



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018  
MEETING MINUTES  
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman James Muri, Selectman David Perry, Selectman Michael Costello, and Helen Dennen, Town Administrator.

At 6:07 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a)** (1) To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation of the public body and the chair so declares;

**Call to Order at 8:05 p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Action Item #1 Public Hearing Classification of Land with Board of Assessors**

Mr. Gene Campbell & Ms. Susan Taylor, of the Board of Assessors, were present.  
M. Costello motion to open the public hearing. Second J. Muri.

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

Mr. Campbell spoke in regards to the classification of land for taxation for FY2019. We need a vote from the Board on a single or dual tax rate. Residential value is growing, industrial is down, commercial is down, personal property is up. There are no advantages to multiple rates. The Assessors recommend a single rate.

G. Schwall motioned to close the public hearing.

G. Schwall motioned to accept the Board of Assessors recommendation for a single tax classification. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #5: Regional School Agreement Study Committee**

Ms. Sue McBride, Mr. Mike McBride and Mr. George Solas of the Regional School Agreement Study Committee were present.

S. Vadnais stated that the Board had assigned the committee to highlight 4 major issues that are impacting the Regional agreement that has been proposed. They have done that. The Board has had an opportunity to review it. The following items are the 4 issues:

1. Assessment of Operating Cost
2. Central Office & District Wide Operating Expenses
3. High School & District-Wide Capital Cost

4. Total or Partial Withdrawal from the District  
Recommendation for changes had been made. The Board discussed the proposed agreement further.

G. Schwall motioned to approve the amendments that have been made. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

G. Schwall motion to approve the amended proposal by the Regional School Agreement Study Committee for this language. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

G. Schwall made a motion to dissolve the Regional School Agreement Study Committee with great thanks. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Action Item #1: Continued Discussion on Complaints Re: 58 Winthrop St & Disposition of Class II Auto License**

J. Muri recused himself.

S. Vadnais stated that the Board has letters from the Health Agent and the Building Commissioner regarding the progress that has been made with respect to compliance.

M. Costello stated the Building Inspector request that we allow the property owner to continue with the process of clean up and he would visit the site again by the end of the month. He will report back to the board.

M. Costello motioned to extend the Class II License thru the end of the year to December 31, 2018. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri rejoined the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Action Item #2: Request for Letters of Support from Rural Commonwealth**

M. Costello stated he had reviewed the information.

G. Schwall stated that a payment is in lieu of taxes.

G. Schwall motioned to send both letters and authorize the chairman to sign them on the Board's behalf. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

#### **Action Item #3: Assistant Treasurer**

G. Schwall motioned to ratify the hire of Andrew Morris for the position of Assistant Treasurer subject to a successful pre-employment physical, drug screening and the ability to be bonded. Tentative start date to be Monday 11/5/2018. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

#### **Action Item #4: Appointment to Keep Rehoboth Beautiful**

M. Costello motioned to appoint Michelle Botelho to Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Committee effective 10/15/2018 thru 12/31/2018. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Action Item #2: Hand Me Downs**

M. Costello motioned to table the item indefinitely. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

**Warrants for October 4th, 2018:** Warrant; 19-15A Withholdings, \$27,670.63, 19-16B Payroll, \$105,386.67; 19-15 Warrant, \$279,977.47. G. Schwall motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

**Minutes:** Regular Session Minutes: June 18, 2018

M. Costello motioned to approve the above-named minutes as amended. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

**Open Forum – Announcements:**

S. Vadnais stated the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen has received an invitation from Newman Congregational Church to attend ON THIS LAND a celebratory performance weaving history, music and poetry about the founding of the Town of Rehoboth and Newman Congregational Church taking place on Sunday November 4, 2018 at 1 pm at the Newman Congregational Church at 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford RI. G. Schwall stated it will be followed by a concert at 3pm in the same location.

G. Schwall and Laura Schwall, Town Clerk, will be in attendance.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm at 55 Bay State Road, Senior Center.

The Conservation Commission will be in attendance on October 22, 2018.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

H. Dennen stated that David & Jean LeComte created a beautiful, large birthday cake for the 375<sup>th</sup> parade and are looking for a re-purpose use or home for it. If the board has any suggestions or ideas, they would be welcome.

H. Dennen stated that next week we will have Moderator Bill Cute and Town Clerk Laura Schwall in attendance to review the October 29, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant and motions for Town Meeting.

H. Dennen stated that TRANE has forwarded an invitation to attend the Energy Efficiency Leader Award ceremony for DR School District on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at the DR High School at 6:30 pm with a facility tour of the biomass boiler to follow.

H. Dennen stated that Ted Rowse is coming in Wednesday afternoon to review the plans for the new municipal facilities with the department heads to be sure space is allocated to each department and meets their needs.

H. Dennen stated that we have received a card in the mail today. It's from Public Power, it's our electric aggregation program. All the citizens should be receiving one. It goes over the fact that the rate is going to increase by .00308/kilo watt. Any questions, there is a link on our website.

**Selectmen's Reports.:**

**Costello:** The Middlebrook Golf Course closed on Sunday. It was sold. I was happy I was able to play there on Sunday. The buyers are planning a solar farm.

J. Muri stated this land is probably in Chapter.

S. Vadnais stated it will come before us at some point.

**Muri:** I attended the Firefighter Memorial this past Sunday with Selectman Schwall and Town Clerk, Laura Schwall. It was a nice ceremony. They now have a plaque that was part of an Eagle Scout project. The memorial itself was very nicely done.

**Vadnais:** Ms. Debbie Arruda is here and she has come in because she will be covering for Ms. Dennen when she is on vacation. It's nice to have an employee dedicated enough to come in on their own time to be sure they understand what is expected of them at a Selectmen's meeting. Thank you.

**Schwall:** The last date to register to vote for Town Meeting is this Wednesday and the offices will be open until 8:00 pm. Then again on Friday until 8:00 pm, this is the last day to register to vote for the State Election.

I would like to have an agenda topic next week. The continued discussion of gas installations. The State has taken the step to prohibit Columbia Gas and National Grid from putting in any further installations until such time as Merrimack Valley is back on line and they know what's going on. There will be no work except emergency work and restoration work until the beginning of December. I was going to bring this before the Board that we institute a moratorium for all future gas installations in the Town of Rehoboth until such time as we are assured that the problems have been identified and corrective action has been taken. There are several municipalities and cities that have instituted a moratorium on future gas installation. S. Vadnais stated absolutely. I would like to notify Chris Gauthier that it will be a topic next week. J. Muri to notify Green Energy Committee as well.

**Perry:** none

**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:58 PM., Second by Selectmen J. Muri. 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: 10/19/2020