HALIFAX BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SELECTMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 – 9:15 A.M.

SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM

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Meeting came to order at 9:15 a.m. with Selectmen, Gordon C. Andrews, Troy E. Garron and Ashley A. DiSesa present.

The following business was discussed:

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**AGENDA**

Moved by Garron and seconded by DiSesa, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for Thursday, January 27, 2022.

**AFFIRMED WARRANTS & COMMITMENT**

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to affirm payment of the

following warrants & commitment:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gordon C. Andrews | - | Recused |
| Troy E. Garron | - | Yes |
| Ashley A. DiSesa | - | Yes |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payroll Warrant | #64 | For | $ 366,620.25 |
| Vendor Warrant | #65 | For | $ 37,361.90 |
| Withholding Warrant | #66 | For | $ 128,211.10 |
| Vendor Warrant | #67 | For | $ 288,453.99 |
| Ambulance Commitment  1/10/22-1/16/22 |  | For | $ 124,712.18 |

**APPROVED BILL**

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to approve payment of

the following Selectmen bill:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| National Grid (Town Hall)……………………………………………… | $ 1,486.28 |

**MAIL/DISCUSSIONS**

ARPA Funds for Water Department

Water superintendent Lindsay was asking to use some of the ARPA money that is not included in the upgrade project. Lots of stuff in the treatment plants are outdated and to get parts is hard because they don’t have them anymore. Both the filter plant and the office do not have generators therefore not able to run should we lose power. There are just a lot of things that are not included in the upgrade project that we could benefit from if we had money.

Andrews was in favor of it but wants to find out what the cycle is for payment from the Plymouth County and asked, if necessary, would he be able to do this in sections. Lindsey said if he had to do one thing now, one thing a little later on, he could work around how they do that.

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DiSesa was fine with using ARPA money if they can make the payments work with the way the money comes in as the water has been a big concern with people in the Town.

Health Agent Bob Valery added that many towns have been using ARPA money on wastewater treatments, hence sounds like a good move.

Water Commissioner, Dick Clark, said that last time they meet with the BoS they said they wanted to get things right with the water and this will help them do it.

Andrews thinks they can approve the request – it’s just to be a timing of when the funds are available.

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to approve the request as long as the funds are available.

Fire Dept. Safety Equipment Grant

Moved by Garron and second by DiSesa, the Board unanimously voted to affirm the Chair, Gordon c. Andrews, signing of the Fire Department Safety Equipment Grant.

Ambulance Abatements

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to approve ambulance abatements for December 2021 in the amount of $69,445.63.

Surplus Item - Library

Moved by Garron and second by DiSesa, the Board unanimously voted to declared 1 Dell Optiplex 3050 (2017) from the Holmes Public Library.

ARPA Funds Transfer to Legal Expense Line

Andrews asked if there was an amount to transfer to Legal Expense and DiSesa suggested $100,000. Garron said it is hard to decide on amount because either way it is not going to be enough as we are already $42,000 in the negative. DiSesa said that it is a good start, and it gives us enough to cover what legal is working on right.

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to use $100,000 of unrestricted ARPA funds for Legal Expense.

Alan Dias wanted to be noted that APRA money for legal defense. Andrews stated he was not entertaining questions from the public, thank you.

Dias questioned that Mr. Valery just spoke and Andrews stated he is a Department Head. Dias then asked if this was a Department Head Meeting and again Andrews stated he was not getting into this.

Covid Policy

Health Agent, Bob Valery was thinking distributing 2,000 test kits. If they had a lot to hand out doing a drive thru would be best. They have 30 cases coming in with 100 per case bring it up to 3,000 test kits. DiSesa added that the school is handing them out to households monthly. Valery also said that the price has been fluctuating – they started at $10 and up to $30 now. Valery is saying 1,000 max.

DiSesa asked Valery on top of what we are getting today he would like approval to buy 1,000 test kits. Valery said maybe use his office and the Chief Viveiros ’office again for handing them out.

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DiSesa how many did we have last time, and Valery said last time there were 1,000 kits with 2 per household hence 500 people got kits. She also said that many people came in last time because it was right before the holiday but now they are handing them out and the schools are giving them to the kids every week if they sign up for them.

DiSesa suggested taking what they are getting now, see if they go, before we order more, and then if they do, then order more instead of ordering more because we could end up sitting on them and they and we end up sitting on them and then they expire.

Valery said they did not have to order them today, but if they have a number then can get them you could always reduce that number, but not go more than that number, and it wouldn’t take a Select Board’s vote in order to pass it.

Andrews asked what he was thinking, and Valery said an additional 1,000 test kits.

Chief Viveiros said the test they do at the Fire Department comes in like in 50 tests per box, not the same as the take home test as you only get one vial of the liquid that you need to mix - it is not the same type as the Take-Home Test, so his thought is to get some more of those.

Andrews asked if there was a dollar amount, he wanted the Board to approve, and Valery said $5,000.

Moved by Garron and seconded by DiSesa the Board unanimously voted to approve the request for $5,000 from ARPA funds for additional test kits if necessary.

Assistant Treasurer, Linda Cole, was asking the Board for clarification on paying employees out with Covid - more of a policy versus deciding case by case, because she is finding that when people return to work after being out, they are saying “well this one had this and I didn’t get it.

Valery said the first words out employees are asking is “how do I get paid?’ – not “what am I supposed to do”. So, let’s start with if you are sick, you are supposed to stay home.

Question #1

Will the Town accept or not accept a picture of a home test positive for Covid as evidence to reinstate use of sick time and/or pay for time out for unbenefited employees?

DiSesa said previously they said a home test wouldn’t qualify - you must get a real test and that the Fire Department was testing all town employees so they could go there and be tested for free, get the paperwork from the Fire Department saying ‘positive’ or they could do a PCR.

Cole was asking for a vote from the Board saying yes it is accepted or no it isn’t.

Valery said everything that they are mentioning within the regulations says “should” so we certainly can never be less strict on any policy than what the State law or guidance is, but we can always be slightly stricter if you want.

Chief Viveiros asked what happens to the people that already used sick pay/days prior to this scope?

Cole said some of the people who have already used sick days prior to this would have a documented test anyways to go with it and some would only have the home test, so right now you are just talking about the home test part of it.

Garron said he is not saying that it is impossible to get a positive or a negative test from a home test, but has it been tested to the point where it is accurate as it should be.

DiSesa said the problem with the home test is you are doing it on yourself, so there is a lot of room for error, and you could end up with the negative if you do not do it properly.

Valery said it would be recommended that if you did a home test, then you have the option to go to, or should go, to the Fire Department or DiSesa said go to your doctor and get a PCR.

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She also said that some of those tests if you let them sit too long, they show a positive and Valery said we’re told that if it is positive, it’s positive.

Cole agreed that there is a timing issue because but if you let it sit for two hours it shows positive.

DiSesa said that if they cannot get a PCR, just go to the Fire Station. They just approved to buy more of those tests and that way we have the documentation that the test was done right, and we know people are not sharing pictures of positive tests to get paid to stay out of work.

Andrews said from today moving forward anyone who looking to get their sick time reimbursed has to have a positive test from the Fire Department or DiSesa said from their doctor or CVS like a written place that you can get a test – a home test would not count.

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to not accept a home test, and only accept a documented test from the Fire Department or another medical source, in order to reimburse COVID sick time to a benefited employee or pay time to a non-benefited employee. They clarified the same documentation would be needed to reimburse/pay if caring for a qualified dependent under the EPSL of Massachusetts.

Chief Viveiros believes that if you are vaccinated and you have a positive contact even if it is a family member you don’t have to quarantine anymore, and Valery said correct.

Police Chief Chaves asked if there is a form that the employees got to fill when they are out because of Covid, and Cole said the way it is being handle is they list it on their timesheets as “covid time” then the positive result goes straight to her office where it is filed in their personnel file without anybody seeing. Then she corroborates with just the Accountant’s office.

Valery said there is also the availability of employees returning to work from five, six seven days instead of the ten. DiSesa said you have to be out for five days and then you can come back on day six with a mask through day ten she added that some people might need the ten days though, because some people get sicker than others. Valery said three days after the symptoms are going away you should be good to get back to work.

Question #3

Will the town reimburse or not sick time to an individual exposed as close contact at work and forced to quarantine during their employment with the Town of Halifax?

DiSesa said this was talked about at their last meeting: if you are exposed at work we would pay you, if you are exposed somewhere else not in work, it wouldn’t be paid, right?

Cole said the point that was made earlier was if you are vaccinated you might not be considered a close contact anyways, but if we have an unvaccinated employee exposed to somebody who is vaccinated, and we tell them to go home because they are a close contact do we pay them because we told them to go home or because they were close contact.

Andrews said if you are exposed at work and the Town tells the person to go home, then yes, we pay them.

Moved by Garron and seconded by DiSesa, the Board unanimously voted that the Town of Halifax would reimburse sick time to an individual exposed at work as a close contact and forced to quarantine during their employment with the Town of Halifax.

Question #4

Will the Town cap the number of hours and dollars used/reimbursed or not for Covid leave at 40 hours and $850 to fall in line with the EPSL in Massachusetts?

DiSesa thinks they should stick with the State guidelines – 40 hours or $850.

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Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted that the Town of Halifax will cap the number of hours used/reimbursed by employees for COVID at 40 to fall in line with the EPSL in Massachusetts.

Chief Viveiros said the Fire Department may be a little different because they work two 24 hour shifts (48 hours) in less than a one week period. In one particular case he had to send someone home - they initially tested negative and then tested positive two days later, so they lost 3 twenty-four hour shifts.

DiSesa asked Chief Chaves if the officers would need the same and he said no as they only work eight hour shifts.

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to amend the vote to state that the Town of Halifax will cap the number of hours used/reimbursed by employees for COVID at 40 with the exception of fire fighters who will be reimbursed 48 hours to fall in line with the EPSL in Massachusetts.

Library Director, Jean Gallant, said that she has an employee who used 25 hours of Covid time, to stay home and care for their son (provided a positive test) then a week later they got it (submitted a positive test). This person works 25 hours a week, so it added up to 50, hence she asked if she can submit 50 hours of Covid time in this particular situation.

Cole stated that the State guidelines say it is capped at 40 hours per employee, it doesn’t matter if it is for themselves or for a dependent.

Andrews said this person would get reimbursed their sick time and then have to use their sick time for the time they went beyond the 40 hours.

Gallant said the first day this person came in they were really sick, but they were worried about sick time, but she sent them home because she was worried about them being in the building. This person was out Thursday, Friday and Saturday and used their sick time that was last pay period and then tested positive from a clinic on Monday. Gallant is looking to get sick time reimbursed for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the last pay period. DiSesa said she only gets 40 hours total, and Andrews said that is what they just voted on.

Cole would caution that somebody could be sick un-Covid-related and going home and if doing for test forward, so we know it’s Covid. If you are letting people go home and then giving them back their sick time for going home and you, and it’s not under covid it could be any sick time.

DiSesa thinks it should be capped at 40 hours so there is no confusion.

Valery said he has had people who have gone to the doctor and said nope, it’s the flu, and then three days later they test positive for Covid. So even though they had the covid-like symptoms on that doctor’s visit, it was actually influenza and then as it either turned to Covid or there were other house members that did have Covid. So, you really have to go with the test date.

Cole thinks this particular situation was in regards to they wanted to know because they seemed like they had Covid-like symptoms but at that time tested negative, so she thinks to Valery’s point, you kind of have to go from the test date forward because it could be any sickness and we don’t want to start to say we are going to give back time or we are not going to make them use their own sick time regarding any sickness might be in some relationships to Covid.

Andrews said that if a department head sends somebody home, they should send them to get a test and Chief Viveiros said if they don’t want to use their sick time they can get a test.

Today Thorne along with staff from the Fire Department went to Plymouth to sign off on thirty-one boxes of test kits for Halifax. Some will be at the Fire Station and some here at Town Hall. Valery and Chief Viveiros will work on a plan for distribution. The plan will be posted on the town’s website.

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DiSesa asked the Chief how it worked out the last time and he said it worked well and they were out of them in two and a half days. They might want to do some weekend and/or night distribution because some residents felt slighted that they couldn’t be here during the day, so they were hoping to come up with a plan that is fair for everyone.

Fiscal Year 22 & 23 Budget Discussion

Andrews stated that the cherry sheet numbers, and contribution numbers were released yesterday. Halifax proportion of Silver Lakes’ is going up $240,000, Kingston is going up $240,000, and Plympton is decreasing by $130,000. This is not good news for the Halifax assessment number for Silver Lake.

Thorne said that he talked with Tom O’Brien at Plymouth County Treasurer’s office about Mayflower Health Group and right now it is looking at a ten percent increase. However, because they have their reserves and the Executive Committee is going to propose more along the lines of 4%, it is not great news, but it is not 10%.

Andrews further said unrestricted State aid was like a $28.000 increase, increase for Chapter 70 for the elementary school – $91,000 – so that will help. Silver Lake’s increase was not a minimum increase, which he thinks it is $300,000, but then there is an increase of Charter School tuitions which kind of offsets, so, it’s going to be a big number. At the Finance Committee meeting they talked about the use of free cash, an over-ride, about cuts and using stabilization – putting everything on the table.

Relocation of IT’s Office

DiSesa met with Materna, Calouro and Chief Viveiros to talk about different ways to change up the office storage area/IT Tech office.

Materna said if they make a partition off an area in the Assessor’s office it will take away from their files. May have to add supports in the office for the fire safe cabinets, will have to look to see if electricity and HVAC can be put in the partitioned areas.

DiSesa said they discussed having the Veterans’ Agent moved to the Assessor’s Room and have Calouro move to the Veterans’ office. This will give residents access to Cory’s office from the front door. She said if they are going to minimize the storage, files that do not have to be accessed every day can be moved to the basement. They walked Corey through the whole thing and he was fine with being closer to the front door and having that direct access right to the front. He normally is only here three hours a week on a Monday, where Calouro is here almost 40 hours a week, so that was the best solution that they came up with.

Materna stated if they were to move cabinets downstairs, they will have to do some bracing because there is already a soft spot in the foundation. Also, Corey will be bringing his file cabinets and supports will have to be underneath there too.

Viveiros said that they talked about adding a doorway into the hallway where behind Calouro’s desk is and then cutting that room in half so then the IT Tech office would have access to the hallway. Materna would have to check to see if there is ducting or electrical or whatever in the wall.

Town Administrator’s Report

Thorne said that their next meeting there will be update on the solar project proposed for the capped landfill. The question will be whether it would be lease-purchase, the facility itself, or to continue to lease it out.

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He is speaking with Town Accountant about ensuring that one-time revenues go towards one-time projects and to try to free up some of the existing revenues to help with the operating budget for FY23.

Thorne said a letter to the owner at 638 Monponsett Street was sent for Chief Viveiros stating that an inspection of the property was done (by Building Inspector Perry, Valery, Chief Viveiros & Dave Hatch) and they found that is in dangerous condition and needs to be demolished Thorne talked with the Treasurer/Collector about taking the property for non-payment of taxes, this will help in improving some of the one-time revenues for the town. But the follow will have to be part of the process:

* the cost of the demolition
* how much that property is going to be worth as a buildable lot
* needing to go through Planning Board’s and ZBA regarding special permit as it is an undersized lot

Possible Appointment of Associate Member – Zoning Board of Appeals

Andrews recued himself from this discussion.

ZBA member, Peter Parcellin began by saying that he does not think there has been a lot of public discussion of a membership or anything like that. He said ZBA was on the agenda for Tuesday and a couple of members were planning on attending and then the agenda for this meeting got posted 48 hours before the actual meeting with this discussion being on it – so ZBA was unable to post and agenda for them to attend.

He continued to say that ZBA wrote the BoS back in September asking what the appointment process was for this past June’s appointments as it was really different from the long past practice. From his standpoint and he thinks he shares the same opinion of the others on the ZBA – why the changes. He thinks they found themselves in a much more contentions position than they were in the past and they all are trying to avoid that. There have been a couple of times where either people had to recuse themselves or asked to recuse themselves and for a special permit you have to have four votes leaving the petitioner at a standstill. ZBA has had five members and two associate members forever and DiSesa said they haven’t had two associate members since well before 2013 and further said that in 2015 ZBA had one Associate member and one vacancy and then there was no changes in the ZBA from 2016 until this last year, with the Associate members or the regular members. Parcellin said that is because the Selectmen never appointed anyone, and DiSesa said they never asked until right now. Parcellin then said they never had five people interviewed for reappointments and DiSesa said that is because nobody ever put out the application process to invite more people to come in and join these Boards, so the new process made it so that more people came forward to get involved, so that is why the BoS/she asked to change how it was done. She wanted to be clear because she felt at the last Zoning Board meeting it was made to seem that the BoS was halting the ZBA from having two members and that is not the case, because the ZBA has not had two members for quite a while. Parcellin said that is good to know. He said the frustration he is feeling is that the BoS had interviews and they voted not to re-appoint the Chair of the ZBA, which is entirely their right but there was a lot of time spent on it but not a lot of discussion about it. The BoS asked two questions - whether or not they went to Town Meeting and how do they handle difficult people and then there was very little discussion as to why you wanted new people on the Board. DiSesa said it was not really new people, but she wanted to allow people to actually have their hat in instead of having numerous people wearing numerous hats. The person you are referring to is our Moderator, serves on multiple committees and is a special police officer, so when we have all these applications come in of people who do not serve on anything her thought is why are we not letting other townspeople be a part of what is going on in the town and letting other individuals be a part in all aspects.

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Parcellin said it sounds as if he is not agreeing with her is that he does not agree with her and she said no, it just feels like he is misinterpreting what she is trying to do.

Parcellin said at the town elections only four percent of the towns people come out to vote so there is very little interest town government. They would have welcomed anyone anytime. They fill out a Talent Bank form, which comes to them, and they bring the people in, and just about every time they brought them on board. He appreciates the fact that the BoS reached out and had people come in and interview – that is not the issue he thinks there is a concern that ZBA has been getting the tone that he is getting right now and none of them knows why that is the case. ZBA never actually asked anyone to be appointed to the Board but what in September they pointed out that there was a vacancy and asked the BoS to fill it, and now tonight it is on the agenda. DiSesa they previously had it on the agenda and they talked about it a couple of times and yes there has not been an agreement on who the member is going to be.

Parcellin said that is a little bit of his personal concern and worries that they have had these interviews with no public discussion on either of their opinions.

DiSesa said that is not true, as she just said she discussed why she did not do a particular appointment before, and when they had talked about this before she had that same discussion, she just had with him.

Parcellin said they did not talk about why or why they didn’t pick a certain person.

Garron asked what he was looking for and DiSesa said they want a second Associate member or an Alternate.

Parcellin said personally he wants to know what the process is in getting an Associate member and said there are certain people who have a specific issue with the ZBA, and he has asked for people to come to meetings. He said there is a shift in *tone* and honestly thinks it is because of the personal lawsuits certain people have and it is hard for him not to think that because he has not had any conversations with anybody nor has there been a lot of discussion – you guys (meaning the BoS) will come out of an Executive Session and vote a certain way and have very little conversations going into those votes.

DiSesa asked when they have asked the Selectmen to come to the Zoning Board meeting and Parcellin said the letter sent in September might say ‘come on to our meetings’, if you look at their You Tube meetings, he is consistently asking for people to come in.

DiSesa said they have not personally invited the Select Board to come to their meetings – you have asked numerous people to come in and discuss why the *tone* and she has not been asked to come to any of their meetings or have seen any emails to the Select Board to come in and meet with ZBA.

Parcellin said there was a letter sent to the Board of Selectmen in September and they have done nothing. He does not know what more they need to do.

DiSesa said that he started a different conversation; they were talking about the Alternate, now he is saying that he feels there is a *tone* towards the Zoning Board. She asked if he has spoken to these people individually and he said no,

DiSesa said he is interpreting a feeling or a situation, without speaking to the people he is concerned about.

Parcellin said he is not around Town Hall all day long, and volunteers on the ZBA, and he is taking his personal time to talk with them today so honestly is this is the first time he has had the opportunity.

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DiSesa said if he is going to invite people in to talk about things or how he feels a certain way, then he should back it up with maybe speaking with those people or inviting them to a meeting. He is here now because of the Associate opening, not because of everything he just talked about.

Parcellin said his opinion on the situation is there are some things going on with the Zoning Board that are being affected by the Board of Selectmen and the Associate member position has been left open and the process behind …. DiSesa said the Associate member has been left open since 2010 and she said they should have asked that they wanted it filled.

Parcellin asked if it was his job is to ask the BoS to fill the positions?

DiSesa said she just got on this Board, which is what she is doing right now to try to fill all these seats.

Garron asked if he was looking for an Associate member and Parcellin said it is whatever the BoS wants to do. – it’s your purpose to do that.

DiSesa was not disagreeing on the Associate member and thinks the ZBA should have one she but does not like the way it is being interpreted that the BoS is halting the ZBA from having one. She understands the letter was sent in September, there has been conversations about it, there have been motions, there have been things that fell through, it didn’t go through the cracks as far as the BoS not doing it, there just has not been an agreeance yet which is why it is back here today to talk about it. Obviously, there are other things that need to be addressed so maybe our Board should come to one of your meetings and discuss it.

Garron said the bottom line is the need to vote or not to vote an Associate member. He asked if there was anybody they had in mind because in the past what has happened is the Zoning Board of Appeals interviewed first and made a recommendation to the Board.

Parcellin said to Garron’s point the process changed without any notice or involvement from the ZBA, so the point he is trying to make is that stuff has changed, and no one knows why, and the vacuum of information has created a lot of suspicion a lot of the members feel like the Zoning Board has been targeted for some reason. He does not know why that is, but they recommended the person who has the experience and honestly, they are looking to have five regular members and two associate members who get along, care about the town, and have positive interactions with the people. Garron said they cannot guarantee that anyone going on the Board is going to agree with you. Parcellin agreed with him and said they disagree all the time, but they want to be able to do the job that the Town of Halifax needs them to do.

DiSesa asked if they should have McSherry follow up and make sure these people still want to serve since they interviewed and then we can put it on our next agenda to nominate someone.

Garron said phone calls will be made to see if the individuals are still interested and it will be on the next agenda.

Parcellin thinks they were caught off guard and maybe it was the fact that the BoS wanted to open up the appointing process and they didn’t have that conversation back in June leading to contentious conversations.

Garron said we are all here to serve the people of Halifax and personal feelings should not get in the way of that.

DiSesa said that if he has a minute after their Executive Session, she has an update that maybe he can bring back to the ZBA.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to enter into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. with the Board of Assessors and Naomi Kawamoto of Brooks & DeRensis (remotely) to discuss Halifax Solar v. Halifax (tax abatement cases) and Wal-Mart v. Halifax (tax abatement case): bill:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Gordon C. Andrews | - | Yes |
| Troy E. Garron | - | Yes |
| Ashley A. DiSesa | - | Yes |

As discussing strategy with respect to litigation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town.

DiSesa announced that the Board will be coming back into open session.

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to come out of Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. and reconvene in Open Session:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Gordon C. Andrews | - | Yes |
| Troy E. Garron | - | Yes |
| Ashley A. DiSesa | - | Yes |

Building Security

Materna said that some of the locks have been changed, supplies are limited and as for the keys they are just running behind cutting them so the locksmith will be coming back on Monday to put more locks in.

Andrews said for the building security an Article for the capital plan for a camera system will need to be submitted.

Andrews said so Articles will be needed for Town Hall building and then the camera systems that they are looking for the other buildings.

Garron asked if they were going to do one building at a time and Calouro said when they get the proposals for all the buildings, they will have different variations of how to implement them and then they can decide how they want to move forward.

Materna said the monthly inspections on the elevator was done today and the technician will be back next week to put in the key switch. Andrews asked if that was to restrict access to the basement and Materna said yes, and that the locksmith would be adding a locked knob to that door so you will need a key to get to the basement. Materna added that the locksmith is looking into locking the doors between offices. Whether that can be done or not because if you have a key to one office, basically you have key to the whole side on the building.

Materna suggested locking the door from the outside that leads to basement from the Selectmen Secretary’s office as it would still act as an exit because it wouldn’t be locked from the inside.

Andrews asked if there were any other security things and Materna asked about leaving the Selectmen’s Meeting Room unlocked and DiSesa said that would not be a problem because the cabinets in the room can be locked.

Calouro would like to sit down with Thorne to talk about putting in restrictions for town hall employees if that is something the BoS still wanted to do and DiSesa said yes.

Chief Chaves said part of this plan they talked about, the library, water department, the highway, the fuel station and the pumping stations.

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Calouro said that there are some buildings that are interested in other physical controls, so that may or may not be requested.

Interactive Displays

Calouro said he has one price for the interactive display and then another price if we needed something in the interim. The total cost for that interactive display with an embedded computer in it so it can be rolled around, ease of use, and to protect the wireless and have wired options if necessary is $5,300. The price for an additional TV in the interim so that they can continue to do hybrid meetings came out to about a $1,000.

DiSesa asked what happens if they have 2 meetings going on and Calouro is going to talk to the CoA Director, Darlene Regan and see if he can borrow the TV setup that is over there until we get the interactive display and then have that second TV used as another option. He suggested spending a relatively cheap amount of money on another TV just to continue doing it in the interim, so that way it doesn’t hold up the Building Maintenance Department from putting the digital display in.

Andrews asked what the timeframe is on mounting the TV and Materna said he back to a full staff so he’ll need a about a week of catch up and then can do it.

Andrews suggested putting the decision on whether or not to buy the interactive display and the TV on next week’s agenda.

Memorandum - Inequity on the Reimburse. by the Comm. of MA - Out of Dist. Voca. Trans.

Andrews said that we receive the regional transportation, so they are kind of attacking that, so we cover the cost of vocational. He does not think they want to sign on to this because it talks about taking away funding from the regional side and he does not think we can afford that.

Memo – Comm. of MA – Halifax Meeting Requirements of MGL C.54, S. 6

Andrews stated that the memo is saying the division of Halifax meets the requirement Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 6, which is the districts for the voters.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Times

Andrews asked the Board if they wanted to continue to meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30 or if an earlier time worked better.

Garron said earlier works better for him, but it is the Board’s decision.

Andrews asked if 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays work.

DiSesa said she can do whatever and knows that the meetings can get late on Tuesday nights where they are here until 10:30 p.m. If Garron wanted to do 4:00 p.m. so that he is home for dinner she is okay with it. Garron was fine with that.

The Board decided to hold their meetings at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Board of Selectmen Recording Secretary

Andrews recommended that they vote to allow Thorne and McSherry do the interviews. DiSesa said they already did the interviews and found somebody, and they (Thorne & McSherry) are asking to start them at Grade 2; Step 3 instead of Grade 2; Step 1 because this person already does the minutes for the Kingston Elementary School Committee and Halifax Elementary School Committee, hence already has experience in doing minutes.

Moved by Garron and seconded by DiSesa, the board unanimously voted to approve a wage rate of $16.75 (Garde 2; Step 3) for the Selectmen Recording Secretary.

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Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board voted as follows to approve Executive Session minutes of July 23, 2021 and December 17, 2021**:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gordon C. Andrews | - | Recused |
| Troy E. Garron | - | Yes |
| Ashley A. DiSesa | - | Yes |

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, moved by DiSesa and seconded by Garron, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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Naja R. Nessralla

Clerk

/pjm

Documents referenced

Line item transfer request from the Water Dept.

Memo from library requesting surplus item

Department of Public Health Q & A regarding Covid

9/8/21 – memo from ZBA – recommendation & appointment process

1/18/22 – email from John Sears – Inequity in State Reimbursement for Trans. of Voc. Students

1/11/22 – letter from Commonwealth of MA – re-diving Halifax into precincts