

November 26, 2018 Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes – Gladys L. Hurrell Rehoboth Senior Center, 55 Bay State Road

Present: Selectman Costello, Selectman Schwall, Chairman Vadnais, Selectman Perry, Selectman Muri, Helen Dennen

Also Present: John Morgan Pamela Haznar, Samuil Valkovski, Katie Eyer, Chief Barresi, Chief Trombetta, Deputy Chief Medeiros

Water Commission Members – Ted Ballard, Tish Vadnais, Tom Nicholson, Joe Nunes

1.) Call to Order: 7:00 PM Open with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

WARRANTS: On a motion made by Selectman Schwall, seconded by Selectman Perry, the following warrants were approved by the Board (Vote 5-0): 19-21A Withholdings \$128,650.83; 19-22B Payroll \$103,113.40; 19-21 Warrant \$35,031.62

MINUTES: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on 12/3/18 at the Senior Center starting at 7 PM.

No announcements were made by public.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Dennen reported the following (at end of meeting prior to Selectmen's Reports):

TAX RATE: The DOR has notified the Assessors that the Tax Rate for fiscal year 2019 for Rehoboth has been set at \$13.11 per thousand. Town Accountant has provided copies of notice for Board.

TOWN OFFICE HANDICAP RAMP: I have spoken to Bill McDonough regarding the repairs needed to the handicap ramp at rear entrance of the Town Offices. He will take a look at it and let me know his recommendations for repair.

ALGONQUIN GAS MAINTENANCE WORK: We received a notice this afternoon from Algonquin Gas advising they will be performing maintenance work starting tomorrow 11/27/18 thru 11/30/18 at the valve site near Barney Avenue and Almeida Road.

Selectman Schwall stated we have a moratorium in place and we made it clear that no gas company can do anything other than an emergency repair until they come before the Board and explain what they will be doing and why; not by sending an email today notifying us they will begin tomorrow. Selectman Muri felt the maintenance work needed to be done. Selectman Schwall stated they have shown complete disrespect to the Board telling us the day before; this must have obviously been on a schedule long before today. TA was asked if letter had gone out to gas companies and it was confirmed that yes the letter had been sent.

Chairman Vadnais suggested we direct the TA to question Algonquin Gas, other than emergency repairs, why for planned maintenance did you not come before the Board. TA will follow up with Algonquin Gas.

Board agreed maintenance needs to be done and that we allow this maintenance to go forward as requested since we do not want to cause a problem.

Action Item: Presentation by Dighton Selectman Nancy Goulart

Dighton Selectman Nancy Goulart, representing the people of Dighton, presented the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen with a Proclamation in recognition of the Town of Rehoboth's 375th Anniversary. Board thanked Nancy for the recognition.

Action Item: Joint Meeting with Water Commission

The Water Commission and Selectmen held a joint meeting to fill the position on the Water Commission vacated by Kathleen Conti pursuant to MGL Chapter 41, Section 11.

Water Commission Chairman Joe Nunes presented Katie Eyer as their recommendation to fill the position based on her interest in serving and the following qualifications:

Katie has served on both the board and the stewardship committee of the Rehoboth Land Trust. Made trail maps of two of the land trust properties using GPS coordinates and MassGIS data.

Has a BS in genetics/cell biology, University of Minnesota with a English minor; 15+ years' experience in a research lab coordinating projects, doing experiments, managing the lab and training undergraduate; experience with data analysis and related computer use; served 11 months on the Rehoboth Water Well Geo-mapping Committee researching and analyzing well data in Rehoboth.

Reasons for wanting to serve: during the past year has learned more about water and water issues in Rehoboth than thought possible. Delved into state and local information concerning both private and public water wells and has realized what critical issues water and water protection are for Rehoboth.

On a motion made by Selectman Muri, seconded by Commissioner Nunes, it was voted to appoint Katie Eyer to fill the vacancy on the Water Commission effective 11/6/18 thru 4/1/19, until the next Town Election.

Roll Call Vote: Joe Nunes aye; T. Vadnais aye; Ted Ballard aye; Tom Nicholson aye; Skip Vadnais aye; Dave Perry aye; Gerry Schwall aye; Mike Costello aye; Jim Muri aye

Action Item: MassDOT Presentation on Rte. 44 & 118 Intersection

Board welcomed Pamela Haznar (DOT), John Morgan (Chao Companies) and Samuil Valkovski (Chao Companies) on behalf of MassDOT. Representatives presented a PowerPoint presentation on MASSDOT's recommendations for the reconfiguration of the Rtes. 44 & 118 intersection.

John Morgan stated he would like to introduce project and solicit feedback from the Board. This project is needed for safety reasons since over a five year period there have been over 60 crashes reported at this location; intersection lacks bicycle and pedestrian accommodations; signal equipment outdated; no formal lanes. A Road Safety Audit was performed which included input from SRPEDD, DPW, Fire and Police at a previous meeting at the site. Some of the things identified were: difficulties in trucks turning left off Rt. 118, vehicle difficulties making left hand turns, lane configurations, visibility of signals, the lack of pedestrian curb cuts, parking issues, wide shoulders, non-operational emergency pre-emption system.

Copy of PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Town of Rehoboth Website Homepage at www.town.rehoboth.ma.us

Three conceptual designs were presented for consideration:

- Concept 1 – Signal Design (minor change)
- Concept 2 – Signal Design (major construction change)
- Concept 3 – Roundabout Design

Questions/Comments from public included questions regarding:

Comments on Concept 1: Keeps the intersection similar to as it is and adds formal left turn lanes on Rt. 44; adds sidewalks and cross walks with push-buttons.

Peter Fredette: Are sidewalks state mandatory; seems like a waste of space. Pamela stated the Complete Streets Policy stated it was a requirement unless there is a reason why they cannot be in place; requires an additional 5 ½ feet on each side. Bike lane is shoulder but not strictly for bikes.

Richard Panofsky: Closeness of new turn; advised will put something in place to protect parking lots.

George Solas: Will there be arrows for turns; will straight traffic be stopped – not finalized yet

Peter Fredette: Will there still be two entrances/exits at Exxon Station – not addressed yet due to concerns of trucks making gas deliveries; no room to circulate within parking lot.

Comments on Concept 2: New traffic signals, realign intersection with more of a 90 degree approach on 118, left turn lanes on Rt. 44, sidewalks in shoulder, right turn slip lane, major realignment of roadway, significant property taking, conservation and wetlands impacts.

George Solas: What purpose do island serve, would add to more accidents, more opportunity to get hurt; advised provides protection for pedestrians at intersection, flush island alternatives available

Maureen Whittemore: For each of these designs how long under construction; advised construction will take approximately one year; no cost to Town will be funded thru TIP; on list for 2022

Comments on Concept 3: Modern Roundabout with no signals; single lane approaches
This has only one lane in each approach and will accommodate trucks from any direction; trucks approaching from west would have a slip lane; larger trucks would need to go around roundabout. Board commented on concerns width for turning radius for larger trucks; may require a small land taking in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot. There will be an overhead light.

Peter Fredette: Pedestrian lights are eliminated; advised can cross one lane at a time to center; design found to be safer; concerned with looking one way only.

George Solas: Raised concerns on how it will affect other intersections on Rt. 44 when trying to enter Rt. 44 if traffic is always flowing; advised there will always be gaps in traffic

Steve Silva: You are taking two lanes and turning it into one lane; advised roundabouts function better than signals to keep traffic flowing

Ron Whittemore: Stated he felt this is clearly a proven concept done in several places. Inquired as to the provision for emergency vehicles; how do they get thru. Response was mainly vehicles would need to move out of way; roundabout would be wide enough for vehicle to clear or either go around to get out of way; have not had complaints in other towns regarding issue.

Police Chief Trombetta was asked if he had any concerns to which he responded he had none.

Fire Chief Barresi stated he did not see an issue with it; has lights on trucks; westbound right hand turn might have concern with one of trucks; Pamela asked Chief to send her dimension of vehicle to make sure it can make turns

Board requested Fire Chief be included in any meetings at final design stage.

Peter Fredette: Inquired as to whether or not anything could be done with traffic using the Bristol County Bank as a cut thru; whether one of the Exxon gas stations entrances/exits will be eliminated; response was nothing could be done about bank parking lot and gas station parking lot will need to be reconfigured.

John Morgan reviewed pros and cons of each plan:

Plan 1

Pros: Addresses pedestrians and bicycles, curb cut openings, low ROW impacts; no wetland impacts

Cons: Does not address skew, accommodations for large vehicles, low speeds

Plan 2

Pros: Addresses pedestrians and bicycles, curb cut openings, accommodations for large vehicles

Cons: high ROW impacts, significant wetland impacts, low speeds

Plan 3

Addresses almost all of concerns in Safety Audit

Chairman Vadnais advised he would forward any additional comments received after the meeting from the public. Public in attendance at the meeting were polled on which plan they preferred

Plan 1 – One individual

Plan 2 – No one

Plan 3 – majority in attendance preferred this plan

J. Morgan indicated that the picture of the roundabout in the presentation was just a representation and not the actual one to be constructed.

In conclusion, J. Morgan advised project timeframe would be to have a 25% design phrase completed by March 2019, design would then go to Mass Highway for their review, then present at a Public Hearing here in Town sometime next November or December. Project is on MassDot schedule for 2022.

Action Item: Rehoboth American Legion Post 302 Change of Manager

The American Legion Post 302 has submitted an application for a Change of Manager for their All Alcohol Club License for John D. Kramer.

All paperwork is in order and satisfactory CORI has been received.

On a motion made by Selectman Costello, seconded by Selectman Perry, it was voted to approve Change of Manager application for the American Legion Post 302 to John D. Kramer effective 11/26/18, including waiving the \$25.00 license fee for a Liquor License Change of Manager application and forward to the ABCC for approval. Vote 5-0

Action Item: Date for Fall Special Town Meeting

Town Clerk Laura Schwall came before Board to discuss setting a date for the 2019 Fall Special Town Meeting. Laura recommended the date of 11/4/19 for this meeting, which was best for Bill Cute and acceptable with the Assessors.

On a motion made by Selectman Costello, seconded by Selectman Perry, it was voted to set the date for the 2019 Fall Special Town Meeting for 11/4/19. Vote 5-0

Laura presented Board with two pictures for the 2019 calendar: one of Minutemen and one of the Mummers in the 375th Parade. Board concluded the Minuteman picture would be appropriate for Rehoboth.

Laura also mentioned she is asking the Board to sign the Certification of State Votes form for the State for the 11/6/18 State Election.

Action Item: Assistant Treasurer Position

Selectman Schwall stated an offer was made to an individual for the position of Assistant Treasurer. Candidate was interviewed by Cheryl Gouveia, Dave Scanlon and Helen Dennen and has a solid background.

On a motion made by Selectman Schwall it was voted to ratify the hire of Lisa Dias-Cabral for the position of Assistant Treasurer pending successful pre-employment physical and drug screening with an effective start date of 12/10/18. Vote 5-0

Action Item: Resignation of Ryan DuVally

On a motion made by Selectman Perry, seconded by Selectman Schwall, it was voted to accept the resignation of Ryan DuVally as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective 11/16/18. Vote 5-0

It was noted that Ryan's term expires on 6/30/20.

Selectman Muri thanked Ryan for volunteering.

Selectmen's Reports:

Selectman Costello: Advised Board that a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program was available and he would like to pursue to possibly upgrade the handicap ramp at the Town Offices and Police Station with electric automatic doors, possibly upgrade bathrooms, etc. He has spoken with Bill McDonough and Bill will be providing him with what would trigger a full scale upgrade for all ADA requirements. Selectman Schwall cautioned these upgrades may trigger full ADA code. Chairman Vadnais asked Selectman Costello to come before the Board and present the particulars on what you would be applying for before submitting any proposal.

Selectman Costello advised he will be submitting a Chapter 90 request next week for a new Highway vehicle.

Selectman Muri: Facilities Maintenance Manger funding was approved at Special Town Meeting and asked that job be posted.

Selectman Schwall: Advised he will not be at meeting next week due to Ms. Schwall having surgery on Monday.

Perry: No report

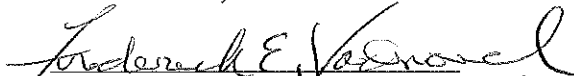
Vadnais: No report

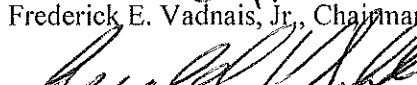
Adjournment

On a motion made by Selectman Schwall, seconded by Selectman Muri, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

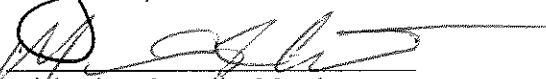

Helen Dennen, Town Administrator


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Gerald V. Schwall, Vice Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Clerk


James Muri, Member


Michael R. Costello, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approved: 12/10/18