



Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais; Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Michael Costello, and Deborah Arruda, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

At **6:00 PM** it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a) (4)** to discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices.

On a motion made by Selectman Perry, seconded by Selectman Muri, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: Vadnais, aye; Perry, aye; Muri, aye; Schwall, 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 August 26th, 2019: G. Schwall read the weekly Warrants; 20-08A Withholdings, \$129,334.72, 20-09B Payroll, \$107,224.94; 20-08 Warrant, \$25,834.26; 20-08V Veterans Warrant, \$9,732.77. J. Muri motioned to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 3/25/2019.

Executive Session Minutes: 3/25/2019 approve and hold.

J. Muri motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Open Forum – Announcements:

The next regular Selectmen Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9 here at the COA Building, 55 Bay State Road at 7:00 PM.

To commemorate their 85th Birthday, members of the Rehoboth Garden Club are inviting all of us to their Flower Show, held on Friday 9/6 from 3-5PM and Saturday 9/7 from 10-4PM at the Goff Hall, 124 Bay State Road. Admission is free.

Ron Whittemore, Keep Rehoboth Beautiful, sponsoring a town-wide Fall Clean-Up on 10/5 & 6.

-Highway will help with dump trucks at Highway Garage and South Fire Department for people to drop off bags after clean-up, or keep at front of house for pick up.

-Some t-shirts and bags still available for volunteers, 9/28 at Highway Garage, 10/1&3 5-7:00pm at library to sign up.

-new webpage: <http://KeepRehobothBeautiful.com>

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1 Discussion with Harbor Master Dalpe RE: Reed Street Dam Project

There has been discussion regarding the proposed removal of the Shad Pond Dam. Selectman Vadnais suggested inviting Bill Dalpe to a meeting to share the current status of the proposed project.

Discussion:

Bill Dalpe, Fish Warden, spoke of the upcoming project to close the pump house and remove the dam.

- Bristol County Water Authority owns the property where the dam is.
- Dam removal is better for the environment and the fish.
- The whole process will take years.

Ted Ballard, of the Water Commission spoke at length about this topic.

Action Item #2: Discussion with Green Energy Committee RE: Energy Audits

J. Muri motion to grant authority to Green Energy Committee on behalf of Town/Board of Selectmen to proceed with Energy Source LLC to conduct audit of building. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

M. Costello motion to amend the motion to authorize Chairman to sign any paperwork after review. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

M. Costello motion to authorize Chairman to sign letter to get access to the energy reporting system for the Town of Rehoboth. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

Carolyn Panofsky, 291 Fairview Avenue, Chairman of Green Energy Committee

- Now that we have passed the Stretch Code, the next step to join the Green Energy Commission Project is to audit all the Town's facilities.
- audit to review quality of buildings/needs
- plan on how to make it better
- auditors will need to review each building and their energy use in the past
- add Beckwith Middle School and Palmer River Elementary School, Library, and Town Hall to audit

Action Item #3 Vote to Sign FEMA Reimbursement Forms

D. Perry motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the FEMA reimbursement forms on behalf of the Town. Second by Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

G. Schwall wished to thank REMA Director Bill Mariano and Town Accountant Roberta Oliveira for all the work that goes into this, the FEMA reimbursement forms from the March 2, 2019 storm, totaling \$56,483.56.

Action Item #4: Vote to Declare Surplus IT Equipment from Various Town Departments

J. Muri motion to declare the equipment submitted through the IT department as surplus and authorize the IT Director to dispose of the equipment in accordance with proper IT and environmental protocols. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

This includes equipment from the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Cable company, the Board of Health and Town Hall.

Action Item #5: Update on Proposed Reynolds Avenue National Grid Substation

M. Costello received plans for duct work for Reynolds Avenue towards Town Hall and Dighton – underground work. Special diamond shape wires that help prevent tree limbs from laying on wires. National Grid will be working on excessive tree trimming to help prevent power outages.

George Solas asked if this was all roads.

M. Costello replied, no just major roads and/or major freed roads.

Action Item #6: Reappointments to Conservation Commission

D. Perry motion to approve the following reappointments. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.
Sarah Huber to the Conservation Commission - Associate from 8/26/2019 to 6/30/2020.
Scott Pennoyer to the Conservation Commission - Associate from 8/26/2019 to 6/30/2020.

D. Perry motion to approve the following reappointments. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.
Steve Choquette to the Conservation Commission from 8/26/2019 to 6/30/2022.
Krisna Prachanronarong to the Conservation Commission from 8/26/2019 to 6/30/2022.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Muri motion to waive the fee for the annual Harvest Block Party tent permit fee. Second by S. Vadnais. Vote 5-0.

Deborah Arruda has ben accepted into the MMA Certificate Program starting 9/6 for 25 weeks.

J. Muri motion to allow D. Arruda to use the Town vehicle on Thursday evenings through Friday afternoons for the purpose of traveling back and forth to this class. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC:

Susan Osberg, 49 Allens Lane.

- wanted to touch base with all BOS to support BOS and Finance Committee
- would like to know how other two selectmen feel since they were not at the last meeting.
- expressed her frustration with this situation

Discussion ensued...

J. Muri replied that we had to compromise. Don't like the deal, but don't feel removing sports or extracurriculars is fair either. Wish the school had budgeted better.

D. Perry replied that all 5 Selectmen had heated discussions about choice to be made. This goes years back, were able to get funds to help. Finger pointing is not going to help. We have to keep moving forward.

G. Schwall replied that the override vote would have to be for \$559,000 whether the funds went down or not and we would have to factor in meeting costs as well.

S. Vadnais said he was vocal about his feelings last week but we worked together and came to an agreement. This year is time for change and DRRHS regional agreement will be amended. That is the ultimate goal. We need to try and save money for the Town.

M. Costello

- To save money for the Town, we need to change the Regional Agreement, but both sides have to agree.

G. Schwall

- Goal is to have agreement done by next Annual Town Meeting with help of DESE.
- Board of Selectmen will set aside a night of questions for the voters.

Robert Gagne, 37 Simmons Street.

- It seems like we blindly pay money to schools and feel an audit should be done on the schools so that we know if it's the right amount and where this money is going.

G. Schwall responded that we hear you and will address everyone's questions on the designated night.

Tish Vadnais, Farmers Market

- The S.H.I.N.E. coordinator, Brad Marshall has coupons to distribute to Seniors and those with handicaps of different sorts (financial included) to be used at the Farmers Market
- They are good at all Farmers Markets in Massachusetts.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: No report.

Schwall:

- ISO certification for Building Department, S. Vadnais needs to speak to Building Department.
- Amended Selectmen's liaisons by one, assigned Green Energy Committee to J. Muri
- State House Meeting last Wednesday
 - Senator Feeney, Representative Howitt, L. Schwall, G. Schwall, School Committee Chair and Vice Chair, M. Costello (Dighton BOS was invited but did not respond)
 - Commonwealth needs to work on assessments on their end
 - Special needs budget, needs to be reworked
 - The unfunded mandates need to stop. If it is important enough to pass a law, you need to give us the money to execute it.
 - Feeney will look at Bills and if needed, amend them.
 - Town Clerk – concerned with voting method for Town Meetings.
 - Thank you to Representative Howitt, Senator Feeney and Senator Lewis for listening.


Perry: No report.

Muri: No report.

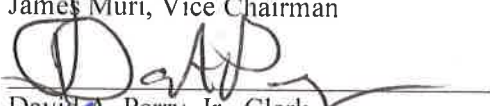
Costello:

- Received plans for Reed Street Bridge that will be replaced, work is 2 years out.
- Bid has been awarded to pave Route 44 from town line to town line. Work will begin next month.
- State has decided on the Roundabout. Tentative time frame is 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen S. Vadnais made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:57 PM., Second by Selectmen J. Muri. Perry – aye; Costello – aye; Muri – aye, and Schwall – aye, Vadnais – aye.


Gerald V. Schwall, Chairman


James Muri, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Member


Michael Costello, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Arruda

Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved

4-20-2020