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 8/10/2020 & 8/17/2020
Executive Session Minutes: 2/4/2019

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2020. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0. D. Perry abstained.

D. Perry motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2020. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 4-0. J. Muri abstained.

Announcements:

Next Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday September 28th at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 148 Peck Street.

Town Administrator's Report:

Our IT Director, Derek Rousseau was able to refurbish a town cell phone and set it up to begin receiving calls for the COA. If anyone needs to get a hold of anyone at the COA, please call 508-252-3372 and Linna Sherman will be able to help you.

The Town Nurse has updated the COVID-19 cases to 84 confirmed total to date in Rehoboth. 8 confirmed cases last month, 16 probable cases. She urges residents to be vigilant in their social distancing and to wear your masks. EEE and West Nile Virus risk in town remains low.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #5: Vote to Hire Dispatcher for the Police Station

Chief Trombetta was present with a candidate for hire as a part-time dispatcher for backfill purposes, Melissa A. Root.

J. Muri motion to hire Melissa A. Root as a part-time dispatcher to the Town of Rehoboth Police Department, contingent upon passing the physical, effective when we receive her clearance. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

Trombetta relayed that she has been a dispatcher-in-training and has completed all necessary training, and has experience from working part-time with Barrington Police Department.

G. Schwall thanked Ms. Root for stepping forward. Utmost respect for all dispatchers, the need to stay calm in all situations.

M. Root thanked the Board for accepting her application.

J. Muri explained Ms. Root has wonderful credentials and will be an excellent addition to our team.

Action Item #3: Discussion of COA-Temporary Office Location

Linda (Linna) Sherman, COA Director was present.

Discussion:

G. Schwall brought the Board up to date on new temporary home for the COA. He worked with Linna to find out the day to day work and activities that COA covered, in order to find a place that fits all needs. Found a place that will work with services and Meals-on-Wheels and Toss and Go meals. Working with Kate Federoff and Jay Talerman on contract/lease. Challenges- MA procurement law even on leases, there are issues but there are exceptions, can file disclosure with state.

Tim Johnson with Propane Plus has a plaza with offices. He has agreed to lease for 2 years, very generous lease without utilities.

-Does BOS want G. Schwall to continue working with Linna?

-Earmark computers for COA that were for other departments and then backfill.

-Tim's attorney has drawn up a lease, which has been worked on with Town Counsel.

-After COVID, hopefully, start looking at other activities.

-David Cascioli, owner of Francis Farms has told us that Miller Hall is available for future needs for COA to make meals and have luncheons, etc. for Seniors and other programs. Full kitchen is available. Town to cover utilities. Also offered other kitchen, that we used for Taste of Rehoboth

M. Costello- Linna looks very pleased, shout out to Johnsons, very generous to the Town.

J. Muri to credit G. Schwall and Linna, the Meals on Wheels started back up on Thursday, thank you to all who have helped us.

Linna Sherman- Bristol Elders helped earlier in the week and we picked up at the end. Thank you to all volunteers and American Legion.

G. Schwall-Also thank you to Jean Grotta for your help.

S. Vadnais -Rep Howitt has also donated a printer, which was referred to in action item #1.

G. Schwall -Will do my best to try not to use insurance funds if we don't need to. Going to reach out to contact at CARES Act to see if we can use funds to help seniors, for unexpected expenses such as Grab and Go meal that are a result of COVID restrictions.

J. Muri -Regular COA number forwards into her cell number as well

D. Perry- Great job G. Schwall- a positive will come out of a negative. Nice to see everyone coming together.

Action Item #1: Vote to Accept Donation of Desktop Printer for the COA

Representative Steven Howitt was kind enough to donate a desktop printer with ink for the COA.

M. Costello motion to accept the donation of an HP Inkjet desktop printer for the COA. Second by J. Muri.
Vote 5-0

Discussion:

S. Vadnais relayed that Senator Feeney has also reached out and offered his help.

Action Item #4: Discussion Regarding CARES Act Funding

G. Schwall updated the Board with what first reporting (March through June) will be sent to CARES Act. Thank you to Deb Arruda and Cindy for putting all expenses together and working with accountant. Accountant has tied into Munis and we tie in. Government has agreed to allow us to replace all windows and doors at Town Hall to address the need for ventilation. Asked for \$124,000 but will cost about half. Custom windows with life time warranty, touchless doors for front and back. All approved by Feds. Hopefully all done by Thanksgiving.

S. Vadnais -This is why we cannot re-open. It is not safe.

Action Item #2: Discussion with Possible Vote on Travel Policy

During normal circumstances when the Personnel Board has to make changes or updates, there is a certain procedure that takes place, Personnel Board meetings, Public Hearings, Union involvement, etc. With the Travel Policy being a temporary Policy due to the pandemic and travel to High Risk areas is being discouraged per the direction of Governor Baker. The Personnel Board Director is asking the BOS to deem this an Executive Order due to the circumstances at hand and to allow the Travel Policy to be in place until it is safe to travel again.

M. Costello motion to allow the Board of Selectmen to implement the Temporary Travel Policy without having to go through the normal implementation procedures. This Policy will not be part of the Town of Rehoboth's Personnel Policy Handbook. Second by J. Muri.

M. Costello withdrew his motion and motioned to table the approval until further research is done and the policy is clarified, to be revisit on 9/28/2020. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

M. Costello- BOS should be in charge, not Personnel Board.

G. Schwall – Dave Scanlon spoke to him with changes. Any vacation time requested should be accompanied with this form. Supervisor should know where employee is going. Regarding item #VI -need to challenge Town Counsel on this, get clarification.

Selectmen's Reports:

Perry: none

Muri:

-Asked for a status updates for COA from Fire Marshall's office?

-M. Costello replied that we're waiting on the insurance adjuster; Fire Marshall, State Police are done.

Costello:

-First trailers for PSB coming in on 9/22/2020 by middle of next week all should be in place.

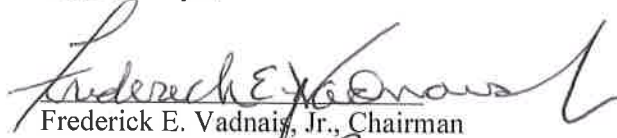
-9/27 MassDOT will be re-paving Route 6. Might want to avoid that area.
-Also, they will also make safety improvements to Barney Ave./Route 6 based on our meeting from a few weeks ago

Schwall: none

Vadnais:

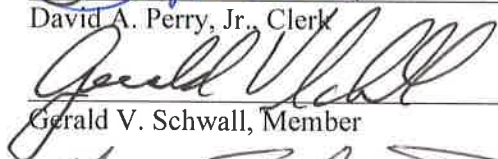
-Women's Housing Group- How would you like to proceed?
-J. Muri spoke to Dean Harrison and will bring BOS up to speed.
-S. Vadnais wants Dean to come to BOS meeting. All members have questions, J. Muri will ask to meet 9/28/2020.

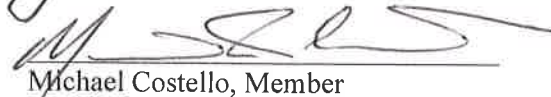
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:15PM., Second by Selectmen M. Costello. Perry – aye; Costello – aye; Muri – aye, and Schwall – aye, Vadnais – aye.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


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:2/3/2021