



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

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

Absent: Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator, took notes remotely, per the Chairman's direction.

At 6:00 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a)** (2) *To conduct strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel; (4) To discuss the deployment of security personnel.*

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

Call to Order at 7:18 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

S. Vadnais asked the Board to join him in observing a moment of silence for Ray McKearney, a longtime resident and public servant of the Town, who recently passed away. S. Vadnais spoke very highly of Mr. McKearney.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for May 26th, 2020: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-48B Payroll, \$110,022.69; 20-47A Withholdings, \$129,574.46; 20-47 Warrant, \$27,393.99. J. Muri made a motion to ratify the weekly Warrant as read. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0

Warrants for June 1st, 2020: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-49B Payroll, \$121,752.10; 20-48A Withholdings, \$40,555.08; 20-48 Warrant, \$41,463.60. J. Muri made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 2/18/20; 3/2/20; 3/16/20
Executive Session Minutes: 9/23/20

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the February 18th, 2020 meeting. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the March 2nd, 2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

J. Muri motion to approve the Regular Minutes from the March 16th, 2020 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

Open Forum – Announcements:

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Monday, June 8st, 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.

The public hearing for the application for a Class II Auto License for Quality Auto Sales of Rehoboth, LLC dba Auto Sales of Rehoboth, which was opened on March 23rd, 2020, will be continued on June 15th, 2020. The applicants as well as abutters can join the hearing remotely. Instructions will be posted with the June 15 Meeting's agenda.

Reminders:

Real Estate Taxes due today.

Excise taxes due June 29th.

Annual Town Election will be held on June 30th.

- One central polling location will used, here at the COA from 12-4:00PM

- Vote early by mail or by absentee ballot to avoid any trouble this might present

- an election information document will be mailed out to all residents.

Thank you to the Davis Family and the sewing group they put together. Together they have made 3500 masks, as well as 220 surgical caps and 500+ ear savers, donating them to various hospitals, including Miriam Hospital, the National Guard, our first responders, and local residents.

Thank you also to Valerie Carey who has another sewing group, helping to make masks as well.

You have done a tremendous job!

NEW BUSINESS:

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

G. Schwall reported that this past week we saw our largest single increase in the number of cases, up 9, for a total of 57 Rehoboth Residents who have tested positive for the coronavirus. There was some discussion about what these numbers mean, how to interpret this information and the importance of adhering to the guidelines. The Board continued into a longer discussion regarding the numbers and guidance to follow moving forward to stay safe.

Action Item #2: Vote to Approve July Spending Plan

Since we will not have a town meeting before July 1st, legislation was put into effect where we can put in to place a spending plan for each month. Once a plan is approved by the Board, we will submit it to the Department of Local Services, Division of Finance for their approval, which will serve as a means of checks and balances. The amount the Board is asked to support is 1/12th of the FY21 budget we were prepared to bring to Annual Town Meeting, plus the DESE ordered payment to the regional school district, plus any large expenditures which will be paid in July.

J. Muri motion to approve \$2,548,973.00 for the July spending plan. Second by S. Vadnais.

Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

G. Schwall added that any adjustments made will be to be backed into the budget total for FY21.

Action Item #3: Municipal Services Discussion

Review of our phased reopening plan:

Town Hall

- offices will be staffed at 25% of each office for the posted business hours and will follow the state recommended safety protocols.
 - looking into July when Phase 2 might start, the building could be opened to the public, but things will look very different, with one-way traffic through building and several other restrictions
 - call Interim Town Administrator Deb Arruda if you are not getting the service you need
 - Police Department will continue with the same protocols for Phase One
 - Fire Department will also continue with the same protocols for Phase One.
 - Council on Aging will remain closed the way it is because it is an especially at-risk population.
 - essential services will continue (i.e. tax help, fuel assistance, grab and go meals)
 - call Linna Sherman with any issues.
- Transfer Station is back to pre-COVID operation, issuing paper tickets.
- Call Transfer Station with any questions.
- Meetings for Committees and Boards will continue to be held remotely, through Zoom.
- call the Selectmen's office to schedule.

Discussion:

S. Vadnais asked if mail will still be held for a week, and if this is the case throughout the town. The CDC guidelines say that is not necessary to hold off. Should we continue to do this?

G. Schwall answered that it is held for one week at Town Hall, not sure of other buildings. Things change daily. It is out of an abundance of caution that we are doing this. If it's not inhibiting anything, why change it? Employees need to feel safe. We have a small staff and have had two scares. We need to keep them safe or we will have to shut down.

D. Perry added that he thinks its excessive, but keeping people safe is important. Residents can get their things in a little earlier to process.

S. Vadnais asked, as science catches up to the situation, do we feel there is reason to review and discuss the policies put in place?

G. Schwall answered absolutely.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Muri: working with M. Costello on MVP Grant – Danforth And County Street bridge. Progress on area for new building. Thank you to Highway Department and Volunteers.

Perry: First pour on Wednesday for new Public Safety building platform. It's going great. Again, no tax money went into this project.

Schwall: Yes, the money for this project was earmarked for such transactions when we sold two other town buildings. We were lucky to find these modular buildings in Dartmouth. Ted Rowse has volunteered his time to help and also the Highway Department. Thank you for all your help and savings.

- Town Hall parking lot getting cleaned up by Facility Manager with the help of the Highway Department.

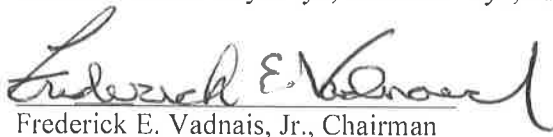
Costello:

- June meeting with School Committee still on
- working on 1/12th budget as well and looking at September
 - G. Schwall commented that in August we will need DESE's school budget approval
- Tomorrow County Street will be closed at 193 to fix a culvert.

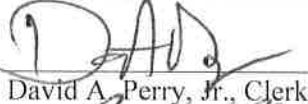
Vadnais: The BOS received a complaint from a resident regarding an agricultural issue. I'm working on it and will visit the farm with the Board of Health and the Planner/Conservation Agent this week. Will report next week.

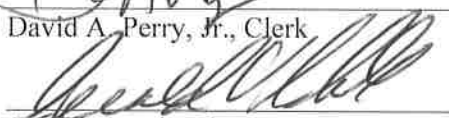
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:28 PM. Second by Selectmen J. Muri.

Roll call vote: Perry – aye; Vadnais – aye, Muri, aye; Schwall – aye; Costello, aye. Vote 5-0.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

James Muri, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


Gerald V. Schwall, Member


Michael Costello, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough

Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved 8/10/2020