

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 27, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Executive Assistant: Anne Rogers

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

In accordance with the new Open Meeting Law, Mr. Parker announced that the meeting is being taped via audio and visual. He asked anyone in the audience who is taping to notify the Chairman.

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

In response to Mr. Cavaco's question, Chairman Richardson said Mr. Whelan had notified him that he would be late.

CHANGE OF MANAGER HEARING FOR LEDGEMONT COUNTRY CLUB

Mr. Nathan Marquard explained that he has been employed at Ledgemont for 14 years. He is TIP certified as well as all servers.

Mr. Carroll noted that department heads had signed off on the appropriate forms.

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

VOTED: To approve the manager transfer at Ledgemont Country Club from Gyda Jemery to Nathan Marquard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Approval of Minutes for September 29, 2010 and October 6, 2010

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of September 29, 2010.

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of October 6, 2010.

Consider Acceptance of Virtual Town Hall License Gift in the Amount of \$125.00

Mr. Cavaco explained that the money is for the yearly license in order to update the website to include Human Services.

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

VOTED: To accept Mr. Cavaco's generous donation of \$125 with the Board's appreciation.

Consider Acceptance of \$2,000 Gift for the Ball Field Diamond at the Middle School

Mr. Robert Lamoureux explained that the donation is from Mr. Ed Medeiros of East Commerce Solutions, Inc. of East Providence, RI. It will cover the cost of infield mix and new bases. The Department of Public Works has already done most of the work.

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

VOTED: To accept the generous donation of \$2,000 with great appreciation from the Town.

Consider Acceptance of \$2,500 Gift from Wal-Mart (\$1,250 for Fire and \$1,250 for Police)

Fire Chief Alan Jack and Police Chief Ronald Charron were in attendance to express their appreciation to Wal-Mart and Sandy Phillips for their generosity over the years.

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

VOTED: To graciously accept the \$2,500 gift from Wal-Mart with great appreciation of their continued support of the Town.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Recreation Director Ashley Pimental advised that the Recreation Commission met with the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools and all scheduling issues have been resolved.

Mr. Carroll added that they also met with the various leagues.

Mr. Parker commented on the number of children who participate in soccer on Friday and Saturday at Martin School.

OLD BUSINESS

Job Description for Executive Assistant

Mr. Carroll advised that Mr. Cavaco, Mr. Parker, Ms. Rogers, and he met and all agreed with the revisions and are in total agreement with the job description.

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

VOTED: To approve the latest job description for the Executive Assistant as agreed to by the employee and the Town.

Discussion/Consideration of Changing Board of Selectmen Meeting Night

Chairman Richardson noted that Board members had voted to meet biweekly until the end of the year. The question is should the meetings be changed to Mondays to alternate with the School Committee.

Mr. Parker said the Board should meet every Wednesday. He expressed concern about female employees alone in the building until 7 p.m.

Mr. Cavaco agreed.

Mr. Brady suggested the Board not meet if there is only one item on the agenda.

Status Report on Arcade Avenue at Fall River Area (Grist Mill) Intersection and Other Current Road Projects

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux advised the 25% design was completed on the 114A project and comments were received from the Boston traffic section. It is rated at 8.5 by MA Highway. Specs are being developed for a RFP for design. The cost should be \$200,000 to \$250,000. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2.5M.

He has contacted MA Highway to set up a meeting to identify the source of funding. Chapter 90 funding can be used for the remainder of the design work.

Mr. Cavaco said that last week Mr. Lamoureux had indicated that District Five came back with deficiencies. He requested a copy of the report.

Mr. Lamoureux assured that the Grist Mill area will be the three-way intersection design as promoted by the Board.

He advised that informational letters were sent out to residents regarding Hammond Street construction. He is preparing specs to have tree stumps and ledge removed. The project will not have to go through the bid process if bids come in under \$25,000.

Bid opening for Route 152 is scheduled for November 9. Residents have been notified. Money is set aside for temporary easement or land taking.

He has not heard from FEMA. Jacobs Street is critical. There was a meeting with the Conservation Commission today to review the preliminary design for some of the closed streets. The funding from FEMA will only cover 75% of the cost. This will be a spring project.

Mr. Cavaco asked about follow up with FEMA.

Mr. Lamoureux said he is in the process of getting information on Jacobs Street for FEMA.

Mr. Brady questioned whether FEMA has money for Seekonk.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule for Surface Treatment/Paving Program for 2011

Mr. Lamoureux advised this year's cost is \$570,000; almost \$20,000 less than last year and more roads will be treated because of the process used. He has over 200 letters ready to go out tomorrow.

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

VOTED: To approve the Road Improvement and Reclamation Schedule as proposed by Mr. Lamoureux.

Consider Appointment to Community Preservation Committee

Ms. Judith Johnson of 72 Pleasant Street was in attendance.

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

VOTED: To appoint Ms. Judith Johnson to fill the unexpired term of Michael Kreyssig on the Community Preservation Committee until June 2011.

Consider Appointment to Senior Clerk - Accounts Payable

Finance Director Bruce Alexander advised that there were 15 applicants and three were interviewed. He recommended the transfer of Kathleen Coyle from the Department of Public Works.

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

VOTED: To happily endorse the recommendation of the Finance Director to appoint Kathleen Coyle as Senior Clerk - Accounts Payable.

On another matter, Mr. Alexander reported that the Town had received \$8,000 from FEMA. The remainder is being held up.

Discussion on Payroll RFP with Treasurer

Town Treasurer/Collector Christine DeFontes recommended that the payroll process continue to be done in house. This follows a detailed review of the Requests for Proposals and looking at other towns.

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

VOTED: To continue the payroll process in-house.

Status Report from Cultural Council (William Clark)

Chairman William Clark explained that each city and town receives a certain amount of money based on population. Seekonk's amount this year is \$3,879. There are 40 applications totaling \$22,000. The Council will review those to make sure they qualify.

The Council sponsors programs at the library and in schools.

Community Preservation Act Projects and Proposal to Restore Old Town Hall

Mr. Ronald Blum and Mr. Daniel Horton were in attendance.

Mr. Blum stated that the CPC had voted to recommend to Town Meeting a land purchase on Arcade Avenue to extend the trails and \$40,000 for engineering plans to renovate the Old Town Hall.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Horton, on behalf of the Historical Commission, has proposed to restore the Old Town Hall for historic reasons.

Mr. Horton said that specifics would be spelled out in the lease.

Mr. Parker wanted to make sure the Board of Selectmen would not be asked to provide funding for the operation of the building.

Mr. Cavaco wanted to see the results of the RFP.

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Mrs. Pheobe Lee Dunn, 660 Fall River Avenue, said it would be a shame to tear down this building. With the 200th Anniversary coming up, she felt the Town could extend an olive branch with the potential lease to the Wampanoags.

Mr. Horton said the building will be available for town organizations, and the Wampanoags will establish a scholarship for Seekonk High School.

Mr. Michael Markley, Chairperson of the Seekonk Tribe, noted that they have been involved with this for the past four years and they intend to use the building to develop a cultural center. The Historical Commission will be housed there as well.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Parker noted that three cats and a dog were adopted on Saturday at the Save-A-Pet Adoption sponsored by Fox Toyota. He thanked those involved.

He inquired about Lake Street and MS Transportation.

Mr. Carroll advised that the Lake Street land taking is a warrant article. MS Transportation was advertised three times and cannot be located.

Mr. Parker said that Seekonk Hospitality is a huge clerical mess and has been operating for months without a license.

He has received several phone calls that cars are parked at Luther's Corner with "For Sale" signs.

Mr. Cavaco said that he checked it out on Saturday. There was a car with dealer's plates for sale. The Police Department has issued violations.

Mr. Parker reminded citizens to vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Seekonk High School. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Brady felt it is disgraceful that troops will not be allowed to vote because ballots were not sent out.

Mr. Parker noted that he had suggested that Mr. Carroll contact Citizens for Citizens to discuss the possibility of senior aides working in Town Hall. He is disappointed that two weeks have gone by and nothing was done.

Mr. Cavaco and Chairman Richardson talked about a Selectman's request to have "No Parking" signs at Aitken School.

In response to Mr. Cavaco's question, Mr. Carroll said job descriptions are ready.

Mr. Cavaco requested that all licensed departments update the website by December 1, 2010.

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Mr. Cavaco advised the "Brown Bag" program would start on November 24th. Eligible residents can pick up groceries in the Town Hall meeting room from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Residents can contact Human Services for further information.

With regard to liquor license conversion, Mr. Cavaco said that the Town's State Representative has an idea that this is a political stunt to support another candidate. He noted that this Board met with Sen. Timilty and Rep. D'Amico. He called Boston's third reading office and was told Rep. D'Amico did not submit the bill. This expires on December 1, 2010.

Mr. Cavaco expressed his appreciation to Sen. Timilty, Senate legal counsel, and Chief of Staff for their assistance.

Mr. Parker said that this process started in February. It appears that Rep. D'Amico is not respected in Boston and his bills are put aside. This is not political, and he personally has a problem with that.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll announced that former Director of Finance Paul Manzi had passed away.

Report on Town Meeting Warrant

He referred to items that should be included on the warrant for Town Meeting. Bloomfield Street will require an easement.

Mr. Brady said that he would not support it on advice of counsel.

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

VOTED: To open the warrant to add possible articles.

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

VOTED: To add the proposed bylaw amendment as submitted by the Capital Improvement Committee.

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

VOTED: To add a second line to the current proposed article to transfer a sum of money from free cash to the stabilization fund.

No action on Mr. Cavaco's recommendation to centralize maintenance.

Mr. Carroll noted that the CIC will prepare an article to evaluate all town buildings, beginning with general government. This should be discussed with the School Department.

A motion by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

VOTED: 2 Ayes; 2 Nays; To include a ballot question to reduce the amount of real estate by an amount equal to \$1M.

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

There was no support of Mr. Cavaco's motion to give 50% of free cash back to taxpayers.

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

VOTED: To close the warrant.

Mr. Parker stated that he received a letter from a concerned taxpayer who feels the Selectmen's stipend should be tied in with meeting attendance.

Mr. Brady felt that might be a bylaw change.

Mr. Cavaco noted that he had brought that up years ago.

Mr. Carroll suggested a Tri Board meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

Notice to Citizens to Prepare for Snow Removal

Information was given to the press and will be posted on the website and Cable TV.

Reassign Responsibilities for (a) ADA and (b) Telephones

Mr. Carroll announced that Mr. LeClerc has been the ADA Coordinator. Veterans Agent Seth Bai will assume that position. Mr. LeClerc will be responsible for all telephones throughout the Town. Mr. Alexander has been doing that.

Mr. Carroll reported that the Cable contract with Comcast might be finalized by next week.

Chairman Richardson requested that the Town Administrator contact the School Department. He heard the Comcast bill had not been paid for three months.

Seeking Citizen Input for Next Year's Budget

Mr. Carroll said that he asked Mr. Alexander to prepare the website so that people can submit ideas. Mr. LeClerc, Chief Charron, and Ms. St. Hilaire will be involved.

He talked about Attleboro's sewage treatment plant. Most of the site is in Seekonk.

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Mr. Carroll reported that the sign bylaw focus group will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. They are working on residential and temporary signs.

He received a draft lease with the Wampanoags for the Old Town Hall. He has been negotiating with Mr. Horton.

Mr. Carroll suggested a work session to review the Board's goals and objectives.

He was notified that one of the Board of Health members had been absent for five consecutive meetings and is automatically off the board. Citizens who are interested can submit a talent bank form.

Planning Board members as special municipal employees will be on next week's agenda.

Rep. D'Amico arrived at the meeting. He told the Board the liquor license conversion should be heard the following day. He said there is no misunderstanding. There are people who have other interests. He said that things don't always move quickly. His comments to the press were in response to a Board member's remarks to the newspaper.

Speaking as a taxpayer, Mr. Cavaco suggested that Mr. Whelan should resign from the Board. He has missed a lot of meetings and is ineffective as a Board member.

At 10:05 p.m., Mr. Cavaco motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session, per Chapter 30A, Section 21, Par. (a) 2. for matters relative to collective bargaining; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

accepted 11-17-10

List of Items Distributed at the Board of Selectmen meeting of October 27, 2010

Executive Assistant Job Description

DPW Projects Update

Talent Form for Judith Johnson (Community Preservation Commission)

Appointment Letter -- Kathleen Coyle

Snow Plowing Information

Board of Selectmen Goals and Objectives

Proposed Bylaw Change -- Capital Budget