



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES  
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

**Present:** Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Jim Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, and Selectman Mike Costello

**Remote:** Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator, took notes from home, per Chairman

At 6:00 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.*

**Roll Call Vote:** Schwall, aye; Perry, aye; Costello, aye; Muri, aye. Vote 4-0  
Selectman Vadnais arrived at 6:15 PM.

**Call to Order at 7:11 p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants for March 23, 2020:** G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-39B Payroll, \$114,841.77; 20-38A Withholdings, \$31,943.56, 20-38 Warrant, \$49,801.14; 20-38R Refund Warrant, \$638.52, 20-38R1 Refund Warrant of \$803.54; 20-40 Veterans Warrant of \$9,245.98. J. Muri motion to approve the Warrant as read. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: 6/17/19; 7/22/19; 8/5/19.  
Executive Session Minutes: none.

S. Vadnais motion to approve the minutes for the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0  
D. Perry abstained.

M. Costello motion to approve the minutes for July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting with corrections. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve the minutes from the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 4-0  
J. Muri abstained.

**Open Forum – Announcements:**

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the COA Building, 55 Bay State Road. Members of the public may observe the Board's deliberations by watching live on Channel 9 or stream from RehobothTV.org.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Action Item #1: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Taskforce Update**

G. Schwall read a letter to the public outlining the week's events from 3/16-3/20/2020, outlining the number of confirmed cases, the closing of Town Buildings to the public, direction to website links, call for donations of mask and disinfectants, the availability of Meals on Wheels programs, the transfer station status, etc.

J. Muri motion to direct all committees/boards to send meeting requests to BOS office to schedule/review/prioritize. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

J. Muri motion to approve the plan put in place by the COVID-19 Taskforce and allow Interim Town Administrator to implement work schedule with Town Hall employees. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

### **Action Item #2: 7:15 PM Public Hearing National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. RE: Pole Hearing**

M. Costello motion to open the public hearing. Second by J. Muri.

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

**Discussion:** Due to COVID-19 we need to continue the public hearing.

J. Muri motion to continue public hearing for National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to April 6, 2020. Second by D. Perry.

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

### **Action Item #3: 7:30 PM Public Hearing Class II Auto License: Quality Auto Sales of Rehoboth, LLC dba Auto Sales of Rehoboth**

M. Costello motion to open the public hearing. Second by J. Muri.

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

**Discussion:** Due to COVID-19 we need to continue the public hearing.

J. Muri motion to continue public hearing for Quality Auto Sales of Rehoboth, LLC dba Auto Sales of Rehoboth to April 6, 2020. Second by M. Costello.

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

### **Action Item #4: Revised Open Meeting Law Guidance and Process**

Changes in the Open Meeting Law states that the public has the right *to hear*, but not *to be present* during any meeting. We are working with our IT Department to make meetings accessible to the public during this time.

### **Action Item #5: Vote to hire Temporary Case Worker to Support Town Nurse**

Town Nurse, Jaime Conlon, approached the Chair expressing her concern over the potential workload once Coronavirus cases are confirmed in Rehoboth. Each case must be fully investigated and everyone who had contact with the patient must be contacted and advised they should self-quarantine. Each case can take a day or more. In addition, given Jaime's extensive knowledge and professional status she can be required to remain at the hospital 24-7; leaving the Town without a resource.

The Town Nurse has identified a qualified candidate and we are in the process of completing her employment paperwork; subject to the approval of the Board.

J. Muri motion to approve a temporary case manager position, reporting to the Town Nurse. The case manager would be utilized as needed and paid an hourly rate commensurate with candidate's experience and professional status. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #6: Vote to Change Date of STM and ATM**

Town Meeting is currently scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>. As of this time the school buildings and all Town Buildings are closed to the outside until further notice, so this date would not be possible. We would need to act now to start the rescheduling process, should they not be open by then. There is legislation pending that would allow Boards to reschedule Town Meetings. It would be prudent to reschedule the STM and ATM to June 16, with a second session (if necessary) to be held on June 23. The Town Clerk, Town Moderator, and Town Counsel all concur and are available on these dates. We can take further action if the situation and laws change.

J. Muri motion to schedule the Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting to June 16, 2020; with a second session, if necessary, to be held on June 23, 2020. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Discussion:**

D. Perry -I understand if things are not voted on, the Town works on 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget using current fiscal year.

G. Schwall – Yes, that is right, but we will need to discuss with DOR if money used for COVID-19 that changes money from current budget.

**Action Item #7: Vote to Authorize Town Counsel to Petition Court to Postpone Annual Town Election**

The Annual Town Election is currently scheduled for Tuesday April 7. Today the House and the Senate approved legislation enabling the Boards of Selectmen to reschedule Town Elections. Heretofore, there were only two ways; the first was by a special act of legislation, the second was by a court order. Therefore, we have been working with Town Counsel to draft an action, if for some reason it does not pass.

D. Perry motion to move the annual election to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Contingently, J. Muri motioned to authorize Town Counsel to prepare, file and pursue litigation, as may be necessary to postpone the annual Town election to June 30, 2020, or such other date as the Town Clerk may determine. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #8: Vote on Town's Right of First Refusal: Chapter 61B Parcel – Middlebrook Investments – ANR Lot 5**

S. Vadnais motion to waive the Town's right of first refusal on ANR Lot 5 and to notify the attorney for Middlebrook Investments of the Town's decision. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

**OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:**

None

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Selectmen's Reports:**

**Vadnais:**

-Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Division of Animals confirmed that as of this time, there is no evidence that animals can get or carry COVID-19. They can however act as formants, if the animal gets a droplet on it's fur then it is a contaminated surface.

**Costello:**

- Starting tomorrow, March 24<sup>th</sup> the School and Whitson's Food Service will have Grab and Go lunches available to all students, M-F 10:00 am-12PM curb side at DRRHS, 2700 Regional Road, N. Dighton. Free of charge to all students in the district
- District will begin extended learning – go online to DR website for more information.
- School is asking parents to discuss with children about COVID-19
- Due to the state of emergency, FEMA is up and running, please keep track of spending for reimbursement.
- support our local businesses by ordering take out, etc.

**Schwall:**

- The Town Website will have links to other websites, such as schools and state information on the Coronavirus. This will ensure that it is more up to date information.
- Keep Rehoboth Beautiful will postpone their town wide clean up till Fall 2020.
- Thank you to all of our town employees, Public Safety, Fire Department, Emergency, and teachers and residents for what they do. Also, thank you to the Board for supporting Debbie and myself as well.

**Perry:**

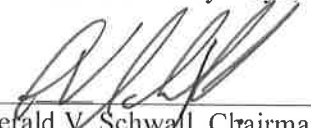
- We are not experts with what is going on. We are all doing our best for the residents.

**Muri:**

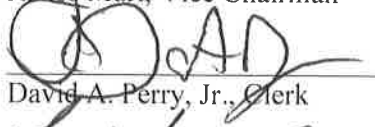
- Uplifting news- Ron Whittemore, of the COA Board, has analyzed our fuel expenses and we have saved \$3K due to new service

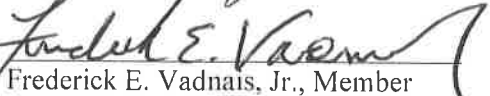
**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:00 PM. Second by Selectmen M. Costello.

**Roll call vote:** Perry – aye; Vadnais – aye, Costello – aye, Muri, aye; Schwall - 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,

Cindy McDonough

Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved 6/15/2020