

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 29, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Robert Richardson, David Parker, John Whelan, Francis Cavaco
Michael Brady arrived at 7:47 p.m.

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, this 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.

Mr. Cavaco corrected Item B under Town Administrator's report to read Route 114A.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2010

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of September 8, 2010.

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

A motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to accept the Executive Session minutes of September 8, 2010 was withdrawn and deferred until the next meeting.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman, 12 Westdale Avenue, commented on the operation of the cable equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

Verbal Request from Owner of Seekonk Precision Tool to Open Perrin Street for Gas Line Installation

Mr. Frederick P. Dobras, President of Seekonk Precision Tool, stated that the section of the street is a dead end that ends in his parking lot, and for many years his employees maintained it. It is extremely limited. He requested service from the Department of Public Works from

2000 to 2008 with no response. At first he said he wasn't given notice, but then said he was given just seven days notice that the street was going to be paved.

Mr. Carroll said that the practice at the DPW has been changed so that every time the road pavement plan is approved by the Board of Selectmen notice would go to all property owners on the street.

He did a site visit with Mr. Cavaco and looked at the bylaws, which do not provide leeway for making decisions. An option would be to amend the general bylaw.

Mr. Cavaco suggested a warrant article.

Mr. Carroll said the first step would be an amendment to the general bylaw to codify the notification process and the second step is to waive provisions of Paragraphs 2 and 3 for all individuals who want to open streets paved during the previous 12 months and that authority terminates 12 months after Town Meeting. He will prepare an article for a vote of the Board at the next meeting to be included in the November warrant.

Continued Discussion on Salary for Administrative Assistant in BOS/TA Office

Mr. Carroll said that this item is included at Mr. Cavaco's request and concerns an adjustment to the Administrative Assistant's salary during the two-week period she covered for the Executive Assistant.

Mr. Parker felt this item was improperly put on the agenda.

Mr. Carroll noted that Mrs. Gamer is the Administrative Assistant, a position not in a collective bargaining unit. Language covering that was negotiated in the Administrators' contract.

Mr. Parker said he could not support this. Mr. Whelan concurred.

Chairman Richardson suggested an adjustment in the hourly salary.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To indefinitely postpone discussion on this matter.

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

Update on Tree Removal from DPW

Postponed due to Mr. Lamoureux's illness.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Panel Installation at DPW

Postponed.

Consider Approval of Class II Motor Vehicle Wholesale License for Bristol County Auto Exchange

Mr. Jeff Mello was in attendance.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the Class II Motor Vehicle Wholesale License for Bristol County Auto Exchange.

The vote: Mr. Whelan – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Cavaco – No; Chairman Richardson – Aye. Mr. Cavaco had concerns about workman's compensation.

Consider Appointment of George Ferreira to Communications

Communications Director Dennis LeClerc and Mr. Ferreira were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To appoint George Ferreira to the Communications Department, effective October 4, 2010, subject to the approval of the background check.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Parker reported that West Nile Virus was discovered in south central Seekonk. Residents should call the Board of Health for information.

He asked if the Early Retirement bill recently passed by the State would be a warrant article.

Mr. Carroll replied no.

Mr. Parker inquired about a warrant article for the drainage in St. Laurent parkway.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Cabral is waiting to hear from legal counsel.

Mr. Parker complained because the new telephone number to the animal shelter is a toll call from some areas.

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Mr. Carroll explained that Mr. Alexander had asked Verizon for a phone number. A 617 exchange was assigned. After getting complaints, another number was assigned which seems to be a toll call.

Mr. Parker said he was told there is an I-net drop at the animal shelter.

Mr. Carroll will check.

Mr. Parker inquired about liquor licenses and the formation of an energy committee. He noted that a business on Route 6 has an estimate to put solar panels on the roof for \$800,000. Webster Bank will fund the project with a five-year payback period.

Mr. Parker said there is a rumor that plans for a senior center might be abandoned. He assured residents that is not going to happen. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss the purchase of a large piece of land. That property is worth \$5.8M and brings in \$126,752 in taxes.

He suggested that residents read the informational booklet on elections mailed by the State.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the New Bedford Police Department has received accreditation for the animal shelter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll noted that he forwarded the submitted articles in warrant format. The sequence has not been determined, and he is getting language on maintaining foreclosed properties.

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

VOTED: To reopen the warrant.

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

VOTED: To include Article 1 (to hear report of committee and subcommittees) on the warrant.

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

VOTED: To close the warrant.

Mr. Carroll advised that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 3 p.m. to discuss the possibility of acquiring the Showcase. The Chairs of various boards are invited to attend.

He advised that the Board of Health has issued a press release warning about the infected mosquitoes. There is information on the website. Also, the Health Agent has applied for 400 doses of H1N1 vaccine.

Board of Health member Vicki Kinniburgh said that this year the vaccines are combined into one flu shot.

Mr. Parker commended the Board of Health on the operation of last year's clinic.

There was discussion on spraying by Bristol County Mosquito Control.

Mr. Carroll advised that trash bills were mailed last week. Notices were included that indicated bills could be paid one half by October 26, 2010 and the second half by March 31, 2011.

He advised the Bristol County County Commissioners Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the Taunton Superior Court. Mr. Whelan will attend.

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

VOTED: To authorize Senator Timilty to amend the bill (House 4518), as follows:

In Section 3, in Subsection (a), by adding the following sentence:

"Upon conversion of the license under this section, Tito's Cantina, Inc. shall surrender any licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages or alcoholic beverages it holds for these premises.";

and by striking out Section 4;

and, in Section 5, in Subsection (a), by adding the following sentence: "Upon conversion of the license under this section, Chardonnay's, Inc. shall surrender any licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages or alcoholic beverages it holds for these premises."

and, in Section 6, in Subsection (a), by adding the following sentence: "Upon conversion of the license under this section, Toti's Pizza Palace, Inc. shall surrender any licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages or alcohol beverages it holds for these premises.";

and, in Section 7, in Subsection (a), by adding the following sentence: "Upon conversion of the license under this section, Eric Medeiros and Steven Medeiros d/b/a Brothers Seafood Restaurant shall surrender any licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages or alcoholic beverages they hold for these premises."

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Alex Restaurant will not be included at this time because paperwork has to be corrected.

These have to be approved before the end of the year or the process has to start all over again.


Mr. Carroll said that he received comments on three of the job descriptions, primarily concerning education and experience. He will distribute to department heads and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk



Patricia Gamer, Secretary

List of Documents Distributed at September 29, 2010 Meeting:

1. Information on George Ferreira – appointed to Communications
2. Draft Warrant
3. Document to be signed by Clerk re: House Bill 4518 (liquor licenses)