



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER**

Present: Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Jim Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Mike Costello, Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais and Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

Roll Call Vote: Schwall, aye; Vadnais, aye; Perry, aye; Muri, aye; Costello, 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 June 8, 2020: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-50B Payroll, \$131,714.72; 20-49A Withholdings, \$36,122.68; 20-49 Warrant, \$44,174.96. J. Muri made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: none
Executive Session Minutes: none

Open Forum – Announcements:

Thank you to the Rehoboth Police Department for all their help within our town and surrounding towns, especially during the protests last week in Taunton.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Monday, June 15th, 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.

-G. Schwall will not participate in the Public Hearing as he has had too much involvement in this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Reserve Fund Transfer

The Board voted to approve the RFT on March 2 in anticipation of conducting the Special Town Meeting in May. The Finance Committee did not take action on the RFT approved by the Board on March 2 due to the pandemic and ensuing postponement of the STM. The amount of the transfer has since changed due to the District receiving additional transportation reimbursement. The additional reimbursement has been subtracted from the amount DESE initially ordered the Town to pay. The amount approved on 3/2 was \$103,681. The new amount needed to bridge the gap between the amount owed and the amount of certified

Free Cash is \$78,653.78. The Finance Committee is prepared to take action during their meeting scheduled for 6/11.

S. Vadnais motion to rescind March 2nd vote of \$103,681. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0

M. Costello motion to approve Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$78,653.78 and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration and action. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0

Action Item #2: Reorganization of the Board

J. Muri motion to move G. Schwall as Chairman. Hearing no second, the motion fails.

D. Perry motion to move S. Vadnais as Chairman, with comment. Second by M. Costello. Vote 3-0. J. Muri abstained.

Discussion:

D. Perry thanked G. Schwall for all he has done as chairman, covering the vacant Town Administrator position and dealing with the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that he thought G. Schwall was doing too much and needed a break.

D. Perry motion to move J. Muri as Vice Chair. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0

J. Muri motion to have D. Perry as Clerk. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0

Action Item #3: Notifications of Resignations

G. Schwall motion to accept the resignations of Sharon Beskid and John Carr from the Historical Commission. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

J. Muri thanked them both on behalf of the Board for their many years of service to the Town.

G. Schwall mentions there is a third resignation but it will be tabled.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Costello:

- Thank you to G. Schwall. Never seen a Selectmen work as hard as Gerry. Board is very lucky to have him.

- Road work on Route 44 to begin tonight till 5 AM tomorrow, some material to be used for the Police Department parking lot.
- False statements on social media re: work being done at new Police Department. Needed specialized work, could not have used local help
- Spoke with Senator Feeney, Chapter 90 money going through Senate today

Muri:

- Thank you to G. Schwall. We've gone through some trying times these past few years, with the financial crisis and then the epidemic and with his leadership we have managed to actually improve the Town. Thank you for your years of service, we could not have done it without you.
- Boy Scout Troop 13's Court of Honor will be held on June 14th at Redway Plain. The Board is invited to attend. We will be social distanced.

J. Muri then read the citation to be presented to each Eagle Scout and motioned to issue to the following on behalf of the Board. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0

- Jack Silva
- Jacob Suprenard
- Logan Caruthers
- Luke O'Brien
- William Dalpe, III

Perry:

- Without G. Schwall's help we wouldn't have the new Police Department. Thank you.
- In response to the comments on social media re: limited voting hours, there are limited hours because we do not have enough volunteers to staff more than that. The critics should step up and volunteer.
- In response to the comments that if we care so much about seniors, why is it at the Senior Center: There are no seniors at the Senior Center at this time. The building is closed.

Schwall:

- Everything I did as Chair, I did for the benefit of the taxpayers who elected me, not the Board.
- The Election is being held here at the COA because it's in the center of the Town and most convenient. There is a 40-page contingency plan. Why is it at 12:00? Because the State law says the polls can open no later than 12 noon. We only have enough workers to staff 4 hours and 4-8:00 PM was not legal.
- Received 119 more requests for early voting over the weekend; all have been fulfilled and mailed out today. In addition to other mailings. Many towns going through the same thing.
- September and November Elections will be held the same way. We need volunteers!
- There was a close call this weekend with two Police Officers exposed to fentanyl while answering a call. They were transported by ambulance to the hospital. Both are okay.

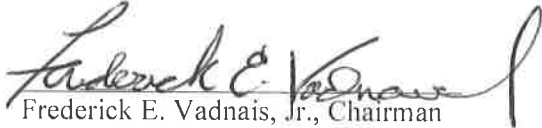
Vadnais:

- Hopes that G. Schwall remains active on the Board
- Asked G. Schwall if it is his wish to stay removed from liaison to the Board of Health. Selectman Schwall said yes.
- Recommended J. Muri as the liaison to the BOH. Selectman Muri agreed to accept that responsibility starting now.
- Asked the Board their thought on removing the quarantine on the mail, stating that it was never voted on by the Board.


- M. Costello stated that he does not believe it should be a week, has heard it doesn't last on paper more than 3 hours.
- J. Muri deferred to the Interim Town Administrator, stating that he doesn't feel it needs to be as long, maybe one day.
- D. Perry added that his company they let it sit one day. If the US Government and the Post Office say it's not necessary, maybe just 24 hours.
- G. Schwall stated that the Board knows his thoughts on this.
- S. Vadnais said that in his research, no other government or town was doing this and asked what the Interim Town Administrator thought.
- D. Arruda said at least 24-48 hours as it has been handled by many hands.
- Asked the Board if they agreed with reducing the mail quarantine to just 24 hours. Majority of Board agreed.
- Asked G. Schwall to please let him know what is still open to do and what your next steps are.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen D. Perry made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 7:40 PM. Second by Selectmen M. Costello.

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

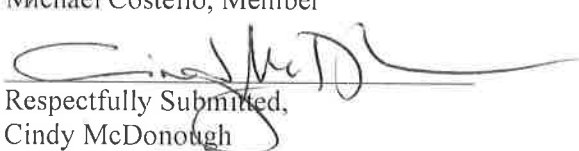

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

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