

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. with Selectmen Troy E. Garron, Kim R. Roy and Michael J. Schleiff present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board as well as those attending tonight's meeting stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following business was discussed:

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Captain Jeffrey Cuozzo - Interim Fire Chief

Chief Carrico began by telling the Board that as of February 7th he will be starting a new job at the Sandwich Fire department. With that being said he is recommending Jeffrey Cuozzo as Interim Fire Chief. Schleiff wanted to thank Chief Carrico for his time here in Halifax and recommending Cuozzo for the position. Chief Carrico said that it was a tough decision to leave Halifax but it is a great opportunity for him as it is a bigger department and more of a challenge. Garron said that he understands and appreciated the time he has worked here in Halifax and hopes that we get someone just as good. Roy was quite impressed with Chief Carrico's role at the station and stated that he is leaving the department in good shape. She continued to say that he has done a great job and is very happy for him as this is a great opportunity. Chief Carrico said that he has the utmost confidence that Cuozzo will do a fine job and if he has the opportunity he will come in and lend a hand if needed. Schleiff thanked Cuozzo for stepping up.

Garron asked Cuozzo what he thought his role would be and Cuozzo said that he is career focused and his interest is here in Halifax and that there is a point and time for everything and hopefully he will be ready to take on the chief position if and when the opportunity present itself again. He would love to be interim chief but is not ready at this time to take on the position full time.

Garron said that the staff now has to understand that you are not one of the guys but the person in charge and not everyone is going to be on board with that but as long as the mission gets done that is all that matters. Roy added that the Board of Selectmen is here to support him.

Before appointing Cuozzo Seelig suggested that the Board may want to appoint him under the contingency of contract negotiations.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Captain Jeffrey Cuozzo as Interim Fire Chief contingent upon successful contract negotiations.

In closing Chief Carrico thanked the Board for giving him this opportunity to grow and that it has been a pleasure working here in Halifax.

APPROVED COMMITMENTS AND WARRANTS

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following commitments and warrants with the exception of Schleiff abstaining from the Police Department payroll in warrant #60:

Payroll Warrant	# 60	\$ 329,673.79
Vendor Warrant	# 61	\$ 182,377.71
Withholding Warrant	# 62	\$ 119,118.99
Ambulance Commitment	# 01	\$ 11,096.00

Moved by Schleiff and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously approved payment of the following Selectmen bills:

The Hartford (fire & police policy/2-10-14 thru 2-10-15).....	\$17,712.93
Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland (legal services/December).....	\$ 285.00
National Grid (concession stand electricity)	\$ 15.03
National Grid (Town Hall electricity)	\$ 1,368.57

The Board acknowledged payment of the Selectmen Office Payroll for the period ending January 25, 2014 in the amount of \$6,034.11.

The Board acknowledged payment to the Treasurer for the following turnovers:

<u>TURNOVER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2014-55	\$ 328.00

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS

Emergency Response Services

Seelig informed the Board that he was able to get a reserve funds transfer for the Fire Chief Assessment center. The Board will continue this conversation later this evening.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Kozahya Nessralla – Sign on Corner of Hemlock Ln. & Plymouth St.

Mr. Nessralla began by saying that he saw the gentleman who was making the sign after Christmas and he apologized that he has not made it (one man show) and submitted a letter stating that the spring 2014 it will be done. Roy stated that she thought he had the sign and he said that was too small (28x30) and did not fit. This one, which is replacing the existing one that is out there now, is bigger (48x40). Schleiff asked if talked with John Shea regarding the color of the cornucopia and he said the center will have color and the rest of the sign will be white and black fitting within the historical by-laws of the town. Seelig asked when should the Board check in with him and he said the guy will call the selectmen when it is finished and he said it should not take him more then an hour to put it in. Garron asked if he was talking the end of February and he said maybe the middle of March and Schleiff said on the letter it said the spring (2014). Nessralla said that he could check back with the gentleman and Garron said if the guy could narrow down the time that would be great and maybe he could move it along a little faster. Garron pointed out that this has been going on for a while

and hopes that this will be the end of it. He then asked if the Roy and Schleiff were satisfied with the information they received tonight and they both were.

Schleiff asked Mr. Nessralla about the Mudfest and he said that they would come back at another time but said they were going to do it again on June 8th. He said that the last one was a success was well organized, no one complained and no rowdiness. Schleiff thought that they should have earlier notice on the event and he said when they come back everything will be addressed before coming in. Garron stated that Board of Health was not given enough for the turn around to issue their permits and Nessralla clarified that it was not on the applicant's part but the vendors as they did not come in earlier enough to meet the deadline. Garron asked if they were going to contact the vendors asking that they get their paperwork in on time and he said they would and added that they have already started the ground work for it. Schleiff said that they had to do a lot in such a short period of time and Nessralla said the first time around you do not know what to expect. Schleiff thought that the fire department is requiring an EMT at the event and Nessralla said there were a couple of them there last year.

Roy asked if he thought the amount of people they expected was the amount that showed up he said that expected about 1,000 and 3,500 people attended. Chief Broderick stated that they have talked about the event already and added that that they will need more officers and Nessralla said whatever the police department says they need they will comply.

Halifax Assistance Technology Advisory Committee - CART Service

Jean Gallant and Library Director Laurie Cavanaugh came in this evening to talk about CART service, which is captioning that, is done the same time people are speaking and usually projected on a screen for large audiences.

Laurie began by saying that it cost between two and three hundred dollars for two hours and that this would be great for Town Meeting. The library now has the following equipment:

- a video magnifier - allows people with vision loss to see fine print,
- An amplification system - allows people with hearing loss to participate in small group discussions.
- ZoomText software - allows people with severe vision loss to use the computer.

Garron asked what type of training was needed and Laurie said nothing with the Motiva amplification system all you need to do is plug in and play. He then asked how did CART work and how far in advance do you need to book. Laurie explained that for CART you need to order the service, five to six weeks in advance, through the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and they will set it up and bill you. Garron asked how accurate was it and did they need a screen facing the audience and she said that they found that when the person was there it was better and to be up front. Garron noted that they have time between now and Town Meeting and appreciated them coming in and Laurie said they just wanted to bring it to the Board as it is a great thing to offer those who are hard of hearing. Schleiff asked if any other towns have this and she said she did not know. The Board thanked them for coming in.

Community Development Block Public Hearing

Garron opened the hearing for the Community Development Block Grant at 8:00 pm. Susan Gray, who is from STG Consulting, came in this evening to explain to the Board the FY2014 Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Gray began by saying the 2014 grant application is a continuation of the 2010 CDF joint Housing Rehab Program grant in which 18 housing units were renovated; eleven in Carver and seven in Halifax. This time around there will be a total of 21 units to be renovated and 15 childcare subsidies.

A couple of reasons for submitting a joint application with another town is that it allows the towns to request \$100,000 in additional grant funds and joint applications receive more points and that gives us a better chance of being funded. The application deadline is February 14, 2014. Ms. Gray provided the Board with the following information regarding the grant process.

The housing rehab program overview is as follows:

- Funds for the program originate from HUD.
- Purpose is to assist low to moderate income homeowners to fix building and sanitary code violations, provide weatherization, handicap access and help improve safety and livability of their home
- Funding is through a deferred payment loan in which the maximum loan amount is \$30,000 (\$35,000 if lead paint or asbestos). If the homeowner owns the home for fifteen years after obtaining the loan, the loan is forgiven.
- During the FY2010 grant round, eighteen homes were rehabbed with an average cost of \$30,673.56 per unit. Due to leveraging, cost per unit was reduced to \$22,614.66.
- The target areas in Halifax are the neighborhoods around the ponds and the Halifax Mobile Home Estates.

Childcare Assistance program overview is as follows:

- Adding this will assist in scoring
- Purpose is to provide subsidies to low and moderate income families in Halifax and Carver.
- Designed to assist low-moderate income families who are employed or seeking employment (or full time students). Qualifications are based on household size.
- Children from age 0-13 are eligible and age is extended to 16 if the child has a disability.
- Admitted children pre-school age or younger will receive \$3,000 as a first allocation and children school age will receive \$2,000. Additional funds can be requested on a first come first serve basis and the maximum award per child is \$5,000.
- Families are required to contribute to the cost of care which typically will be 20-30%.

Preliminary Budget

- Loan funds 21 units – 13 in Carver and 8 in Halifax = \$598,500
- Childcare program – 8 slots for Carver 7 slots for Halifax = \$75,000
- Program delivery cost = \$166,400
- General administration cost = \$58,000
- Total grant request = \$897,900

Garron asked when will the town know if we get awarded and what part does Halifax play in this and Ms. Gray said either in June, July or August and that Jack Hunter, Planning Director in Carver, will oversee the process.

Seelig stated that there will be people going out to look at the homes to determine what needs to be done and that there will be a public bidding process for contractors to be awarded the job. Homeowners can go through their own contractors but will have to come up with the difference.

Building Inspector, Thomas Millias, thinks this a great opportunity for homeowners to fix up their homes.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously authorized the Chair, Troy E. Garron, to sign on behalf of the Board, the joint application authorization form for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant.

Seth Pickering - Green Communities Presentation

Seth Pickering, coordinator for southeast region for Green Communities, came in this evening to give a presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Attached to these minutes is the handout of the presentation and below is a synopsis of questions that were asked from the Board and the audience.

Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles

Roy asked if safety vehicles were exempt from the plan.

Mr. Pickering: It depends but most are exempt.

Tom Millias: Many times we use our own vehicles would they be excluded?

Mr. Pickering: Yes only vehicles that are owned by the Municipality.

Expedited permitting- 12 months: date of initial application to date of final approval

Seelig asked if a by-law needed to be in place or is there a process?

Mr. Pickering: There is a couple ways in the application process that you can satisfy it as it can be in a by-law or a letter can be generated from Town Counsel stating that the town processes already meet that requirement.

Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Roy: Are unmarked police cars exempt?

Mr. Pickering: Yes if they have an interceptive package they are.

Chief Broderick: Stated that the cars they purchase now have the in flex fuel would they be exempt?

Mr. Pickering: Those vehicles are exempt but it helps the town because they burn less fuel which saves the town money.

Schleiff: Will they be considered part of the 20% energy reduction plan.

Mr. Pickering: Yes.

Mr. Pickering stated that the Stretch Code is the biggest hurdle in his region and if we have any questions reach out to the other towns who have adopted the stretch community. He continued to say that if the town votes in the stretch code then we will be that much ahead when the next set of codes comes in three years.

Mr. Pickering asked Seelig if he knew the amount that the town spends on energy each year.

Seelig: Approximately \$250,000.

Tom Millias: I have had reservations because in the past the stretch code has been costly but needless to say it is going to pass and be adopted. It would have little impact on residential additions.

Mr. Pickering: If you did an addition or renovation it only affects the part of the job you are pulling the permit for.

Garron: Stated that now he knows why the stretch law is difficult to replace because it sounds like they are taking away the right from the homeowner when building or buying certain things or appliances.

Mr. Pickering: Not really because there is already a building code and the difference between the building code itself and the stretch code is fairly small.

Tom Millias: I agree, it is getting smaller but had to say that he was not a fan of the stretch code in the past except for the fact it is now catching up with the building and the base energy code and we are going to have to live with it one way or another.

Garron: People have come to him stating that they cannot put a window in or replace something without getting a building permit and now more is being added on top of that.

Mr. Pickering: If we are talking about someone who has an old house and they want to replace a window yes they have to get a building permit but when they go to buy the window it is going to energy efficient therefore complying with the stretch code. The construction it is going to affect the most is new residential construction.

Schleiff: What would the cost difference be if you were to build a \$500,000 home in a green community and build the same exact house in non green community?

Mr. Pickering: Might cost an extra \$3,000 – \$5,000 to build the stretch code house but the extra money the homeowner paid will be recouped in the energy savings within 2 -3 years.

Garron; what is time base for this if we do not go green and can it be revisited?

Mr. Pickering: Yes it can be revisited and if passed at Town Meeting (May 2014) they can have designation at the end of October.

Roy: If we were to talk about this at Town Meeting would you be there to talk about it?

Mr. Pickering: I could if you want and more than willing to do that but I will be honest with you the residents will see me as the “guy from the State”. I can share the information with someone from Halifax who is willing to be the advocate and would come to Town Meeting to answer any technical questions.

Schleiff: Do we need to have money put aside in a capital plan.

Mr. Pickering: You do not all you need to do is show the inclination that the town is interested and is implementing energy efficiency measures.

At this time the Board thanked Mr. Pickering for his presentation.

GENERAL MAIL / DISCUSSIONS (CONTINUED)Marijuana

The Board of Selectmen has been asked by the Planning Board if they intend to seek an amendment to the Town's zoning by-law specific to medical marijuana. As of right the town has a moratorium until June 30, 2014. If no changes are made then the shops and growing facilities will be allowed in the business and the agricultural/residential zones without local restrictions but they will have to meet the State's stipulations. Chief Broderick stated that it is moving forward but not in Halifax at this time. Seelig said that we can put it out there for the public's input and asked if the Board need any information on this. His plan is to discuss this further at the Board's meeting n February 11th.

Fire Department

Seelig has obtained money with a reserve funds transfer to be used to start the fire chief recruitment process. He asked the Board if they would like to use Emergency Response System (the firm that has been used in the past this process), who has provided a proposal for their services. Roy is comfortable going forward using this company as she has worked with Austin Sennett before.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to accept the proposal from Emergency Response Systems.

Schleiff asked how much the proposal was for and it was stated \$8,500.00 for the screening and assessment center.

Screening Committee

The Board was then asked how they would like to comprise the screening committee and according to the proposal EMS suggested two from EMS and two be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Roy said this can be changed up but in the end we want six candidates who would go through the assessment process. Seelig stated that no matter what the assessment center comes up with it is the Board who determines who they will interview. Garron thought three would be good stating call firefighter, full time firefighter and someone from the public and suggested asking Mike Manoogian as he wants to be involved with the community. Roy then suggested Candy Kniffin and Deputy Chief Miller. Chief Broderick said that he would be willing to be on the committee if asked seeing as he has interacted with Chief Carrico, which was great, as he would like to have the same with the new chief who would be coming in as both departments work closely together. In the end the consensus was the screening committee would consist of 2 people from EMS, 1 full time firefighter, 1 call firefighter and Chief Broderick. Seelig will give Mr. Sennett this information. Chief Broderick asked the Board if they wanted the sergeants to do a basic background check when they got down to the six candidates. Garron thought anything they could do to make sure that the individuals have not embellished themselves is great. The Board agreed on three weeks for individuals to get application in.

Job Description

Seelig asked if the Board wanted to use the one that they used in 2009 or the one that Chief Carrico provided. Roy felt strongly that the chief responds to calls and that if there was the choice between someone having a bachelor's degree or being a paramedic she would go with them being paramedic and supports the job description that Chief Carrico submitted. Schleiff asked would they step over

someone who had more education and less paramedic. Again Roy said she would go with more paramedic. Garron stated that it is unfair to hire a chief who was not a paramedic as we hire firefighters that are paramedics and added that maybe this person coming in will have more then what Chief Carrico had when he came in.

Education & Experience

Chief Broderick opinion was that having a masters does not make you a better cop but having experience in the field or the military is what he prefers but did say that college does give you life experience. The board agreed that the applicant required a minimum of ten years in the fire service with 3 years at the rank of Captain or above also an Associate's degree in fire science or management.

Special Requirements

Applicant must currently posses a Massachusetts Class D motor vehicle operator's license and ability to pass a job related medical examination before employment.

Seelig wanted to sum up what had been discussed and that was they would advertise the position for three weeks and use the description Chief Carrico gave them. He added that the surrounding chiefs are there to help Cuozzo and that he should reach out to them if he needs their assistance. Patty is also there to help and Chief Broderick stated that he is also available if needed.

Filling Jeff Cuozzo's Slot

Chief Carrico is recommending Call FF/EMT Michael Delcourt be hired temporarily to fill the vacancy of Jeffrey Cuozzo while he is Interim Fire Chief.

Plymouth County Commissioners - Copy Paper Bid

The Plymouth County Commissioners are sponsoring a Cooperative Procurement Bid for Copy Paper and are looking for communities interested in participating. The Town currently is in a three year contract with Kingston but will see what they have to offer when the existing contract is up.

Storm Day

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously declared Wednesday, January 22, 2014 as a storm day and due to the severe weather both the Town Hall and Pope's Tavern were declared officially closed.

340-348 Monponsett Street

A hearing with the ZBA has been scheduled for Mr. Piccirilli regarding continuing the non-conforming use of a multi-family in two buildings. Seelig does not understand how this can be a continuation as a multi-family use (approved by ZBA a number of years ago) seeing as the owner at the time allowed it to lapse. Seelig asked the Board if they wanted to participate in the hearing or have him do any research on this issue. Garron does not think Seelig should get involved and Seelig was asked to find out if Mr. DeFelice (Building Inspector for this project only) is still involved.

Zoning By-Law Committee

Debra Tinkham has resigned from the committee but they have continued to meet but no decisions have been made due to not having quorum. Seelig has asked the Building Inspector to make sure ZBA receives any informal notes and drafts of proposed amendments.

Governor's Budget

Seeing as the town has not assumed any increase in local aid Seelig is recommending leaving the numbers the way they are until the House budget comes out. It was stated that the Finance Committee is going to do just that.

Last Drink Report

Quarterly reports are emailed by the Attorney General Office to cities and towns with information about licensed establishments where defendants convicted of DUI had their last drink. No places in were Halifax were listed from April - June 2013. However, Hawaii Garden was listed in the report from July - September 2013. An incident report will be provided to the Board from Chief Broderick and they can then decided whether they wish to meet with Hawaii Gardens about the matter. Previously letters have been sent to establishments if they showed up on the AG reports. Roy thought that a letter should be sent and Schleiff agreed.

Recycling Abatement Bill #1031

The property owner is deceased and no one is living on the property. A close relative to the deceased party is requesting an abatement for the recycling bill. In September an abatement was filed for the same property and the Board denied the request stating that the house can be occupied at any time. Roy stated that her vote remains the same.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows not to abate Recycling Bill #1031 on the basis that the home can be occupied at any time:

Troy E. Garron	Yes
Kim R. Roy	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	No

Letter Regarding the Current COA Building

The Board has received a letter from resident, Jean Quimby, asking that the Town enlarge the current senior center for more space for line dancing. Seelig suggested that the Board could write her back giving her an update on the status of the COA project and urge her to attend Town Meeting in May as there probably will be an article to move the project along. The Board agreed on sending Ms. Quimby a letter stating that this issue will be addressed at Town Meeting and suggest that she attend.

Legal Ads – Letter to Legislators

Seelig has drafted letter, for the Board to review, to send to legislators regarding on line publications for legal notices be established by the State.

Moved by Roy and seconded by Schleiff, the Board unanimously voted to have letters sent to the legislators.

Bids for LED Sign

The bid deadline for the LED Fire Station sign was January 23rd. The results will be brought back to the Board at their next meeting.

Building Commissioner

Building Inspector, Tom Millias has verbally mentioned that he will not be retire/resign from the board of assessors and has indicated an interest in staying on as Building Inspector probably for another year.

Kennel Fines

The fifty dollar fine that was imposed for the illegal kennel on Clyde O Bosworth Road was per the State's statute. It was stated that the Board could ask the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer to investigate to see if there were zoning violations in which case a three hundred dollar fine could be incurred. All three Board members agreed that the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer look into it.

Request for Retiree Health Insurance Reimbursement

The collector's office has received a request from the Town of Rockland for \$2,855.96, which is the Town's share of the health insurance cost for retiree Stephen Sammon, who was employed with the Town of Rockland, the Town of Halifax. However the written request from the Town of Rockland was not received here until January 17th and as the law states in needed to be here before January 15th. At this point Halifax is declining to pay. If this plays out and the town does not have to pay this year it is more then likely this will be an annual request and the town will have to include money in the health insurance budget each year to cover this reimbursement.

MMA/MSA/MIIA

Selectmen Roy has been elected as president of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, which includes a seat on the MMA Board of Directors and the MMA's Executive Board. She has also been chosen as a member of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) Board of Directors. Even though MIIA is separate organization Roy will be filing a disclosure statement with the Town Clerk's office to ensure that this information is on public record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Garron and seconded by Schleiff, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 10:30 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations for Interim Fire Chief:

- Troy E. Garron - Yes
- Kim R. Roy - Yes
- Michael J. Schleiff - Yes

Garron announced that no statement would be made at the end of the Executive Session and the Board would not reconvene in open session.

Moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:45 p.m.

Troy E. Garron	-	Yes
Kim R. Roy	-	Yes
Michael J. Schleiff	-	Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, moved by Garron and seconded by Roy, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Troy E. Garron
Clerk

/pjm