

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

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

John Whelan was absent.

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 to remember two individuals close to the Seekonk Town Hall family.

Mr. Parker announced that the meeting is being taped via audio and visual. He asked if anyone in the audience is recording the meeting.

Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star advised that he is recording audio.

CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Lt. Martin Ulak, Career Firefighter, distributed information to the Board and Chief Jack on the figures for Station 2 coverage, as requested at the previous meeting.

He noted that staffing Rescue 2 with career firefighters pays for itself and brings additional revenue into town, and provides the best possible service.

Mr. Cavaco asked about the breakdown for call firefighters he had previously requested.

Mr. Carroll said he didn't have it because he has been on vacation.

Chief Jack distributed spreadsheets utilized for payroll.

The matter was deferred until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Bloomfield Street and St. Laurent Parkway Drainage Cost Estimate

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux distributed documentation that Mr. Cabral had investigated at the Registry of Deeds, which showed the same plans recorded initially and signed by the Chairman of the Planning Board at the time. He also had copies of documents recorded at the Town Clerk's office.

September 8, 2010

-2-

As stated last week, the plans did not have notation that the Town would do the drainage. That notation was on the as-builts included later by the engineer.

Mr. Carroll advised that an easement is not on file.

Mr. Lamoureux said the easement was recorded on the original plans but not the notation that the Town would do drainage at a later date. He added that it might not be necessary to do the drainage.

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

VOTED: To table the matter and forward pertinent information to counsel for a legal opinion and to have the information by September 29, 2010.

With regard to the Central Avenue project, Mr. Lamoureux had a copy of the advertisement for construction. The contract should be awarded in November. State aid in the amount of \$4.2M has been reserved for this project.

Mr. Cavaco inquired about the Registry of Motor Vehicles printout on the new hire's driving record.

Mr. Lamoureux advised the employee started work because he had an unattested copy from the Registry.

Chairman Richardson suggested that Mr. Lamoureux submit it for the next meeting.

In response to Mr. Cavaco's concern about safety, the matter of safety vests for DPW employees was deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. Lamoureux stated that he ordered three sign setups to be placed in crosswalks to comply with state law.

Job Description for Executive Assistant to BOS/TA

Deferred until next week.

Discussion on Request to Open Perrin Street for Gas Line

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

VOTED: To defer the matter until the meeting of September 29, 2010.

September 8, 2010

-3-

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Neil Gouck as Firefighter

Chief Jack introduced Mr. Gouck. He graduated from West Point Academy in 1998. He left the Army as a major. He is currently a member of the North Attleboro School Committee. Mr. Gouck is licensed as a Mass. paramedic.

Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Neil Gouck as a full time firefighter with the Seekonk Fire Department.

Mr. Gouck was sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

Discussion with MCIC Regarding the Function of the MCIC in Reviewing Warrant Articles and Dedicating a Source of Revenue to the Capital Stabilization Fund

Chairman David Bowden and members of the Capital Improvement Committee were in attendance.

Mr. Carroll recommended permanent funding of the capital plan.

Mr. Bowden stated that capital items should be on the November Town Meeting warrant rather than the spring. He said the Committee is looking at the roofs of town buildings. The CIC provided money for the siding of Town Hall.

Mr. Parker felt the responsibilities of the CIC are to make recommendations on improvements to the infrastructure regardless of finances. It is up to the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen to come up with the money. He suggested that future monies cannot be committed.

Mrs. Beverly Hart said the charge of the CIC, as approved by Town Meeting, is to work with the treasurer to determine debt service capacity and the ability to pay with other funding sources. The CIC needs to study the needs of the Town with the Board of Selectmen and establish priorities.

Mr. Arthur Foulkes said there needs to be information on costs so that residents can understand the numbers.

Ms. Carol Bragg suggested that money from the stabilization fund be used to evaluate all town buildings, including schools to come up with problems, priorities, and long term expenses.

Ms. Lauren Walsh suggested frequent meetings between the Board of Selectmen and CIC to develop a long term plan for maintenance.

September 8, 2010

-4-

Mr. Carroll will meet with the financial management team next week.

Discussion on Content on Letter from Arthur Foulkes – (Attached)

In discussing this matter, Mr. Carroll noted that the project was started by the previous Town Administrator.

Mr. Foulkes complained about the process. Mr. James Auclair of Custom Drywall Company was in attendance. Mr. Auclair had submitted a proposal in May 2008 that did not comply.

Custom Drywall had proposed working on the 81 areas that needed to be repaired, power washing, and a finish coat rather than siding.

Mr. Carroll stated that the current award resulted from an open bid process.

There was discussion about rescinding the vote and rebidding the project; however, Mr. Lamoureux noted that once the award letter is sent out that is an official document that the Town has accepted the bid.

Mr. Bowden cautioned against such action. He noted that the Town has a legal bidder.

Board members agreed that they have a legal agreement with the current contractor.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Parker advised that the annual 9/11 ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2010, at 6 p.m. outside Town Hall.

Mr. Parker advised that a middle school teacher had assisted a local resident who needed medical attention. He took the person to a Route 6 Emergency Room and then to Rhode Island Hospital.

Mr. Parker contacted the Superintendent of Schools. To date the School Committee has not recognized this teacher.

Mr. Brady suggested the individual should be commended by the Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Cavaco felt that Mrs. Gamer should be recognized for holding the office together while Mr. Carroll has been on vacation and Ms. Rogers is out sick.

Mr. Cavaco referred to two letters of commendation from the United States Marine Corps for Veteran's Agent Seth Bai's dedication to the Toys for Tots program and care packages for the troops overseas.

September 8, 2010

-5-

Mr. Lamoureux advised that the alarm system will be inspected on September 16.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

VOTED: To accept the one-year contract with the Firefighters Association, Local 1931, dated September 8, 2010.

Discussion on Visioning/Strategic Plan Workshop

Mr. Carroll stated that the first step is to have the Superintendent of Schools and Town Administrator evaluate the Town's financial condition and guidelines for the next year. He will meet with the financial team next week. The guidelines will be the same as last year. It is important to come up with a three or five year strategic vision for the Town. Having two ambulances 24/7 was discussed last week. Another possibility is to have a Recreation Program that people from other towns would pay to participate in.

Mr. Carroll proposed a work session as part of the next meeting to get ideas.

At 9:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Parker, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session to discuss the continuation of the Call Firefighters' Grievance, Pending Litigation with DPW, Collective Bargaining with Police Union and Collective Bargaining with Fire Union; not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Richardson – Aye.

Continuation of the grievance with Call Firefighters will be in Open Session.

Call Firefighters were not in attendance.

Chief Jack requested permission to respond to the handout that was distributed to the Board by call firefighters on August 25. He distributed copies of his remarks in which he refuted the comments made by call firefighters.

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

VOTED: That the actions of the Board of Selectmen dated August 25, 2010, letters from Chief Jack dated August 30, 2010 and September 1, 2010 be included as part of the minutes.

The vote: Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Richardson – Aye.

September 8, 2010

-6-

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

VOTED: To affirm the decision of Town Administrator Michael Carroll and Fire Chief Alan Jack to deny the grievance filed relative to the matter scheduled for this evening based on the fact that the Board was not presented any information or factual information that the Agreement with the call firefighters dated July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012 had been violated.

Prior to the vote, Capt. Healy explained that the State had cut back on the hours for training; however, a plan is in place to provide 14 hours of training at no additional cost to the town.

Pending Litigation with DPW

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux and Roger Alcott of Weston & Sampson were in attendance to discuss the DEP Administrative Consent Order regarding 41 Lake Street.

Mr. Lamoureux said he would like to seek closure on this site. The required testing and monitoring is extensive and expensive. Both he and Mr. Alcott have attempted to contact Mr. Drohan since June.

Mr. Alcott stated that testing has showed above GW1 standards and continued testing is necessary until it is at GW2.

One owner is not allowing the Town to decommission the well. He is trying to get a subdivision approved for six houses.

There is an option to evaluate whether there is a hydro geologic connection between the contamination in the road and the well. The well is deep. If the evaluation is done and approved by the DEP, it can be downgraded to GW2. This option would cost from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

He stated that two houses, one at 41 and one at 50 Lake Street, were connected. There was no contamination.

Mr. Alcott said it would cost from \$35,000 to \$45,000 to close out the well.

If there isn't a reduction in the level by 2012 the DEP would require some kind of action taken.

Mr. Brady wanted a legal opinion about taking the well by eminent domain.

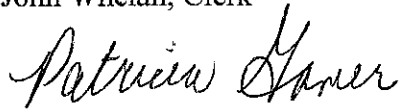
September 8, 2010

-7-

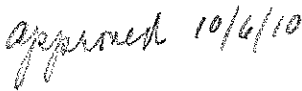
At this time, the video camera was turned off for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Gamer".

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Gamer" followed by the date "10/6/10".