



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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)** (1) *To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.* (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 7:25 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for September 28th, 2020: D. Perry read the weekly Warrants; 21-13B Payroll, \$107,947.81; 21-12A Withholdings, \$133,124.13; 21-13 Warrant, \$44,638.78; 21-13R Refund Warrant, \$771.75; 21-13V Veterans Warrant, \$9,088.90. D. Perry motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Minutes: Regular Minutes: none
Executive Session Minutes: none

Announcements:

Next Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday October 5th at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 148 Peck Street.

Town Administrator's Report:

As of Friday September 25th, 7 of the 9 modular units have been transported safely to Rehoboth.

Per Town Nurse, no additional COVID-19 cases last week. Stay vigilant with EEE and West Nile Virus precautions.

Assessor's Admin Aide to date we have received 7 applications. The Board of Assessor's will be reviewing all applications this week and we should begin the interview process shortly.

G. Schwall made note that all 7 should be brought before the interview committee, then present the top three applicants to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion with Dean Harrison -Women's Housing Group

Mr. Dean Harrison, Director of Real Estate for the Women's Development Corp., was present to discuss the project with the Board, at Selectmen Perry's request, in light of the change of the site in the past few weeks.

Discussion:

Mr. Harrison reviewed discussion with abutters regarding well/septic and proposed plan to incorporate the Senior Center into the Housing project, in hopes of qualifying for certain funding available, a HUD 202 program. Shared schematic drawings for 3 options.

Board was skeptic that he planned to tear down a 20-year-old building (before it was raised by fire), and not comfortable with how long getting to this stage has taken, never mind if they were to move forward with a project of this scope with him.

Mr. Harrison stated it was a coincidence and that there were many obstacles to deal with in regards to the well. It is a very lengthy process.

The Board will discuss in Executive Session to determine how to move forward.

Action Item #2: Vote to Accept New Hire for Highway-Truck Driver/Laborer

Mike Costello is asking the Board to accept Lionel Couturier as the new Truck Driver/Laborer. Christopher Clark, previous employee accepted a position at a Water Department in another town.

D. Perry motion to hire Lionel Couturier as a Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Department. Tentative start date of 10/5/2020-pending DOT Physical. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

Discussion:

G. Schwall made note, this is not a new position, this is a replacement hire.

JM- Looks like an excellent applicant.

Action Item #3: Vote to Approve ACO Contract

Chairman Vadnais has met with Rob Johnson regarding his contract. Asking for Board's approval.

M. Costello motion to approve a 3-year contract for Robert Johnson as the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Rehoboth. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #4: Vote Appointments, as submitted

Town Clerk's Office continues to receive volunteers for the upcoming election. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to help.

D. Perry motion to appoint the following Election Workers, effective dates 9/28/2020- 10/30/2020. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Charles Pickett, Inspector, Unenrolled, Precinct 1

Robin Santos, Inspector, Unenrolled, Precinct 1

Lee Krasner, Inspector, Democrat, Precinct 2

Paula Fazio, Inspector, Unenrolled, Precinct 3

Historical Commission is in need of volunteers as well and asking the Board to appoint Jason Landry as a member. The Commission will still have one open position if there is anyone interested in sending in a Talent Bank Form.

D. Perry motion to appoint Jason K. Landry as a member of the Historical Commission effective 9/28/2020-6/30/2023. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #5: Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request

Highway Superintendent Costello will present the Board with a request to approve Chapter 90 Reimbursement for work completed this year on Town Wide Paving \$370,339.59 completed 8/2/2020 and Tremont Street for \$434,065.80 completed on 8/1/2020. Project were approved by MassDOT and the submission has been reviewed by the Town Accountant. The total amount of the reimbursement is \$804,405.39.

G. Schwall motion to approve the Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request in the total amount of \$804,405.39. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

Action Item #6: Discussion: Request to Support "Blizzard of Giving"

G. Schwall presented the program which distributes Christmas gifts to citizens that are in need. Due to the Pandemic, they need to rethink how to reach out to people. One idea is a link on the Town website that would connect to the "Blizzard of Giving", then people can navigate to donate as they please. G. Schwall recommends the Town allow the setup of a link to their webpage.

G. Schwall motion to allow the Town to create a link that connects to "Blizzard of Giving" page. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion and Vote on a Travel Policy

This is a continuation of last week's discussion. A redline copy is provided for your review on the questions that were asked of Kate Federoff, Town Counsel.

G. Schwall motion in accordance with Governor's Executive Order of 3/2020, to implement a Temporary Travel Policy for all Town Employees; and to direct the Interim Town Administrator to provide copy of said policy to the Unions as notification. The Temporary Travel Policy will not be part of the Town Policy Handbook. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

G. Schwall stated that he is satisfied with the answer but thinks the policy should be that we do not approve employees to vacation to hot spots. If they go and end up sick, I don't agree we should pay them. They may be terminated if they still go to the vacation destination after they had been told their request had been disallowed.

M. Costello stressed that the high-risk states change frequently.

D. Perry questioned who makes the call as to whether someone has to quarantine or not.

G. Schwall stated employees would need to get COVID tested before they return if a vacation spots becomes high risk while they are there.

Selectmen's Reports:

Muri:

Social media policy- would like Board to review again, regarding other Boards/Committees having access to other media

-G. Schwall- IT Committee should discuss and develop the policy

-M. Costello- Let's set it as an agenda item.
-S. Vadnais asked Deb to send memo to Boards/Commission prohibiting use of social media.
Looked into policy of naming street and we do not have one, add to agenda for 10/5 for discussion

Costello:

7 trailers in place, 2 more to be moved by 9/29, for Public Safety Building Modular Project. Had discussion with Bill McDonough and Vanguard regarding the tie downs of the units.

Would like to put together a committee of building experts to help advise on the new COA project.

-J. Muri stated this will require putting it out to bid and a real Clerk of the Works

-G. Schwall stressed this will be an advisory committee

Schwall:

Will get key to temporary office space for the COA operations on 9/29, as well as Fiber should be up and running this week. Thank you again to Tim Johnson.

Perry:

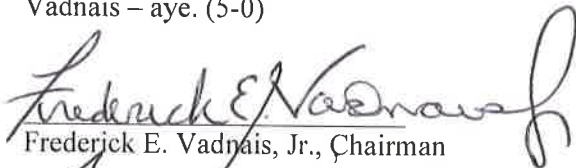
We had many other companies offer their services to help with the clean-up of the COA and thank you to all of them.

Vadnais:

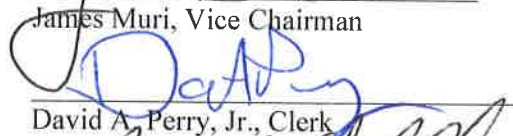
Resident sent letter concerned about groundwater and about usage of water, sprinklers. Please send to Water Commission. No law when it comes to private wells being used.

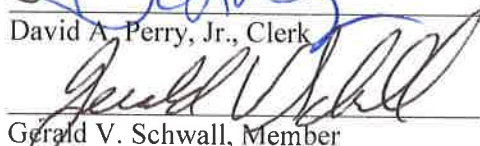
-J. Muri mentioned that other communities that issue water bans have public water supplies, not private, as is the case in Rehoboth.

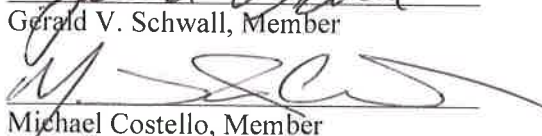
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen M Costello made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:45PM., Second by Selectmen G. Schwall. Perry – aye; Costello – aye; Muri – aye, and Schwall – aye, Vadnais – aye. (5-0)

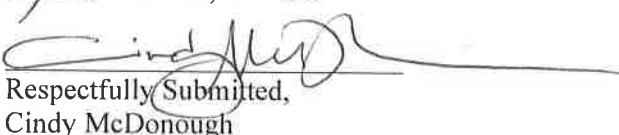

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


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