

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

November 3, 2014
Meeting held at Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Merry, Vice Chairman Joseph Perry, Jack Cook (Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, Assistant Town Administrator Amy Lydon) Clerk Robert Snow - ABSENT, David Petersen - ABSENT

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Lawrence White - Finance Committee; Jack Grundstrom - Shellfish; John H. Grundstrom - Shellfish

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Merry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He said the meeting is being audio and video recorded digitally.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Larry White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board observed a moment of silence for Stephen O'Kent who was born and lived in Rowley his whole life, and was a Shellfish Constable for quite a while.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Letter of resignation from Library Trustee Erin Skillman

Chairman Merry read the email from Erin Skillman (COPY ATTACHED).

Joseph Perry made a motion to accept Skillman's resignation with regrets, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen - ABSENT

Joseph Perry said he served with Skillman on the Board of Library Trustees and she made a great contribution to the Library, her service is appreciated and she is wished well.

2. Vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees Notice

Chairman Merry read the notice (COPY ATTACHED).

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query opened. Larry White of Central Street asked the Board to consider posting a specimen ballot on the Town's website for the next election. He said other towns have it posted along with blurbs on the people up for election. Eagan and Lydon showed White where the specimen ballot is posted on the Town's website and discussed how last week there was a website crash, so the ballot was not available online until the website crash was resolved.

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Road Opening Permit Request from National Grid to open 27 Wilson Pond Road to repair a gas leak

Jack Cook made a motion to sign the road opening permit for 27 Wilson Pond Road, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen - ABSENT

The Selectmen signed the permit (COPY ATTACHED).

4. Sign state grant form for FY15 Cultural Council Grant

Eagan said this is a standard state contract.

Joseph Perry made a motion to sign the state grant form for FY15 Cultural Council Grant, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss sending Rowley Parish Council thank you letter on the 375th letter and discuss article and information on 375th celebrations to be sent to the council

Chairman Merry said the Town received a proclamation from the Rowley Parish congratulating the Town on its' 375th Anniversary. He said they requested information on the celebration. He said he has spoken to RCM Director Morrissey and there are two videos, one of the opening ceremonies and one of the parade and closing ceremonies. He said he will start to put together pictures and a flyer and send them to the Rowley Parish Council. Perry said their proclamation was very nice and we appreciate it.

Joseph Perry made a motion to send a thank-you letter and other information as Merry outlined to the Rowley Parish Council in England, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss Family Connection program

Chairman Merry read the following:

Melissa Roy, the new Family Engagement Coordinator at the Triton Regional School District, met recently with Debbie and Amy to discuss the program.

Mrs. Roy is working to get the “word out” about this important educational program that serves children from birth to age eight in Rowley, Newbury and Salisbury.

Attached is a copy of the Family Connections Newsletter. Mrs. Roy and the Family Connections program is working to increase and improve resources for families with young children. The program is funded through a state early education grant. Family Connections offers programs geared to early childhood social, recreational and educational development. There are many opportunities for young children and parents to join the Family Connections play groups and story hours.

Interested families should contact:

Melissa Roy

Family Engagement Coordinator

978-891-0632

Or by email at: mroy@trsd.net

Merry read the information on the newsletter (COPY ATTACHED).

Eagan said she gave Roy Janet Morrissey’s contact information so that program information can be added to RCM and said she told Roy that we will add a link from the Town’s website to the program’s website once it is up and running.

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. CITIZEN QUERY

Citizen's Query closed. There were no further Citizen's Queries.

7:15 p.m. Appointment Shellfish Constable John Grundstrom and Shellfish Commissioner Jack Grundstrom to discuss Rowley clam flat patrol issues

Chairman Merry said, "John and Jack will discuss issues they are facing while patrolling the flats. We need to discuss what things we can do to assist the Shellfish Constable in his job."

Shellfish Constable John H. Grundstrom said the clamming world is changing. He said years ago clammers knew each other and could talk out their problems, but now clammers from different towns don't talk to each other. He said they are getting threats from other clammers and private aquaculture farms are being damaged. He said the Environmental Police as well as Rowley and Ipswich Police Departments have been involved. He said he has a cell phone, but needs to be able to film and records things said and threats made. Merry said they need to get a camera.

Shellfish Constable John H. Grundstrom handed out information on a camera (COPY ATTACHED). He said the camera is waterproof, has the best sound and photo resolution, is a half of the size of a pack of cigarettes, the battery lasts 1.5 hours, it does both still pictures and video and there is a three year warranty that will replace the camera if it breaks or gets wet. Shellfish Commissioner Jack Grundstrom said the purpose of the camera is to be used when they are accosted when they are alone. He said there is nothing you can do when there are six clammers against one so when they approach a group or an individual they will film it just in case. John H. Grundstrom said years ago the clammers from other towns would run off when they were approached, but now they argue and make threats. He said the price of razor clams has increased and this may be why things are different now. He said with a video, there will be no questions. Cook said the picture will help determine who the clammer is since the boat number can be captured, and it is time to purchase the camera. Merry said the Constable is a Town employee. Perry said this is a safety issue.

Jack Cook made a motion to authorize the Shellfish Constable to purchase the camera presented for \$717.73, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

Merry said the Town has a cell phone use policy (COPY ATTACHED) and he would like to offer the Shellfish Constable use of that policy. Eagan said he has the phone and he can be compensated with a monthly stipend for using his personal phone for Town business under the policy. Larry White said this is a very good idea and maybe if a second camera is purchased it can be rotated between the Harbormaster and Fence Viewers, or any other department that may need one. Merry said we can look into this and check with the Harbormaster since he may already have something he uses. Merry asked Shellfish Constable John H. Grundstrom how a \$50 per month stipend sounds. Shellfish Constable John H. Grundstrom said that is more than fair.

Jack Cook made a motion to authorize a \$50 per month cell phone stipend to be paid to the Shellfish Constable, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

Eagan said the Selectmen's budget will absorb the remaining FY15 expense for this and this will be built into the Shellfish budget next year.

7:30 p.m. Appointment Fire Chief James Broderick to present candidates for appointment as Probationary Call Firefighters

- Matthew Harney
- Matthew Ross
- Timothy Shirley

Broderick introduced the three Probationary Call Firefighters to the Board and said they have been vetted, all have passed the CORI check, and their previous and former employers spoke highly of them. Chairman Merry read Broderick's letter to the Board regarding these appointments (COPY ATTACHED). Perry said the candidates have good backgrounds (EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS ATTACHED). Eagan said this is a permanent job posting, we are always looking for recruits and the hiring freeze doesn't need to be lifted since the posting is always up. Broderick said they would start in the middle of January after doing department training in November and December. He said they will finish the classes in June and then have a good idea of what they need to do.

Jack Cook made a motion to appoint Matthew Harney, Matthew Ross and Timothy Shirley as Probationary Call Firefighters, Joseph Perry second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss annual renewal fee for Farmer-Series Pouring Permit

Chairman Merry read the memo from Amy Lydon to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Farmer-Winery Pouring Permit Fee Structure (COPY ATTACHED).

Merry said there are three on premise categories and asked if an \$850.00 annual renewal fee for the Farmer-Series Pouring Permit sounds reasonable. Eagan said this is not a wine and malt category and the Board can come up with a new category. She said the primary business of the license holder is to sell bottles of wine and the ABCC allows them to sell samples and glasses of wine. She said she doesn't think this is the same type of business as other on premise license holders. She said they don't need this permit to provide samples any more. Merry said a new Farmer-Winery category can be set with a renewal fee of \$500. Perry said he supports this. Eagan said they are required to have a fire and building inspection annually, so it makes sense to tie the category to the existing on premise categories.

Joseph Perry made a motion set the Farmer-Winery Pouring Permit Fee at \$500.00, Jack Cook second, all in favor - aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

2. Update from Vice Chairman Joseph Perry on recent meetings he attended: Independent Living Center of the North Shore; Association of Town Finance Committees; and Massachusetts Selectmen's Association

Independent Living Center of the North Shore: Perry said this is an amazing organization that services seniors and disabled adults in 25 communities. He said the staff does a lot of good work and currently nobody from Rowley is receiving services, but 100 people from the participating communities are. Merry said the individual communities cannot afford to provide these services on their own.

Association of Town Finance Committees: Perry said he attended a budgeting class and saw how other communities do their budgeting. He said the Town Administrator from Northborough won an award from a National Committee for his budget presentation and his recommendation was to take the time to find all employees and calculate full time equivalents. He said he also attended a class about sharing services.

Massachusetts Selectmen's Association: He said a group of panelists discussed the bottle bill and gas tax. He said it was good to get out and meet others that face similar challenges.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Library Events: Landscapes – Oil Painter Priscilla Serafin's work is on display during the months of Oct. & Nov.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Saturday, November 22, 2014 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Rowley Highway Department. See Town website for more information.
- The Town has the following vacancies:
 - a) **Library Trustee** – one opening to fill until next annual town election
 - b) **Fence Viewer**– three positions;
 - c) **Wood, Lumber & Bark Inspector;** and
 - d) **Zoning Board of Appeals Associate** – two open seats
 - e) **Historical Commission-Historic District Commission** - three seats
 - f) **Parks and Recreation Committee** - two seatsFor more information on these positions, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 948-2372
- Rowley Food Pantry is in need of donations. The Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Merry called for a motion to adjourn. Joseph Perry so moved, Jack Cook second, all in favor – aye (3-0). Bob Snow – ABSENT Dave Petersen – ABSENT

Open meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Email from Erin Skillman regarding resignation from Board of Library Trustees
2. Vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees Notice
3. Road Opening Permit Request from National Grid to open 27 Wilson Pond Road to repair a gas leak
4. State grant form for FY15 Cultural Council Grant
5. Newsletter from Rowley Family Connections
6. Information on camera provided by Shellfish Constable John H. Grundstrom
7. Town of Rowley cell phone policy
8. Memo from Eagan to Board of Selectmen regarding incident on clam flat reported to her along with police report
9. Accounting reports of the Shellfish Constable accounts, Shellfish Revolving account and Shellfish Commissioners accounts
10. Broderick's letter to the Board regarding the Probationary Call Firefighter appointments
11. Employment applications from the Probationary Call Firefighters
12. Memo from Amy Lydon to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Farmer-Winery Pouring Permit Fee Structure