



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, DECEMBER 14, 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)**
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 7:05 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for December 14, 2020:

D. Perry motioned to ratify the December 7th Warrant from last week: 21-23B Payroll \$109,587.05; 21-22A Withholdings \$30,803.59; 21-23 Warrant \$22,839.08. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

D. Perry motioned to approve this week's Warrant: 21-23A Withholdings \$31,243.03; 21-24B Payroll \$124,708.20; 21-24 Warrant \$3,446.64. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

D. Perry motioned to ratify the November 30th Warrants; 21-22B Payroll, \$102,915.16; 21-21A Withholdings, \$134,421.15; 21-22 Warrant, \$24,938.48. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 9/14/2020 and 10/31/2019
Executive Session Minutes: none

D. Perry motioned to approve the minutes from October 30th, 2019. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0.
M. Costello abstained.

D. Perry motioned to approve the minutes from September 14th 2020. Second by J. Muri. 4-0.
D. Perry abstained.

Announcements:

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Monday, December 21, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

Town Administrator's Report:

On Monday, December 7th Jake Kramer in our Veteran's Office announced that United States flags and Commonwealth of MA flags to be lowered half-staff in honor of National Pearl Harbor

Remembrance Day. This is in accordance with Public Law 103-308 and by proclamation of the President and Governor Baker.

I would like to thank Nancy Marocco and her staff at the Ramada Inn for accommodating us for our Annual Town Meeting on December 1st. They did a wonderful job in setting up the rooms and were very pleasant to work with. We were very fortunate that they helped us. Also, I would like to thank the Seekonk BOH and Seekonk Police Dept for working with us as well. Without everyone's help we would not have been able to pull it off.

This past January I attended the MMA Annual Meeting in Boston. In 2021 the meeting will be held for 2 days in January (21-22) through the Zoom platform, I would like to attend, if the Board so desires. The cost is \$85.00 and I have to register before Jan. 6th.

-The Board agreed to allow the Interim Town Administrator to attend the annual MMA meeting.

I included in your packet's information on Human Rights Committee. I was approached a few months ago by the Town Administrator in Dighton. Selectman Pacheco is working with a Human Rights 9- member Committee that just started up in Dighton and was wondering if Rehoboth would be interested in begin one. I was also approached by a resident, Ms. Donahue regarding the same. She supplied me with the information that was in your packet's and would like to come in and speak to the Board about starting up a committee in town. She has been receiving a lot of positive feedback from other residents.

-The Board directed the her to make it an agenda item to be voted up or down.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion Re: 12/1/2020 Town Meeting

Town Moderator Bill Cute, Town Clerk Laura Schwall, and Finance Chairman Michael Deignan were present to discuss Town Meeting.

Chairman Vadnais thanked everyone for their part in successfully executing a Town Meeting during a pandemic, including the people of Rehoboth for their understanding; thank you for showing up and thank you for staying away. We were able to have just enough people present to reach a quorum and not too many that we couldn't practice safe social distancing.

M. Deignan expressed his appreciation for the work of Administrative Assessor Linda Greaves, Town Treasurer Cheryl Gouveia, and IT Director Derek Rousseau, and his support of the 'Consent Agenda' which worked well for routine housekeeping items.

Interim Town Administrator Deb Arruda thanked all the town employees that helped with ushering residents to their seats, as well as Highway Department for the flashing sign, Board of Health for screening people before entering, and her assistant Cindy McDonough and facilities manager Bill Pray for help with set up and break down. She also thanked Laura and Gerry Schwall for all their knowledge and expertise which helped in the weeks leading up to the meeting.

L. Schwall acknowledged D. Arruda, D. Rousseau, G. Schwall, and Nancy Marocco of the Seekonk Ramada Inn, as well as the election workers, tellers and Town Employees who helped.

B. Cute expressed his gratitude to D. Arruda for preparing the Warrant, and L. Schwall for being so detailed oriented and making his job easy. He supports the use of the 'Consent Agenda' which saved time and leaves room for discussion of any hot button topics at future meetings.

Action 1a: Vote on Location for 2021 Rehoboth Republican Caucus

Mike Deignan is asking the Board to hold the 2021 Republican Caucus on Saturday, February 20th at 1PM and would like to hold it at the Palmer River Elementary School as their first choice. Second choice is the Redway Plain. Either of these locations would allow them to follow the Governors orders with social distancing and capacity limits. If there is inclement weather they would postpone to Saturday, February 27th at 1PM.

J. Muri motion to allow the 2021 Rehoboth Republican Caucus to be held on Saturday, February 20th at 1PM. The Caucus will be held outdoors at the Palmer River Elementary School. If the school is unavailable the Caucus can be held at the Gazebo on Redway Plain. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #2: Discussion Re: Census 2021 with Town Clerk

Town Clerk, Laura Schwall, was present to discuss the 2021 Census and Fall Town Meeting with the Board. She would like to use the "church in the village" photo taken by Tom Davis and the historical description written by Helen Davis for the Census cover page.

M. Costello motion to approve L. Schwall to use photo of the "church in the village" and wording for the Census Cover page. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

G. Schwall motion to set November 2nd as Special Fall Town Meeting for 2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #3: Vote to Approve Highway Superintendent's Contract

D. Perry motion to approve the Highway Superintendent's contract as submitted, effective 12/01/2020-6/30/2023. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0

M. Costello was not in the room.

Action Item #4: Vote to Approve Extension for Outdoor Seating

Per the Order of the Governor, Order #35, which allows the extension of outdoor seating to local establishments from November 1, to any period up to and until sixty (60) days after the end of the state of emergency. For those establishments that have been allowed to extend their seating, please refer to our building department for any questions/guidance in keeping with building codes and inclement weather. At this time, we have American Legion Post #302, iAlive, and KP Grille with outdoor seating Temporary Licenses. Their current licenses reflect extensions made by the Governor/LLA.

D. Perry motion to extend temporary outdoor seating licenses for American Legion Post #302, iAlive and KP Grille, until 60 days after the end of the state of emergency is lifted. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Western Oil Contract for Highway

The Highway Superintendent is asking the Board to approve the contract with Western Oil to remove 7 drums of waste oil that is mixed with water and antifreeze. The cost is \$1500.

D. Perry motion to approve the contract with Western Oil, Inc. for \$1500 to remove 7 drums of waste oil and to approve the Chairman to sign the contract. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

Action Item #6: Vote to Accept Municipal Road Safety Grant for the Police Department

The Police Department received the Municipal Road Safety Grant for FY21. The grant is for \$19,764 for Highway Traffic Safety and \$39,624.15 JAG Award for tasers and protective gear. Chief Trombetta was present.

D. Perry motion to accept the Municipal Road Safety Grant for \$19,764 for the Police Department. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to accept the JAG grant for \$39,624.15. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

J. Muri question if the grant included taser training.

Chief Trombetta responded that they have in house training and that the tasers are replacement for ones that have broken.

Action Item #7: Vote to Renew Electric Aggregation Program for the Town Building & Properties

Interim Town Administrator was approached by Constellation, which works through the MMA on this electric program notifying us that our 4-year contract will end in December. The rates are as follows:

Town of Rehoboth, Ma

21 accounts – billed directly on utility bills

327,505. annual kWh

OF-0000018565

Fixed price MMA contract benefits:

December 2020 – December 2021: \$0.0971

December 2020 – December 2022: \$0.0974

December 2020 – December 2023: \$0.0966

December 2020 – December 2024: \$0.0966

December 2020 – December 2025: \$0.0970

M. Costello motion to renew the Electric Aggregation Program with Constellations effective 12/2020 through 12/2025 and to allow the Interim Town Administrator to sign the contract. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #8: Vote to Approve Personal Kennel Permits, as submitted

Due to the craziness of 2020, the Kennel permits were held up. The permits have been previously approved and the applicants are seeking a renewal of the permit. ACO has inspected and approved the premises and the Town Clerk's office has verified licensing fees are paid and proof of rabies vaccination certification is on file. Effective April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

D. Perry motion to approve and sign the personal kennel permit for Robin Anderson, 30 Terrybrooke Rd. for 10 dogs for the purpose of breeding, private sale and showing. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve and sign the personal kennel permit for James & Ellen Burke, 134 Martin St. for 9 dogs for the purpose of breeding and showing. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve and sign the personal kennel permit for Robert & Judith Grant, 7 Willard Dr. for 10 dogs for the purpose of breeding, private sale, and showing. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve and sign the personal kennel permit for Maria Perry, 211 Providence St. for 6 dogs for the purpose of breeding, private sale and showing. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Action Item #9: Vote to Approve Common Vic Licenses & Livery, as submitted

Renewal of Common Vic Licenses and Livery for 2021.

D. Perry motion to approve the Livery License for Stephen Bolduc/Xtreme Party Bus, effective 1/1/2021-12/31-2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve the following Common Vic License, effective 1/1/2021-12/31/2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Type	LICENSEE	ADDRESS
ComVic	Jin Lin/China Gourmet	503 Winthrop Street
ComVic	Danielle DiGiacomo, Rehoboth Antiquarian Society/Carpenter Museum	4 Locust Street
ComVic	Dean Botelho, Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity	43 Broad Street
ComVic	Diane I. Cote/Anawan Oakton Grange #221, P of H, Inc.	243 Winthrop St
ComVic	Stephen Provazza SPCAP, Inc dba Honey Dew Donuts	317 Tremont St
ComVic	Chris Cahoon, Krios Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts	3 Park Street Unit 11
ComVic	Chris Cahoon, Titan Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts	227 Winthrop St

Action Item #10: Vote to Approve Auto Renewals for 2021, as submitted

The following Auto Licenses are up for renewal.

D. Perry motion to approve the following 2021 Auto Licenses effective 1/1/2021- 12/31/2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Class	Licensee	Address
II	Manny and Sons Auto Repair and Tire Center, Inc.	2 Park Street
II	B&B Equipment Sales, Inc.	75 Providence Street
II	Quality Auto Sales of Rehoboth dba Auto Sales of Rehoboth	242 Anawan Street

D. Perry motion to approve the 2021 Auto License effective 1/1/2021 to 12/31 2021. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Class	Licensee	Address
III	Jerry's Auto & Salvage	49R Summer Street

North American Auto has issues to be resolved. The Board needs to decide how we should proceed.

D. Perry motion to table the renewal of North American Auto's Class II license until the Board can discuss. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0. J. Muri recused himself.

Reed's Junkyard, Inc. is up for renewal of their Class III Auto License but they have issues with tax payment.

D. Perry motion to table and have Interim Town Administrator ask Tax Collector to send letter to Reed's to set-up payment plan. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #11: Vote to Approve and Sign Settlement Agreement

Per the direction of Town Counsel, Kate Feodoroff, the agreement between TOR and Officers Miranda and Pezzoulo needs to be signed by the Chairman in open session. The officers have already signed the agreement.

J. Muri motion to approve and have the Chairman sign the settlement agreement between Officer Miranda and Officer Pezzuolo for partial loss wage payments during their time at the academy. Wages to be paid per officer is \$11,447.92, minus all appropriate deductions. Second by D. Perry Vote 5-0.

Action Item #12: Discussion RE: Police Department

The Board discussed the need for better communication and adherence to the budget for the Police Department building project. Bi-weekly phone meetings between Clerk of the Works M. Costello, Interim Town Administrator D. Arruda and Police Chief Trombetta were suggested, as well as a spreadsheet to keep track of what is left to be done. D. Arruda will facilitate the communication between the parties and seek out G. Schwall for financial considerations.

Chief Trombetta was present.

Action Item #13: Discussion RE: Facility Maintenance Personnel

Selectman Muri suggested increasing the Facility Maintenance Position to 30 hours.

Selectman Schwall said that it is not in the 2020 budget but could keep a log of his hours per job and see if it's necessary to add to 2021 budget. As it stands, it is an hourly position and therefore should get paid for hours put in.

Chairman Vadnais-BOS with help of Bill Pray and Deb Arruda will have schedule put together.

Selectmen's Reports:

Schwall:

- Tax Rate \$13.24 per \$1000 set today.
- Agenda topic for 12/21 meeting-CARES money for DRRSD

Muri:

Health Agent Karl Drown helped a resident that tried to do a good deed by bringing an old TV that he found on the side of the road to the Transfer Station but was told he would need to pay to dispose of it, but could be fined if he returned it to the side of the road. Karl took care of it.

Costello:

Questioned if he could buy back his vacation time lost due to COVID.

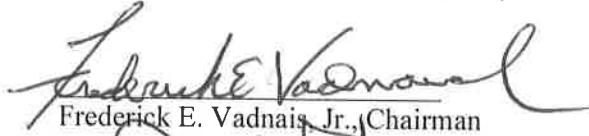
G. Schwall approached M. Costello at the same time as other Department Heads and M. Costello at the time did not want to buy back. It's too late now.

Perry: none

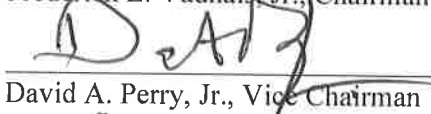
Vadnais:

Executive Session for Town Administrator Position on Agenda for 12/21/2020 start 6:30

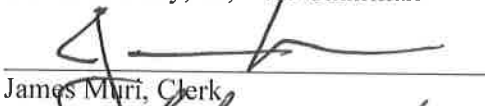
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:56 PM., Second by Selectmen Muri. Perry – aye; Muri – aye, Vadnais – aye, Costello-aye, Schwall-aye. (5-0)



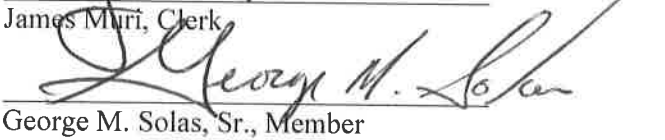
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



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: 5/24/2021