

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 6, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Executive Session Minutes of September 8, 2010

Mr. Carroll advised that these minutes include a section subject to a legal agreement. There is a reminder to future Boards of Selectmen that these minutes are subject to settlement and not to be released.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Executive Session minutes of September 8, 2010, as submitted.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Whelan – Abstained (not in attendance at that meeting); Chairman Richardson – Aye.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman of 12 Westdale Avenue cautioned senior citizens about credit card fraud. She had an incident that she reported to the Police Department.

Mr. Parker noted that he had an attempted scam concerning Craig's list.

Mr. Robert McLintock, 40 Oak Hill Avenue, talked about storing documents on digital files.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Alexander and he will meet with a vendor about document management software. He will contact the Secretary of the Commonwealth regarding records retention requirements. Funding would be considered in next year's budget.

Ms. Jen Pacheco, Seekonk Youth Soccer, talked about the need to have an additional night at another school. They currently have three hours at Martin School. They had originally approached the Recreation Commission and the School Committee and then referred to the Board.

A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 7 p.m. with the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Commission to discuss the use of sports facilities.

Chairman Richardson will provide Board members with copies of the schedules.

Mr. McLintock said the Town does not have enough facilities to allow for practices.

Mr. Arthur Foulkes of 207 Arcade Avenue spoke about a comment made two weeks ago that the Inspector General's office had pursued individuals with regard to complaints about the 152 project. He noted that Webster Larkin said he was not contacted.

Mr. Brady said that investigators reviewed all documents and could not find any evidence of double billing or billing for work that was not performed.

He will provide Mr. Foulkes with the names of the individuals at the Inspector General's office.

Mr. Foulkes said that he is uncomfortable with the way the Board approached the siding of Town Hall. He noted that this is a summer job, and he cautioned the Board about trying to get this project completed in November.

Continued Discussion on Job Description for Executive Assistant

Mr. Carroll said that, following the last meeting, Ms. Rogers had given him a letter expressing concerns about her job description. They met and edited the job description together. He distributed copies to the Board. He didn't anticipate there would be more comments.

Ms. Rogers said she still needs clarification. She spoke to Chairman Richardson when he was in the office the following day. She noted that most of these functions are very time consuming. She talked about responsibility for financial aspects of the Town. She doesn't have access to budgets. She felt there needs to be more clarification and interpretation of her duties. She added that she will not be held responsible if her interpretation is different than Mr. Carroll's.

Mr. Cavaco questioned why this is under discussion since Ms. Rogers and the Board had just received the revision.

Referring to "logistics of town meeting," Mr. Carroll clarified that it means to set it up.

Chairman Richardson said there is a disconnect on what logistics means. At his suggestion, Mr. Cavaco and Mr. Parker will meet with Ms. Rogers and Mr. Carroll.

Update on Tree Removal from DPW

Town Engineer David Cabral reported on tree removal in the absence of Mr. Lamoureux. Twelve trees were removed and forty trees are scheduled to be removed based on priority and in accordance with funding.

Mr. Cavaco noted that he had spoken to Mr. Lamoureux. The current budget amount is \$23,815.16 but there are outstanding bills.

A monetary gift to the Town will be included on the next agenda. Mr. Cabral will give the check to the Treasurer.

Consider Donation of Approximately a Five Acre Lot Known as Rocky Meadow Lot Located on Assessors Map 36 Lot 3 Woodland Avenue Rear

Susan M. Cute, Administrator of the Estate of Philip Frank Silva, was in attendance to donate the land to the Town in lieu of back taxes. The estate will close out at the end of October. This has the support of the Conservation Commission.

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

VOTED: To accept the five acre lot known as Rocky Meadow lot located on Assessors Map 36 Lot 3 Woodward Avenue Rear.

Consider Creation of a Working Group to Operate the Fire Department

Mr. Whelan expressed his concern on the wording of the agenda item. He read his memo.

Mr. Carroll will present a report on reallocation of funds for the next meeting.

Consider Warrant Article for Debt Exclusion for Landfill Capping

Mr. Brady suggested contacting legislators to ask for a special Act to authorize the Town to assess a landfill closure fee on the dumpster fee.

Board of Selectmen Comments

Mr. Brady inquired about the status of the RFP on payroll.

Mr. Carroll advised that the Treasurer is reviewing them and should have an answer by next week.

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Mr. Cavaco asked about an update on the 114A project (Grist Mill intersection) and the wording of a warrant article re: Seekonk Precision Tool.

He said that most employees have direct deposit and suggested eliminating pay stubs as a cost savings. Employees could access the information on line using an identification number.

He inquired about the Senior Clerk – Accounts Payable position in the Finance Department.

Mr. Carroll said that the position was posted in house and on the website. Mr. Alexander, Mrs. DeFontes, and Ms. Jamison are conducting interviews.

Mr. Cavaco asked if the Board members would be willing to purchase a tree to be planted on Town Hall property in memory of Sophia Smith.

Mr. Brady questioned why the position was posted on the website if an employee applied.

Mr. Carroll will make sure that the employee is interviewed.

Mr. Whelan asked about an update on the animal shelter.

Mr. Carroll said that Verizon is trying to find out where to put the poles. In the meantime, a cell phone was purchased to be used as the office phone. There were complaints that the number was a toll call.

Mr. Parker noted that Home and Commercial Security installed an alarm free of charge.

Mr. Carroll advised that Mr. Alexander could not find I-net jacks at the shelter.

Mr. Carroll said that he received a phone call from Sen. Timilty confirming the correction to the language on the liquor licenses.

Mr. Cavaco added that it should be before the Senate this week.

Mr. Carroll advised that he has draft language for the warrant article regarding eminent domain for Lake Street property.

Mr. Parker commended the School Department on the MCAS scores released by the State. Seekonk schools scored well above the state average in English, Language Arts, and Math.

He noted that the next meeting of the committee for the 200th Anniversary of the Town is scheduled for October 14, 2010, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Absentee ballots will be available next week at the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Parker reminded residents to read the informational booklet, especially the item about sales tax.

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll had suggested changes to the bylaw regarding road openings. He will have an updated list of streets for the next meeting.

He requested that the Board consider changing the meetings to Mondays opposite the School Committee.

He announced that the Mass. Municipal Association legislative breakfast meeting is scheduled for Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. Mr. Carroll and Mr. Cavaco will attend.

Mr. Carroll announced that the Cultural Council has grants available. The deadline is October 13, 2010. More information is available on the Cultural Council website.

He said that Tri County Vocational High School students will do some projects at Town Hall.

Chairman Richardson suggested that Cultural Council members attend a future meeting so that the Board can meet them.

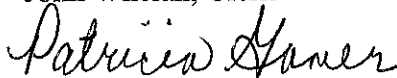
Mr. Carroll advised that copies of all policies will be distributed to employees. Upon receipt, employees will sign the tear sheet attached.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk



Patricia Gamer, Secretary

List of documents distributed at October 6, 2010 meeting:

1. Job Description for Executive Assistant
2. Tree Removal Information
3. Memo from Mr. Whelan
4. Estate of Philip Frank Silva documents