



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectmen Michael Costello and Assistant to the Town Administrator Cindy McDonough

Absent: Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for February 16, 2021:

D. Perry motioned approve this week's Warrant: 21-33B Payroll \$105,753.14; 21-32A Withholdings \$31,342.58; 21-33 Warrant \$4,720,145.53; 21-33R1 Refund Warrant \$1,752.28; 21-33R2 Refund Warrant \$7,440.99; 21-33R Refund Warrant \$176.48. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: none
Regular Minutes: 10/5/2020

J. Muri motioned to table the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2020. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Announcements:

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Town Administrator's Report:

No report.

Interim Town Nurse Jessica Potter was present to update the Board and the public on the most recent COVID data and stressed that we still need to be vigilant in our efforts to stop the spread.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion Re: Housing Authority Update-Town Clerk

Paul Jacques, Chairman of the Housing Authority, was present along with Town Clerk Laura Schwall.

On January 14, 2021 Governor Baker signed Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020, "An Act Enabling Partnership for Growth" into law. Sections 70-72 and 88-91 of this law makes changes to Chapter 121B, section 5 and 5A regarding Tenant Board Members in Towns by providing for one member appointed by the Governor, three members elected by the Town, and one "tenant board member" to be appointed by the Town.

As Rehoboth has no public housing, nor a rental assistance program, the Housing Authority may request a waiver, which is good for one year. The earliest this may be requested is May 15th 2021.

Action Item #2: Vote on Chapter 61A-Barney Avenue-Exercise Right of First Refusal

The Board of Selectman's office received notice of the landowner's intent to take their land out of Chapter 61A, allowing for the Town to exercise their right of first refusal on this parcel of land if they wish. All pertinent boards/committees were notified and none wished to exercise their right.

D. Perry motion to not exercise our Right of First Refusal on 19, 21, 25 and 29 Barney Avenue, Map 13, Lots 60, 61, 62, and 63. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #3: Vote to Approve and Sign Animal Control Officer Designation

Every year the Board is asked to designate an Animal Control Officer and an Assistant Animal Control Officer, by the MDAR Massachusetts Animal Fund.

D. Perry motion to approve Robert Johnson, II as the part time Animal Control Officer and allow the Chairman to sign the 2021 Designation Form. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve Brian McKerney as the part time Assistant to the Animal Control Officer and allow the Chairman to sign the 2021 Designation Form. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #4: Vote to Accept Comcast "PEG" Franchise Quarterly Fee

The 4th Quarter PEG amount is \$55,887.41. Derek Rousseau, IT Director, has verified that that amount is correct.

J. Muri motion to accept the 4th Quarter Comcast PEG Franchise fee of \$55,887.41 and to have the Treasurer accept payment. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #5: Vote to Approve Rehoboth Antiquarian Society State Aid Request

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners reached out to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society to let them know the Town would be receiving State Aid in the amount of \$9,199.09. The Society is asking the Board to pass on the payment to them to help operate the Blanding Library. The check has been received in the Treasurers' office.

J. Muri motion to approve and accept the State Aid for the Antiquarian Society-Blanding Library in the amount of \$9,199.09 and to allow the Treasurer to deposit the funds in the appropriate account. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

This money is a "pass-through", send to the Town from the State, appropriated with the express purpose of us passing it along to the library.

Action Item #6: Vote to Ratify & Sign Contract with Briggs Mechanical, Inc.

This is the contract for the materials and labor for the new heating unit for the Fire Station at Anawan St. The roof top heating unit is over 15 years old and it was not able to be repaired. The total amount of the repair is \$15,854.00, which includes \$1,584 that will be covered by CARES funds to cover the Air Economizer and Air Purification systems. This is an emergency replacement.

G. Schwall motion to ratify the acceptance of the contract from Briggs Mechanical, Inc. for emergency repairs in the amount of \$15,854 and to allow the Chair to sign the contract. Second with discussion by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

M. Costello- I know this is an emergency, but in the future, I'd like to see 3 bids.

S. Vadnais- We attempted to do that but we needed someone to do it immediately. I ask the Board declare this an emergency.

G. Schwall-With (emergency) situations like this, the procurement law has provisions.

Action Item #7: Vote Appointments, as Submitted

The Historical Commission is asking the Board to appoint a new member to their Commission. This member will bring the total to 7 members.

D. Perry motion to appoint Arthur Pierce to the Historical Commission, effective 2/16/2021-6/30/2024. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Action Item #8: Vote to Accept Resignation- Personnel Board

On February 4th the Town Clerk's Office received the resignation letter from Lori Caron Silveira from the Personnel Board.

D. Perry motion to accept the resignation of Lori Caron Silveira from the Personnel Board. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #9: Vote to Approve Access to Town Website-Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Committee

A few weeks ago, the Chair from the Keep Rehoboth Beautiful was asking for access to the Town Website to be able to add News & Announcements and other updates for her committee. She is only allowed to upload her agenda and meeting minutes. Town Counsel has been consulted. The Town Clerk is looking for the Boards approval.

M. Costello motion to allow Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Committee to have additional access to the Town Website. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #10: Discussion Re: 90 Pond Street

The Boy Scouts of America, owners of 90 Pond Street, would like to lease their land to a solar farm company. The neighbors are against this and have reached out to the Board of Selectmen to see if they can stop it. The Board tried to see if the BSA would be willing to sell the land to the Town for use as open space. However, the BSA are not interested in selling. They are happy with the arrangement they have made with the solar company.

The Board of Selectmen is very limited as to what they can do. They suggested the residents who are against the solar farm should press upon the Planning Board to enforce the bylaws regulating the shielding/screening/plantings and that they be in place before the solar panels are complete, to ensure it gets done.

Action Item #11: Discussion Re: Vaccination Clinics

Last week an opportunity surfaced as to whether or not we would like to partner with Seekonk for a COVID vaccination clinic, but the Board agreed to move forward with G. Schwall's plan of partnering with a local pharmacy. He has had his memorandum of agreement approved by Town Counsel and it looks like federal funding through FEMA will cover all costs related to administering the vaccine.

Action Item #12: Vote to Temporarily Amend the Veteran's Van Policy

It has been suggested to use the veterans van as a way to get the homebound to and from vaccination appointments in town. Veterans Service Office Jake Kramer asks that we amend the current Veterans Van Policy to reflect that discretionary use.

J. Muri motion to amend the Veteran's Van Policy to allow service of the van by non-veteran residents, for COVID vaccination appointment, in town, provide their use is authorized by Town Nurse. Second by M. Costello. Vote 0-5, motion fails.

The Board decides they can accomplish the same thing with an Executive Order instead, eliminating the need to change the Veteran's Van Policy back again once this use is no longer necessary.

The Board voted to issue an Executive Order allowing for service of non-veteran residents expressly for COVID Vaccination appointments in Town, to those eligible at the discretion of the Veterans Service Officer, until December 31, 2021 unless removed earlier by the Board of Selectmen.
Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Vote to Approve Contract-Fencing Work at Police Dept

The Clerk of the Works, M. Costello has supplied the Board with the additional diagrams from the bidders for the fencing at the Police Station.

D. Perry motion to approve and sign a contract with Citiworks for the fencing work at the Police Station for \$28,329.00, to reflect the drawing presented to the Selectmen. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #2: Vote to Accept Travel Policy -Union Updates

The Board voted on the Town's Travel Policy in January; however, the Unions had some issues with the policy. They have worked with Town Counsel to make adjustments.

M. Costello motion to approve the Travel Policy with the Union updates, as per Town Counsel's recommendations. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Schwall:

-Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda is watching from home and has texted me regarding Action Item #6, that she did get 3 quotes for the Fire Station heat issue, all documented.

-Trane \$22,000 (long lead times)

-Wayne's Sheet Metal (unit only, without labor or crane cost, 4 weeks out)

-Update on Nick Procopio, he had been moved and is making remarkable progress.

-Keep former Deputy Chief Jimmy Medeiros in your thought as he is still having health issue, down in Florida.

Costello:

-He passed out a list of over 250 addresses that have violated the "no pushing snow into the road" bylaw. Warnings will be mailed to out to residents.

-The Highway Department has to use a 25%salt/75% sand mix on the roads, which is not always as effective as using straight salt would be. He would like to look into possibly making the switch.

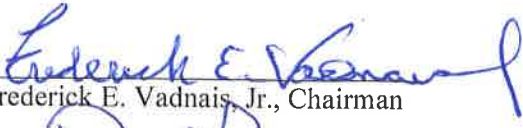
Perry:

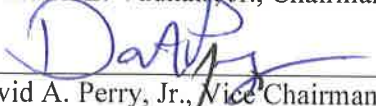
Inquired about the status of the OPM and Architect RFPs and that we need to get on Ben at Town Counsel to get this done.

Muri: no report

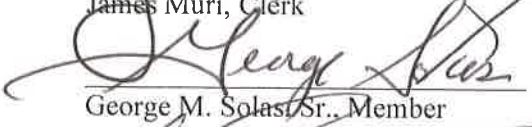
Vadnais: no report

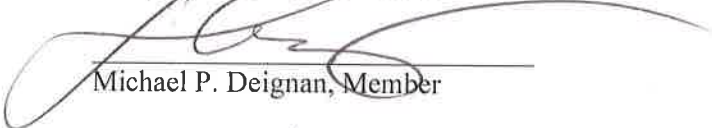
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:47 PM, Second by Selectmen Muri. Muri – aye, Vadnais – aye, Costello-aye, Schwall-aye, Perry-aye.



Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Vice Chairman


James Muri, Clerk


George M. Solast, Sr., Member


Michael P. Deignan, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough
Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved: 9/20/2021