



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
148 Peck Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

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

At 6:30 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.*

**Call to Order at 7:30 p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants for November 23, 2020:** D. Perry read the weekly Warrants; 21-21B Payroll, \$117,088.49; 21-20A Withholdings, \$32,977.18; 21-21 Warrant, \$29,968.52; 21-21R Refund Warrant, \$13,664.47; 21-21R1 Refund Warrant, \$1,877.59; 21-22V Veterans Warrant, \$9,088.90. D. Perry motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: none  
Executive Session Minutes: none

**Announcements:**

Board discussed options of holding a meeting next week, whether to have a Board of Selectmen's meeting at Town Meeting on 12/1 or schedule one for 11/30 per usual. Board decided to hold meeting on 11/30.

Reminder that the Financial Summit Meeting will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM via Zoom and on Channel 9.

Annual Town meeting will be held next Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM – new location at Ramada Inn-formerly Johnson & Wales, 213 Taunton Ave, Route 44, Seekonk. Face-coverings must be worn to enter the building, per Seekonk Board of Health.

Happy Thanksgiving and please be safe!

**Town Administrator's Report:**

The Town Clerk is putting together the Census and is asking if the Board has anything they would like to include in the mailer.

Board of Health has been checking with the local restaurants and everyone has been following the guidelines, and closing by 9:30.

Today some of us participated on a call from Department of Health and Human Services regarding our “red” status and guidance on ways to stop the spread, how the state can help us and other communities spread the word. ABCC was also present and is very strict with establishments that don’t follow the rules. They will suspend licenses, indefinitely; 97% are following the rules.

Barbara from the Police Department sent an email request regarding false alarms going off at Rehoboth Mini Mart and fines due as outlined in the by-laws. Board decided to send a letter to the establishment issuing the fine.

S. Vadnais asked the Board how they would we like to proceed with meetings, as some cities/towns are going fully remote due to the high number of COVID cases.

-G. Schwall- Our Board needs to meet in person and we need to provide more information on COVID-19 to residents.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Action Item #1: Review of the ATM Warrant with Moderator and Town Clerk**

Town Moderator, Bill Cute, discussed his goal for the Town Meeting next week is to get a quorum, get business taken care of, and get everyone out of there as soon as possible. Something to remember, we are guest of the Town of Seekonk and need to follow their rules, such as masks will be required to enter the building and will remain on the entire time. Seating is reserved for registered voters, there will be overflow seating. No children will be allowed into the hall. He described the “Consent Agenda” and how it will enable us to get through several items more quickly. He proceeded to go through the remaining items and how they would be addressed.

G. Schwall stressed how the past four elections were conducted in a safe manner and have not resulted in any COVID related outbreaks. This will be handled in the same manner. He outlined the safety measures that will be in place including no congregating, no moving of chairs, and the meeting will be dismissed row by row. The only entrance will be the rear entrance. The parking lot will have people directing people into the building. Everyone will have their hands sanitized before entering.

#### **Action Item #2: Vote to Approve Waiving of Building Permit Fee for Town Hall**

Building Commissioner McDonough is asking if the Board will vote to waive the \$330 permit fee for the window and door replacement project at Town Hall. Project to begin week of 11/30.

D. Perry motion to waive the building permit fee for the window and door replacement project at Town hall. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

#### **Action Item #3: Vote to Ratify Approval of Temporary Mobile Home Unit**

On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Building Commissioner McDonough had to authorize a temporary mobile unit at 82 New Street, due to a fire at the residence in the basement.

D. Perry motion to ratify the approval of a temporary mobile home unit at 82 New Street- the building permit is for six months. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

#### **Action Item #4: Vote to Approve and Sign the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Agreement for Industrial Tower & Wireless, LLC**

We have an amendment to license agreement for antenna site between the Town and Industrial Tower effective through February 1, 2029 with option to extend through February 1, 2034.

M. Costello motion to table. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

**Discussion:**

G. Schwall question why there is no increase in fees.

Discussion by the Board included a question of increase in fees; provisions, additional revenue with every additive, and the need to find out from Assessors if we are collecting personal property tax on this equipment on the tower.

**Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Proclamation for School Choice Week in Rehoboth**

January 24-30, 2021 is School Choice Week and we have been asked to join other cities and towns to recognize this important event for K-12 Education. Last year more than 550 mayors and county leaders, along with 27 governors, the unanimous US Senate and the President issued proclamations to recognize National School Choice Week.

M. Costello motion to vote to join and sign the proclamation for School Choice Week in Rehoboth on January 24-30, 2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #6: Vote to Ratify the signing of the Warrant from 11/16**

Last Monday evening the Board accepted the Warrant as submitted with all of the amendments made. A vote to sign the Warrant should have been added as well.

M. Costello motion to ratify the signing of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the December 1, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #7: Vote to Approve 2021 License Renewals, as submitted**

The BOS Admin office is submitting the 2021 Auto Licenses for renewal. Attached are the establishments that have provided us with a complete packet with insurance requirements and inspections have been completed as well.

D. Perry motion to approve the 2021 Auto License Renewals for the following listed businesses, effective January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

| AUTO CLASS | LICENSEE                             | ADDRESS           | WORKER'S COMP | INSPECTION DATE | BOND               | FEE PAID  |
|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| I          | CURTIS DOUGLAS dba CMI               | 157 TREMONT ST    | NA            | 10/6/2020       | NA                 | \$ 125.00 |
| I          | BAY STATE TRUCK & TRAILER, INC       | 527 WINTHROP ST   | 8/1/2021      | 10/5/2020       | NA                 | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | FAMILY AUTO                          | 513 WINTHROP ST   | NA            | 10/5/2020       | YES                | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | AUTOSHOW SALES & SERVICE LLC         | 4 FALLS ST        | 6/12/2021     | 10/5/2020       | SELECTIVE INS      | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | ANAWAN AUTO                          | 257 ANAWAN LLC    | NA            | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | FIRST STOP AUTO SALES LLC            | 509 WINTHROP ST   | 1/21/2021     | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | CONSOLIDATED TRUCK & EQUIPMENT INC   | 231 PLAIN ST      | 1/1/2022      | 10/5/2020       | AA DORITY CO       | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | US FINANCIAL VEHICLES LLC            | 29 FALL RIVER AVE | NA            | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | GDA ENTERPRISE INC, dba SEEKONK AUTO | 57 BLISS ST       | NA            | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | FOURNIER AUTO & TRUCK SALES LLC      | 496 WINTHROP ST   | NA            | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | GAGNON'S GARAGE INC                  | 119 WINTHROP ST   | NA            | 10/5/2020       | WESTERN SURETY     | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | BIG AL'S USED CARS                   | 329 TREMONT ST    | NA            | 10/5/2020       | NGM INS            | \$ 125.00 |
| II         | REHOBOTH AUTO CENTER INC             | 71 WINTHROP ST    | 11/25/2021    | 10/5/2020       | UTICA NATIONAL INS | \$ 125.00 |

**Discussion:**

Consolidated's License needs to be reprinted, (wrong titles for selectmen), before its signed.

The Board feels that all the back-up is not necessary for next time, only provide if there is a problem.

**Action Item #8: Vote to Approve Municipal Fiber Grant Project-Comm-Tract Corp**

Comm-Tract Corp has extensive experience with the Town and the infrastructure. They offer us a range of services and support- scope of work has been included. The total grant is \$234,630.00. Derek Rousseau, IT Director, was present to discuss the grant and answer questions.

M. Costello motion to approve and sign Comm-Tract Corp agreement to provide the Fiber services for the Town. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**Discussion:**

Derek Rousseau reviewed the grant. This is part of the Community Compact grant that we receive back in March. This is an expansion of our fiber optic network in town, and will cover the remaining buildings in Town, all of our public safety towers so we can have better radio coverage at some point in time. This is to have the actual contractor come in and do the work. The total cost of project is \$234,630. \$134,000 will come from grant, remaining cost from encumbered funds. This will have an approximate cost savings of \$10K a year which we can reinvest other areas of communication.

**Action Item #9: Discussion Re: DRRSD Request for Access to Municipal CARES funds**

DRRSD is requesting the expenditure of municipal CARES funds pursuant to the May 14, 2020 letter from Michael J. Heffernan, Secretary of Administration and Finance on Federal COVID Relief Fund. The items they are requesting are 55 ThinkPad T490 for the Beckwith Middle School and additional PPE for the buildings. In addition, they are looking for hands free sanitary operations for the bathrooms at Palmer River Elementary and Beckwith Middle Schools- automated flushometers. Costs are as follows:

Connections Quote \$45,314.50

Banner Industries \$6,519.00

FW Webb \$15,660.40

**Discussion:**

G. Schwall addressed the need to have the invoices for the Chrome Books from DRRSD.

D. Perry questioned who was the installer, as these items need to be "in service" by the end of the year.

G. Schwall suggested having our Facility Manager check that they are in service on December 31<sup>st</sup>, or we will have to charge them back on their next assessment.

**Action Item #10: Vote to Sign Certification of Votes for County Commissioner and County Treasurer from the Presidential Election 2020**

Town Clerk is requesting the signature of the Board on the County Commissioner's and County Treasurer's vote certification from the 2020 Presidential Election.

M. Costello motion to approve and sign the Certification of Votes for the County Commissioner and County Treasurer. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Action Item # 1: Vote to Not Exercise Right of First Refusal – Rehoboth Golf Club**

The Chapter 61B -Change in Use Classification Land request for the Rehoboth Country Club was tabled until after our discussion with Town Counsel at our 11/16 meeting. The Agricultural Commission and the Cultural Preservation Committee have not responded to our requests. Has the Board come to a decision?

D. Perry motion to vote to not exercise the "right of first refusal" for the Rehoboth Golf Club at 155 Perryville Road. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-1. G. Schwall voted "nay".

### Selectmen's Reports:

#### **Schwall:**

- A General Contractor has come to me to help out with COA and work with our Town with his project manager skills and donate his time. I asked Jim Muri to reach out to him. We need to follow up with Town Counsel. Would like his Insurance to be covered.
- Pave Firefighters' area- We have money encumbered for that job and we had voted to get that done. What parking spaces were marked up at Police Department?
- Chapter 61- discussion was informative, need Board to follow through with next Chapter request, should go to Town Counsel first. Add to agenda for discussion on 12/7

**Muri:** no report

#### **Costello:**

- Thank you to Barry Conway who donated time/service to grade(?)
- Thank you to Ferreira Construction who donated roller
- Thank you to Lynch Construction for their work on the Paving the Police Department, invoices \$38,380.00
- National Grid finally came through with time frame, pole time frame coming.
  - Resident reached out to MC donating time/equipment to remove foundation at COA at 55 Bay State Road. What would Board like to do?
    - D. Perry explained that the foundation cannot be used. Cheaper to start from New. Would have to cut into foundation
    - J. Muri said too many mechanical issues with past building with items being located in attic. Will not move forward.

**Perry:** no report

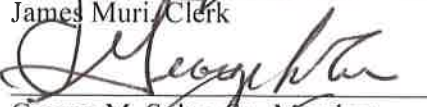
**Vadnais:** no report

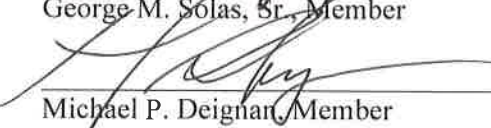
**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 9:12 PM., Second by Selectmen Muri. Perry – aye; Muri – aye, Vadnais – aye, Costello-aye, Schwall-aye.

  
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

  
David A. Perry, Jr., Vice Chairman

  
James Muri, Clerk

  
George M. Solas, Sr., Member

  
Michael P. Deignan, Member



Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy McDonough

Assistant to the Town Administrator      **Approved: 5/17/2021**