

Office of
SELECTMEN
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MONDAY, October 24, 2016
MEETING MINUTES
GLADYS L. HURRELL REHOBOTH SENIOR CENTER

Present: Frederick “Skip Vadnais, Chairman; Gerald Schwall, Vice Chairman; Susan Pimental, Clerk; Dave Perry, Member

Also present: Helen Dennen

1.0) Executive Session: At 6:34 p.m. S. Pimental made a motion to enter into Executive Session, 2nd by G. Schwall, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, and Section 21; (1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties. A public body shall hold an open session if the individual involved requests that the session be open. If an executive session is held, such individual shall have the following rights:

- i. to be present at such executive session during deliberations which involve that individual;
 - ii. to have counsel or a representative of his/her own choosing present and attending for the purpose of advising the individual and not for the purpose of active participation in the executive session;
 - iii. to speak on his/her own behalf; and to cause an independent record to be created of said executive session by audio-recording or transcription, at the individual's expense;
- (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel*

Topics of Discussion: Licensing Issue; FMLA Request *

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

2.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants: S. Vadnais read the weekly Warrants; 17-16A, Withholdings, \$120,239.74; 17-16B, Payroll, \$89,007.52; 17-16 Invoices: \$38,421.13; 17-18V, Veterans \$9,647.97. S. Pimental made a motion to approve the weekly Warrants as read. Second, G. Schwall. Voted 4-0

Minutes: S. Pimental made a motion to hold the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2016. Second, G. Schwall All Vote 4-0; S. Pimental made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2016. Second, D. Schwall All Vote 4-0

3.0) Open Forum – Announcements:

- Next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Tuesday November 1, 2016 at the Senior Center at 7PM. There will be no meeting on November 7, 2016. The center will be prepared for voting the next day.
- Town Clerk: Voter first time early voting started today until 11/4/16 at the Town Hall. Extended hours on October 26, 2016 and November 2, 2016 until 7PM and Saturday October 29, 2016 at the Senior Center from 10AM – 4PM. Rehoboth was recognized with a Silver Good Citizens Award for extended hours of early voting. We had 81 voters today.
- Rehoboth Ambulance in collaboration with SPCI will be offering free CPR/AED classes to town employees on October 24th 1 – 3PM & October 27th 6 – 8PM at the Senior Center. Call Bonnie Meagher at 508-252-3049 to register.
- The Board is invited to the Dighton Council Oak Tree Ceremony on Sunday November 6th at 10AM at the "Tree" off Rte. 138 in Dighton. A pot luck dinner will follow at the library.
- Memorial service for E. Otis Dyer will be held on Saturday November 19th at 2PM at the Rehoboth Congregational Church.
- Lorraine Botts: The Bazaar yard sale was cancelled due to rain; can we have it this Saturday October 29th in the Anawan School parking lot. We will not interfere with voting parking for the COA. On a motion made by S. Pimental Second by G. Schwall it was voted to approve Bazaar yard sale in the Old Anawan School parking lot. All Vote 4-0

Town Administrator's Report:

None

4.0) NEW BUSINESS: Action Item #1: Interviews for Highway Superintendent

The Board introduced themselves to the three interviewing candidates. Selectman Vadnais explained to candidates how the interviewing process will go. The Board may not make a decision tonight but defer to next week's meeting and the candidates from out of state do not have to attend the meeting. The Board interviewed the following candidates for the position of Superintendent of Streets for the Town of Rehoboth in order of numbers drawn by candidates:

Thomas Degnan, Jr. of Round Hill, VA

Timothy Conklin of New Windsor, NY

Michael Costello of Rehoboth, MA

Degnan: He described his 30 years in road construction and snow plowing background from municipal to private; also his background with Parks & Recreation for a Town, working with Town water and sewer and highway department. He talked about his experience with construction in the Military, he was an aviation mechanic. He was a chemical emergency responder for Rhode Island. Tom explains why he wants to move back to New England; he has family in the area and a recent family incident made him realize he should be close to his family. He wants to be a hands on Superintendent who will also interact with the residents if there is ever an issue. He wants to get to know residents and have a great relationship with the Town and Town employees. Tom answered a question regarding wells and how to treat areas near them with specific materials; such as salt and brine. Selectman Perry asked if he would be willing to be the Storm water Agent as well and he said that would be fine; he has seen it done in other towns and it is a little more report writing. Tom has experience working in a Union. He has supervised a large crew and has no problem transitioning into a managerial position. Tom stated that he also believes employees should maintain their education and go to continuing education courses. DP: How would you attract seasonal employees? TD: Offer them an incentive; sign on bonus. You would have to stay competitive with other surrounding Towns and the State if you have that available in the budget. I am very handy when working storms. Tom took a dysfunctional water department and turned it around to become more organized, as well as rearranging the record keeping, safety procedures and proper clothing. Snow removal plan would work by priority areas; Town Hall, Police and Fire Department, main roads, residents with disabilities that may need to get out for specific medical needs, and work from there. Tom is ok with budgeted salary for position; \$60,000 – \$70,000. Tom believes he would be able to build department and think outside the box and face challenges. I am multi-dimensional and easy to get along with.

Conklin: Tim handed Board of Selectmen results he had just received from U.S. Department of the Interior Employee Performance Appraisal Plan. Works at Statue of Liberty and has a big commute which costs \$10,000 per year. Would be willing to move anywhere from here to the Mississippi. Timothy has owned his own business paving roads, working with drainage. DP: How would you keep seasonal employees? TC: Have them sign a contract, offer an incentive or higher rate for showing up on time. If there was ever a problem with a resident I would try to resolve it and if I can't get there, I would send someone to resolve it. We need to show them that

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we care. Tim described how he would use a salt/ sand mixture when treating roads in a storm. He will learn where the hand dug wells are and artisan wells are in Town, to know how to treat the roads. Tim has no problem with also being the Storm water Agent. Tim explains his experience as an excavating company owner and also a mechanic in big machinery. States, he is good at planning things out and is always researching new things. Tim does not have a problem with the Highway Advisory Committee overlooking his plans of action. Tim is fine with the salary range. Tim has worked with Unions and in a Union. He asked what the start date is, because he would need a month to give notice and to find a place to live. The start date is as soon as possible. Tim stated he needs May 8-12, 2017 off. His daughter graduates college on the 10th and he needs to move her out of the dorm. He likes to be part of a community.

Costello: Mike expressed that he wants to be the Highway Superintendent because he has a strong love for the Town and its residents. He has been involved with the Town for over 27 years. He also has a long commute every day. His quality of life would be better. Mike believes a sign on bonus and incentives for the seasonal employee may keep them in Town. The Superintendent needs to look at the rates of surrounding towns to be able to be competitive. When it comes to treating roads before storms, Mike will look into new options for the melting process of ice on the roads that will protect wells. Mike was the first Stormwater Agent in Rehoboth and would take the job on again and believes it would be a good fit. Mike wants to put a plan of action together for the streets and drainage and make sure our infrastructures are all maintained. He will also put cell number on website so that if there is a problem he will be available 24 hours 7 days a week. GS: There is an advantage to being known in the Town and a disadvantage to being known in the Town. As a past Highway Department liaison; what would you do differently as the Highway Superintendent? MC: I would fix in house. The workers seem distracted and need strong management. I would call a meeting with all employees. Mike wants to be out in the field working with the employees. I would also put a 5 year capital plan and maintenance plan together. Mike, now, supervises 5 – 15 people at one time and has held supervisory positions in previous jobs. SP. What do you think the role of the Highway Superintendent is? MC: The Highway Superintendent needs to be a working Superintendent, making sure jobs are getting done correctly and safety precautions are being followed. SV. The Board has put together a Highway Advisory Committee and will be looking at proposed projects by the Highway Superintendent; are you okay with that? MC. Three sets of eyes looking at a plan are better than one; someone may be able to pick out something that was not noticed previously. I will increase productivity by working with the crew hands on and utilizing their strengths to get jobs done in a timely manner. I will also prioritize jobs by importance. In closing: I have been here for 37 years. I love this Town and if I am chosen, it will show in my work. I will be available 24/7. I will give this Town a Superintendent they can be proud of.

The Board of Selectmen have recognized all three are good candidates and it will not be an easy decision. Thank you for showing interest in the Town. Two of you have traveled a great distance and we recognize that and thank you for your time and preparation. On November 1, 2016 the Board of Selectmen may make their decision then. We will forward both out of Town candidates the link to be able to watch. Thank you and have a safe trip home.

Action Item #2: Continued Public Hearing: Class II Auto License: Fournier Auto & Truck Sales, LLC. /Theodore Fournier

Continuance of public hearing. Theodore Fournier present. The Board has had the opportunity to review the site. There will be no more than 15 vehicles.

Are there any questions? None. Is there anyone here to speak for or against? No

On a motion made by S. Pimental Second by D. Perry it was voted to close public hearing.

Pimental – aye; Vadnais – aye; Schwall – aye; Perry - aye

On a motion made by S. Pimental Second by G. Schwall it was voted to grant a Class II Auto License to Theodore Fournier of Fournier Auto & Truck Sales, LLC of 496 Winthrop Street, not to exceed 15 cars, proposed hours are Monday through Friday 8AM – 5PM, Saturday and Sundays by appointment All Vote 4-0

Gear to perfection will be the repair shop for vehicles. The Board congratulates Theodore Fournier.

Action Item #3: Senior Center Electrical Renovations

On a motion made by D. Perry Second by S. Pimental it was voted to sign a contract and to award bid to Power Equipment Company of Attleboro, MA of \$53,698.98 to repair generator All Vote 4-0

Action Item #4: Livery License Application

Stephen Bolduc present, has applied for a transfer of a livery license granted to his mother Priscilla Mahler dba LEA Limousine to Xtreme Party Bus, LLC. for one vehicle.

On a motion made by S. Pimental Second by G. Schwall it was voted to grant transfer of livery license to Stephen Bolduc All Vote 4-0

Action Item #5: Non-binding Question

At STM we took a vote to put a non-binding question, regarding the compressor station, on the April Town Election ballot. We are limited on what we can do in regards to this compressor project. The Board chose to put this on the ballot so that the residents can have a say and we will share the results with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We will be soliciting input on how to word the question.

Open Forum:

Mike Deignan: A lot of heavy equipment has been working on the gas line in Town. Is the notification that we received for the repairs something we receive every time there is a repair, or did we receive this notice because it involved wetlands? Can we ask how many other times have repairs been done on the lines in Rehoboth? The tests that they perform, do they have to be filed with a regulatory facility and are they a matter of public record? If we could get Spectra to answer these questions, that would be great. I suggest you make the non-binding vote as neutral as possible.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

10/24/16 Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: none

Schwall: Saw her performance review; Linda Sherman does great work. Thank you for all you do; and also Neal Harrington for all the work that you do for the seniors. The department head meetings are of limited attendants and we need to set a particular day and make sure they show up.

Pimental: 300% increase in the open house for Town Offices; 3 people showed up.

Perry: I will contact Bill Ryan of Spectra to answer remaining questions. I will also get a date for when they will come back for another meeting. These questions should be answered.

5.0) ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen S. Pimental made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 10:10 PM., Second by Selectmen G. Schwall. Vadnais – aye; Perry – aye; Pimental – aye; Schwall - aye

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

Gerald V. Schwall, Vice Chairman

Susan M. Pimental, Clerk

David A. Perry, Jr., Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly J. Hathaway
Interim Assistant Town Administrator

Approved 11/14/16