



Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

Present: Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Jim Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman Mike Costello and Deborah Arruda, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

At 5:30 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a) (2)** To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union 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 litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; **(6)** To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

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

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for January 15th, 2020: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-29B Payroll, \$115,928.75; 20-28A Withholdings, \$30,163.09, 20-28 Warrant, \$172,535.57. J. Muri motion to ratify the Warrants for January 13th as read. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: none.
Executive Session Minutes: none.

Open Forum – Announcements:

IT Director Derek Rousseau has secured an Information Technology Grant Award for \$134K

J. Muri read the letter into the record.

Document: letter re: grant

Derek Rousseau explained that with this money, our municipal fiber network that connects Town buildings will be expanded to include the remaining buildings and radio towers to help our public safety network. It will also allow us to consolidate charges, so it will help with budget too, once this project is completed.

J. Muri – Thank you to Derek for writing this grant.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Monday 27, 2020 at the COA Building, 55 Bay State Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion with Green Energy Committee Chair- Carolyn Panofsky

C. Panofsky –

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, that handles the Green Communities program, asked us to make significant changes to our program. It turns out that ordinarily in a town like Rehoboth, the Public Schools account for 2/3 to ¾ of all energy usage in a town, because they are such large buildings and they accommodate so many people on a daily basis. And so given that the goal of a Green Community is 15-20% energy reduction in a town, its usually pretty easy to get that 15-20% sometimes 25%, because the school use up so much energy. Because so many improvements had already been done to the schools, we could not include them in our grant because if we did, we would not be able to get 15-20% energy reduction because we wouldn't get anything out of the schools. So, when we remove the schools, what would be left was the remaining buildings and all the vehicles. We did audits to find what energy reductions could be made in the buildings. However, without the schools, it turns out 2/3 of the energy used in town is by vehicles and about 85% of those vehicles are exempt from any kind of modification. So, there is no way to get 15% out of Rehoboth unless we implement some vehicle measures which we hadn't thought of originally because the guidelines don't prescribe it. And so, when they added these 4 items, that was a way to achieve 15-20% energy reduction which is a way to qualify for the grant. So, the things they include for Energy reduction of vehicles are:

- 1-an anti-idling policy
- 2-monitoring air pressure and using fuel efficient tires
- 3-using synthetic oil when possible
- 4-replacing Town vehicles with electric vehicles because they are the most fuel efficient.

The caveat here is that these measures are subject to staffing levels, funding levels, BOS and /or Town approval. So, if we took a proposed measure before Town meeting and it didn't pass, it would still meet requirements because we tried. They don't take money back if it doesn't pass. Now that we're involving vehicles, we need a townsperson (town employee) to monitor and make sure this work gets done. I suggest the Mike Costello in the Highway Department.

M. Costello –

We already use synthetic oil.

J. Muri – Must we see a 15% reduction in order to be eligible?

C. Panofsky – Our plan must have measures/activities such that it is conceivable that we could have 15-20%. You have 5 years, and it has to be a feasible target. If you don't hit the target, they don't take the money back.

G. Schwall- Change M. Costello to Bill Pray, our Facility Maintenance Manager because it works better with his job description and schedule.

M. Costello – A lot of the newer Police cruisers have the monitoring system for the tires, some of my vehicles do too. But not the older vehicles.

C. Panofsky – This is why we need to do some of the other energy efficient measures, like the idle reduction equipment and after-market hybrid retro fit kits.

G. Schwall – So you started out by saying because the schools went ahead and did certain work, we will not be able to seek a grant in the area to make them more energy efficient. Is that correct?

C. Panofsky – So When the schools were audited, the auditors did not see much potential for improvement because they had already been done.

G. Schwall -Because the school went ahead and made capital improvements projects on our buildings. Is that correct?

C. Panofsky – So you're calling them capital improvements...

G. Schwall – They are. Had the Schools not taken that action would those consideration have been on that grant application?

C. Panofsky – If I understand your question, absolutely. We would have gotten State money to help defray the cost of improving the Schools.

G. Schwall – So, I want the people to understand, there are not to be those types of projects done on our buildings by the school department unless they go to Town meeting. Had we been consulted about that, your committee might have been able to advise the School Department that while a valuable project and you should consider it, let's see how much grant money we can get from the State to off-set that so that the tax payers don't have to pay for it. Because for whatever reason they did not comply with the regional agreement and they went ahead and did that work and now we've lost the opportunity to try and get a grant that would have reduced the cost to the tax payers and that's unfortunate. And it also makes us now have to rejigger our grant application to say things like, we're going to monitor our air pressure in our tires. And I tell you something, if I was approving grants and I had two in front of me, one that was adding solar panels and one that was monitoring air pressure, I know which one I'd approve. So, I think it may have hurt us in getting additional money for the Town. But that's where we are and we are being asked to support these changes.

S. Vadnais motion to move forward with the changes we discussed in order to move forward with the grant. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

C. Panofsky clarified her previous statement questioning whether it was a capital improvement, saying companies that do that, like Trane, roll the cost into the operating budget.

G. Schwall – What they did was wrong and in violation of the regional agreement. That is the bottom line. You cannot bury capital costs as an operating cost and still be in compliance. So, what they basically did was cost the Town of Rehoboth valuable grant money in my opinion. Trane is a "for profit" organization. What they did is front it and are now charging lease payments and at the end it's like bonding it. The problem is they never came to us at Town Meeting and got that approval. It puts the Town in a more difficult position to secure this grant. We are constantly being asked what are you doing in the Town to secure grants. As you will see on our agenda, we have a number of grants that we're accepting tonight. And we started out with a \$134K one so we'll take all the grant money we can get.

C. Panofsky clarified that she wasn't being flippant.

Action Item #2: Vote to Approve Payment to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society (Blanding Library)

Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$242,326 to fund the Blanding Library for FY20. The third payment is now due in the amount of \$60,581.50 (25% of the appropriation).

D. Perry motion to issue payment of \$60,581.50 to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #3: Vote to Approve the ABCC Annual Licensing and Revenue Report

Chapter 138, Section 10A of the Liquor Control Act requires municipalities to submit an annual report detailing the licensing activities and related revenue to the ABCC. Debbie Arruda completed the report for the Board's review and approval. The grand total of licensing revenue for 2019 was \$23,880.00. There was one violation that we are waiting for the ABCC to adjudicate before we take action.

D. Perry motion to approve and sign the 2019 ABCC Annual Licensing and Revenue Report, as submitted. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #4: Request to Approve Subdivision Street Name – Blue Herron Estates

The Board received notification from the Planning Board of a proposed street name in the Blue Herron subdivision. The proposed name is Blue Herron Drive. It has been pointed out that it is misspelled, however, it appears that way on all the documents related to it. A request for approval as is has been received from the RPD, RFD, Highway Superintendent, and the Assessors.

J. Muri motion to approve the naming of Blue Herron Drive. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve and Authorize Chairman to Execute FEMA Reimbursement Contract

Thank you to our REMA Director Bill Maiorano and Town Accountant Roberta Oliveira, as well as the Police, Fire, Highway and Forestry Departments, for all their work in securing this grant for reimbursement from the 3/2/18 storm damages.

D. Perry motion to approve the FEMA reimbursement and authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents on behalf of the Town. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #6: Vote to Authorize and Approve Chairman to Execute MEMA EMPG Contract

REMA Director Bill Maiorano has once again secured the annual Emergency Management Preparedness Grant on behalf of the Town. The amount of the grant is \$3,500.

D. Perry motion to approve the MEMA EMPG Contract and authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents on behalf of the Town. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item #1: Street Naming – Eastwood Estates Phase 2: Ciana Road

Ciana Road was not approved at the 1/6/20 meeting and the Chairman was directed to gather the input of our public safety officials and speak with the developer. G. Schwall checked with both the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, neither believed it would be a problem, as there are no other streets similar in either spelling or enunciation.

M. Costello motion to approve Ciana Road as part of development. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

Planning Board and Assessors are all in agreement.

J. Muri and G. Schwall both suggested that in the future the approval be made before the street name is "in ink".

Item #2: Request from DRRSD to Appoint Member to Facility Study Committee

Talent Bank Forms have been received from two candidates, Ms. Laura Samsel and Mr. Aaron Morse. The Board needs to make an appointment before the first meeting on January 23rd. As Mr. Morse was in attendance, the Board spoke to Mr. Morse, inquiring about his interest in serving on the committee and his background. The Chairman then read from Ms. Samsel's Talent Bank Form, to allow for equal time for

each candidate. The Board decided to go with Mr. Morse because of his proven interest in the school district and his strong computer background as well as the fact that time was of the essence in appointing someone in time for the first meeting to ensure continuity.

J. Muri motion to appoint Mr. Morris for the District Facility Study Committee. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: no report

Costello:

There will be a public hearing regarding the Route 44 intersection rebuild, on Tuesday January 28th at 7:00 PM at the COA. The public is welcome to come and listen and/or comment on the design and raise any concerns about construction, however the Mass DOT has already decided on the plan. They are planning a roundabout with bike paths, sidewalks and ADA accessibility. There were 3 different proposals and the State decided the roundabout was the best value for the money spent.

M. Deignan – Questioned whether land would be taken.

M. Costello replied Yes, Dunkin Donuts, Century 21, Exxon Station, Cumberland Farms would all have small portions of land taken for the project.

There will also be a public hearing for the Reed Street Bridge on January 16th at 7:00 PM at the COA.

Schwall:

ZBA meeting to be held at Town Hall Meeting Room at 6:00pm on 1/16/2020

No meeting at COA – Boards are meeting with Dighton BOS to review DESE. Meeting at Dighton Town Hall at 7:00 PM on 1/22/2020

Perry: no report

Muri:

We have a number of 40Bs not entered into state system.

Stacy Vilao is working through and entering them.

Town has more say on what projects get done once it fulfills it's 10% 40B requirement.

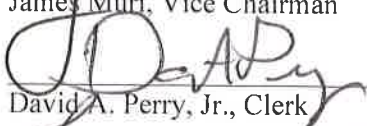
Now, it circumvents our regulations, zoning by-laws, held to federal and state regulations, so if above 10%, Town will have more control.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen J. Muri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:11 PM. Second by Selectmen S. Vadnais.

Roll call vote: Perry – aye; Schwall – aye, Vadnais – aye, and Costello – aye, Muri, aye. 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,

Deborah Arruda

Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved 5/18/20



Executive Office for Administration & Finance

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL J. HEFFERNAN
SECRETARY

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 8, 2020

Dear Helen Dennen,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that your community has been awarded \$134707.5 through the Community Compact Cabinet's (CCC) Information Technology grant program. The competition for funding was intense. Your application was chosen because it met the overarching goal of driving innovation and transformation at the local level via investments in technology.

We are currently working to schedule an awards ceremony in the coming weeks where we will officially announce all of the grant winners. You will be notified via email of the specifics regarding this future event.

Lieutenant Governor Polito, who serves as Chair of the Community Compact Cabinet, and I want to congratulate you for becoming a "Compact Community" and striving to make your community a better place by virtue of implementing best practices. Your participation not only provided you with technical assistance, but it also places you in a more competitive position for other state grants, such as this IT program. I am glad to see your community taking advantage of the benefits the CCC program offers.

Attached are the grant documents that need to be completed in order to get the funds to your community. These should be sent to Frank Gervasio at the Division of Local Services as soon as possible, but no later than February 14th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Heffernan", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Heffernan, Secretary
Executive Office for Administration and Finance