



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
148 Peck Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>, 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)(1)**  
***To discuss a complaint against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.***

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

**Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants for April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-42B Payroll, \$105,441.25; 20-41A Withholdings, \$30,285.58, 20-41 Warrant, \$47,959.24. J. Muri motion to ratify the April 13<sup>th</sup> Warrant as read. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: none.

Executive Session Minutes: 4/8/2019 minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

**Open Forum – Announcements:**

Reminder to please complete the 2020 Federal Census.

Please visit the COVID-19 page on the town website for regular updates regarding the impact the virus is having on town services, donations, and other items intended to help our residents during the crisis. This page is the only official source of information.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Monday April 27<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 an update on the weekly happenings regarding COVID-19 in the town, including the current number of confirmed cases, the current status of the continuity plan, including changes to how the transfer station is operating, and an update of ensuring food and essentials to our seniors and others in need. He thanked everyone who has donated PPE and other supplies, Derek Rousseau for enabling us to meet remotely and to have employees work remotely. Thank you to REMA director William Maiorano for gathering needed supplies, COA for continuing Meals on Wheels and Bill Dalpe for his work at the Rehoboth Food Pantry. They have seen an increase in need and could always use monetary donations, toilet paper, or facial tissue donations. Call 508-326-0293 to contact Bill if in need, or to donate.

Tomorrow night there will be a "Light Up Sturdy Hospital" demonstration of our support and appreciation of all those on the front lines of this battle. Rehoboth will be well represented in this procession.

A list of town owned land for walks will be posted on the Town website.

M. Costello reported that the school's remote learning program is in effect and running smoothly. Grab and go lunches still going.

J. Muri reported that Patriots/Revolutions/Kraft Family made a large food donation. Thank you to William Maiorano. Masks continue to be made for Seniors, and flowers were donated from the Sousa Family Farm and delivered with Meals on Wheels. Thank you to Val Sousa for decorating the flower boxes around the COA.

S. Vadnais reported that there are no new developments on the Agricultural front. Just a reminder, no petting pets, as they can transfer the virus on their fur. And also, single use gloves are for a single use, then please dispose of them properly.

D. Perry reported there will probably not be a Memorial Day Parade, but there will be a service, which will be taped and broadcast.

### **Action Item #2: Vote to Proclaim May 3-9, 2020 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week**

This is something that happens every year, and is particularly apropos this year. We've been approached by representatives of Parents/Professional Advocacy League to support and proclaim a week in May as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

M. Costello motioned to proclaim May 3-9, 2020 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

**Discussion:** We will post the proclamation on the website under news and announcements to make others aware.

### **Action Item #3: Vote to Approve Signing Applications to National Grid for Credits Towards Green Energy Projects**

J. Muri explained that we have joined a Green Energy initiative of the State which entitles us to apply for grants such as this to improve the efficiency of buildings in town.

J. Muri motioned to authorize the Chair to sign the National Grid Rebate forms as part of the Green Energy Grant. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #4: Selectman Costello to Provide Update on Regional School Assessment**

M. Costello spoke about his meeting regarding the regional school assessment:

Two weeks ago, Superintendent Dr. Azar, Business Manager Mr. Kitchen, School Committee Chair Ms. Cooper, and Finance Committee Chair Mr. Deignan, and myself were on a conference call, going over the budget. As it stands now, if we were to go to Town Meeting tomorrow, we all feel that it would be no problem to support the assessment. The assessment as it looks now is \$180,000 over last year, but that could change because the District is looking into a lot of renegotiations of contracts, with school transportation and cafeteria and other vendors, numbers might change. But right now, it's a 4% increase District Wide moving target, changes day to day because we don't know what will happen. School doesn't know what state may do with funding, that they receive. If we don't have a Town Meeting, it will definitely go to a 1/12 budget in July, and would be the same amount as it is now, because Town Meeting won't happen in time for new fiscal year.

G. Schwall stated that we have to look at Annual Town Meeting date and see if it's realistic or not. Budgets will be reduced.

D. Perry asked if school services not provided due to this situation would go into E&D. Costello responded that they would not be in E&D, they would lower the assessment.

S. Vadnais stated that there will be a reduction in what we receive from the state. We need to stick to percentages that were agreed to.

M. Costello stated that the constant communication between us has helped a lot. They understand our funds will be reduced, so theirs will as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

**OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:**

None

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Selectmen's Reports:**

**Vadnais:**

- Thank you to the people of Rehoboth, proud of the way citizens have been conducting themselves, and taking this seriously.
- Heartwarming to see parents and their children outdoors together, playing, walking, biking.
- M. Costello cautioned drivers to be aware of the increased foot traffic and slow down.

**Costello:**

- Credited his Highway personnel and Forestry Department on their work done because of the storm last Monday, opening roads with trees down.
- National Grid had almost 25 tree crews taking care of the debris.
- By the end of Tuesday most of the power was returned.

- Aggressive tree cutting and the new substation helps with this
- Overall, we fared well.

**Schwall:**


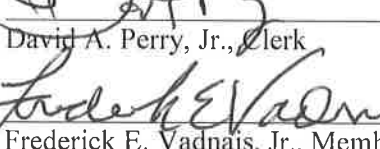
- We cancelled last week's meeting because we lost power and a lot of people would not have been able to hear the meeting.
- I still did a COVID-19 update, on Wednesday, once power was restored.
- Part of it was a "thank you" for the clean-up of the storm.
- Tonight, we are meeting on a holiday because of other meetings scheduled, and all need to be televised.

**Perry:** Thank you for all the sympathy cards. It meant a lot.

**Muri:** no report

**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen S. Vadnais made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 7:53 PM. Second by Selectmen J. Muri.

**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**