

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: Robert Richardson, John Whelan, Francis Cavaco, David Parker  
Michael Brady arrived late.

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Mr. Parker announced that, in accordance with the new Open Meeting Law, the meeting is being taped via audio and video and anyone in the audience who is taping must notify the Chairman.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Contract for Library Union and Firefighters Union**

Mr. Carroll advised that he has forwarded language to the police union and he is awaiting comments from that union.

He met with the library negotiating team this morning. The Memorandum of Agreement was rewritten to address concerns.

All unions are aware that contracts do not include salary increases.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the proposed agreement for the public library employees as submitted.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. Arthur Foulkes of 207 Arcade Avenue referred to his letter of August 29, 2010 addressed to the Board regarding the siding of Town Hall. He reserved further comment until the matter is discussed by the Board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bloomfield Street and St. Laurent Parkway Drainage Cost Estimate**

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux advised that Mr. Cabral did additional research after the estimate was submitted. There would be a savings of about \$10,000 by using HDP piping instead of the RCP piping and the work is done in house. The HDP cost is \$7.00 per ft. compared to \$38 per ft. for the RCP.

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Mr. Carroll said he needs to contact legal counsel to make sure the easement does exist and has been recorded.

Mr. Lamoureux said the definitive plan was recorded without the wording that the Town is responsible to put in the drainage. The as-built was not signed by town officials.

At Mr. Cavaco's suggestion, the matter will be checked at the Registry of Deeds and placed on the agenda for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On another matter, Mr. Lamoureux advised that he spoke to the Fire Chief, and they are monitoring the track of the possible hurricane.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To move to Item A under "New Business" – Driver/Laborer Position.

**Consider Appointment of Wayne Young for Driver/Laborer Position**

Mr. Lamoureux advised that over 158 applications were received. Ten applicants were interviewed in the first round and four in the second. The screening committee was unanimous in selecting Mr. Young.

Mr. Cavaco requested a Registry of Motor Vehicles printout of Mr. Young's driving record.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To appoint Mr. Wayne Young as Driver/Laborer with the Department of Public Works, effective September 17, 2010, pending verification from the Registry of Motor Vehicles on the Class A license and successful CORI check.

**Discussion on Telephone Vendor**

Tabled until Mr. Brady is in attendance.

**Discussion on Warrant Articles for Town Meeting**

Mr. Carroll noted the warrant closed on Friday at noon. There were 22 requests for articles. Several have already been acted on (ZBA and street acceptance). There is a citizen participation article for the automated materials handling system at the library.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Appointment of Maria Holmes to Cultural Council**

Tabled until she is in attendance.

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### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Parker stated that about 25-30 people attended the first organizational meeting for the Town's 200th Anniversary. He suggested that anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk.

The 9/11 ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mr. Parker asked about an emergency preparation plan. He felt the central control should be in the Town Hall because there is access to residents through cable TV as long as there is electricity.

The matter was tabled until the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Cavaco said that he found a bill for \$3,500 as the first payment of a contract for policy manuals for the School Department. The contract is not on file with the Finance Director. According to state law, all contracts must be filed in the Finance Office.

He requested documentation that the Chairwoman of the Finance Committee, Superintendent of School, and President of the SEA had signed the RTT agreement. The person who handled that for the School Department is on vacation until next week.

Mr. Cavaco suggested that the Town Administrator send a memo notifying all department heads that contracts must be on file in the Finance Office.

He said a citizen received a late fee penalty of \$20.05 because she inadvertently placed her real estate tax payment in the wrong mailbox outside of Town Hall.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To waive the \$20.05 fee with the approval of the Town Treasurer.

Mr. Cavaco said that he was contacted by the owner of Seekonk Precision Tool, who wants to convert to gas. DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux has indicated there is a bylaw which states a road cannot be cut for five years after construction. The business received short notice that the road work was going to be done.

Mr. Cavaco and Mr. Carroll visited the site.

Mr. Whelan said he received a telephone call from the owner's attorney.

Mr. Parker questioned why two Selectmen and Mr. Carroll were notified. He felt it should be the entire Board.

Further discussion tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Parker mentioned there are no minutes on the website.

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In accordance with the new open meeting law of July 1, 2010, Chairman Richardson announced that Executive Session minutes of 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been released. Residents can request a copy from the Board of Selectmen's office. He will review the 2010 minutes with Mr. Carroll.

Mr. Foulkes defended Mr. Cavaco's action on the Seekonk Precision Tool matter mentioned above.

Mr. Parker responded that the Board has a policy that all items should go through the Chairman.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Regional Plan for Sustainable Development**

Copy of grant application included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Carroll advised that he received a request from an attorney that represents many applicants before the Planning Board and other boards, including the Board of Selectmen, to meet with officials responsible for regulating development to get input on a proposal for development in town and facilitate the process.

The Town has received a commendation from a citizen regarding the services provided by the Seekonk Fire Department.

Mr. Carroll distributed information on the bids for the payroll system. There were four bidders. The proposals will be evaluated by the Finance Director, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and representative of the School Department responsible for payroll.

Mr. Carroll said that he addressed an emergency management plan at the recent department head meeting. The Town does not have a plan in place.

He met with a representative of the Wellness Corporation about training for department heads and supervisors. He is working on developing a structured management development program. This is at no additional cost to the town.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Lamoureux has taken steps to notify residents of Hammond Street that work will be done on that street.

Mr. Foulkes' letter addressed to Board members will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Consider Appointment of Maria Holme to Cultural Council**

Ms. Holme said that she would like to promote the arts in the Town of Seekonk.

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A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To appoint Maria Holme to the Cultural Council.

Mr. Brady said that he can't recall any member of the Cultural Council coming before the Board for acceptance and/or approval of a grant.

### **Discussion on Phone Vendor**

The Board reviewed the bills from Broadview compared to Paytek, the previous vendor.

Mr. Carroll noted that Broadview is saving the Town \$21,400 per year.

Mr. Brady asked for a three-year breakdown because the bills have increased rather than decreased.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **Final Design for Banna Station**

Mr. Brady suggested it should be a one-floor design. He said that resolution does not bind any successors.

Mr. Cavaco pointed out that the Board had approved the two-floor plan. The settlement with the neighbor cost \$10,000 and legal fees were \$12,000. The plan was approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Brady said he is not convinced the project can be completed for \$750,000.

#### **Location and Design Concept for South End Station**

Board members discussed possible sites. They talked about School Street or the County Street station. It was the consensus of the Board to look into the possibility of restoring the County Street station.

#### **Fire Station Building Committee**

The Building Committee will be appointed by the Town Moderator.

#### **Fire Department Staffing**

The Board discussed the possibilities of reconfiguring the Fire Department into a full time career fire department. There would be eight firefighters on each group. The reduction in overtime would reduce the fire department budget by \$95,000. Call firefighters would eventually be phased out and that money put toward the career firefighter salaries. They would be given priority consideration, if qualified.

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The Town could possibly pick up about \$50,000 a year for ambulance calls now done by other towns and also provide ambulance runs to nearby towns. The net effect on the Fire Department budget would be \$196,000.

Mr. Whelan said he could not see this happening at this time due to the financial situations.

Mr. Parker agreed.

Mr. Carroll suggested a work session to come up with a three-five year strategic plan. This should be done before the next budget process.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the Town might be faced with costly repairs to some of the buildings.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

#### **Fire Department Actions**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reopen the warrant to add an article.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To instruct the Town Administrator to prepare a warrant article requesting the Town Moderator to appoint a seven-member Building Committee for construction of the Banna Station, to include an active career firefighter and a member of the CIC.

Mr. Brady said this should be consistent with all departments in the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To close the warrant for the upcoming town meeting.

Mr. Scott Celikbas, President of the Firefighters Union, responded to Mr. Whelan's comments. He said that 90% of calls are referenced to EMS. The ambulances are manned at the paramedic level by the Town's two ambulances.

Chairman Richardson said the purpose for adding the two additional men per shift is to run two ambulances in town. Over the past few years, the Fire Chief submitted similar documentation. He talked about \$240,000 in health care costs every year that goes back to free cash. That could be applied to the Fire Department budget; but, there would still be a need for \$194,000.

Mr. Celikbas suggested an ambulance receipt account, using a certain percentage of the money to pay back to the Town for the additional manpower. He felt it is feasible and economical.

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Capt. Michael Healy noted that money is used for other things in the town. It does offset a portion of the proposed budget that comes forward by the Fire Department. That happens every year at the May Town Meeting.

Mr. Carroll said about \$400,000 is generated every year.

Lt. Martin Ulak, said that over a year ago the Fire Department proposed a plan that was feasibly sound. He can't understand why the Board made a turnaround. He suggested the Board check on how much was spent on call firefighters that didn't cover shifts.

There was discussion between Lt. Ulak and Mr. Whelan and also between Mrs. Ellie Wiseman and Mr. Whelan.

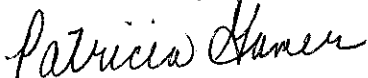
Mr. Cavaco noted that the City of Attleboro is moving to establish a law to clean up foreclosed properties.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk



Patricia Gamer, Secretary