

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 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 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**EULOGY FOR AL GEORGE**

Gregory George paid tribute to his father.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Proposal and Adoption of an Order to Layout Letendre Drive (Grassy Hill Farm Subdivision)**

Town Planner John Hansen and DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux explained that the road meets the Town's standards and could be accepted at Town Meeting.

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

**VOTED:** To adopt an order to layout Letendre Drive (Grassy Hill Farm subdivision) to be voted on at the Town Meeting on November 29, 2010.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion with Town Clerk Regarding Passport Applications**

Town Clerk Janet Parker explained that the State Department would not allow Town Clerk's offices to process passports as of May 1, 2011.

On another matter, she said that the School Department has requested to use the town seal in conjunction with plans for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town.

This will be an agenda item.

Mr. Parker noted that Seekonk is the first town in the Commonwealth that has done passports. In a ten year period, \$20,000 to \$40,000 has been generated by processing passports. He suggested transferring the responsibility to another town department in order to keep the revenue in town.

It will be on the next agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of October 27, 2010.

The vote: Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Mr. Brady ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Abstained

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Executive Session minutes of October 27, 2010, with the notation not to release these minutes.

The vote: Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Mr. Brady ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Abstained.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Ms. Carol Bragg, 44 Hope Street, suggested raising the Seekonk town flag on the flagpole.

Mr. Cavaco said it has to be a separate pole; not on the same pole as the American flag.

It will be on the next agenda.

Ms. Bragg raised concern about a Cable 9 program about Town Meeting. She was originally on a small committee of four people who were working on putting that together. It appears that Citizens for Better Government has changed to Seekonk Republican Committee. She is deeply offended and disappointed that a political party is sponsoring this and that the Board of Library Trustees and Finance Committee agreed to do this together with the Republican Party. She said the program is on the Town's home page and she suggested it should be looked into as to who is responsible.

Mr. Parker said that it simply says it was brought to you by the Seekonk Republican Committee. He felt the program is informative and is not political at all.

Mr. Carroll advised that he spoke to Ms. Bragg and Ms. St. Hilaire. The content is good government issues. He will talk to Mr. Buckley and/or Mr. Alexander. He noted that each department has a page on the website.

Mr. Brady suggested that Mr. Carroll send out a directive that departments cannot put anything on the home page. This matter will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SRPEDD Update Presented by C. Bragg**

Ms. Bragg reported that SRPEDD was instrumental in putting together a cooperative purchasing agreement for office supplies for 23 communities, including Seekonk. The contract was awarded to W. B. Mason.

SRPEDD received \$300,000 for a 911 regional feasibility study. Seventeen cities and towns plus two universities and colleges are included in that study. Seekonk is not involved but can join later. There is no commitment. The study will begin in January.

On the DPW solar installations, SRPEDD was the conduit by which communities accessed funds and packaged the application for Seekonk.

SRPEDD has worked with the Planning Department on the Housing Production Plan to be presented tonight.

SRPEDD has submitted a \$400,000 regional Brownfields site assessment application to the EPA that includes Seekonk. A decision is expected in April. They have identified 126 sites in Seekonk; most of them are gas stations where there are some oil problems.

SRPEDD is administering the regional Strategic Planning Grant for preparation of the Master Plan.

Each SRPEDD Commissioner is entitled to 20 hours for the Board they represent. It makes sense to use that time for revision of the sign bylaw.

### **Town Meeting Warrant Discussion**

Mr. Carroll advised that he reviewed the warrant with the Town Moderator and sent copies to department heads that requested an article.

Chairman Richardson deferred until the next meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Housing Production Plan Presented by Town Planner John Hansen**

Town Planner John Hansen advised that revisions to the zoning bylaws are necessary. Seekonk's elderly population is rising and the young family population is decreasing. There are a limited number of rental units in this Town. Seekonk is at 1.6% in subsidized housing. The qualification for affordable housing is median housing income of 80% per year per household. He is looking at municipal opportunities for possible conversion to affordable housing.

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Housing Authority Executive Director Francine Kouis spoke about the need for affordable housing in Seekonk. She has 30 persons on a waiting list and also a non-resident list. She strongly urged the Board's support.

Several residents spoke in support of affordable housing, including Planning Board member Bill Rice and Jan Tabor of Human Services.

A motion by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Brady (for discussion), was withdrawn.

Mr. Brady had reservations. He said the plan would change the character of the Town. He would prefer a ballot question.

The matter will be on the agenda in two weeks.

### **Administrative Consent Order Presented by R. Lamoureux**

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux and Roger Alcott from Weston & Sampson were in attendance.

Mr. Lamoureux advised that the DEP is requiring the Town to sign an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) in regards to the oil spill that occurred at DPW in 1998. There are certain requirements in the ACO that may be costly to the Town. The ACO has to be signed by November 19, 2010.

Mr. Carroll advised that he has been in contact with the property owner.

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

**VOTED:** To accept and sign the Administrative Consent Order as presented by the DPW Superintendent.

Mr. Carroll will ask the property owner to meet with the Board at 6 p.m. prior to the Town Meeting.

### **Report on Cable License**

Mr. Carroll advised that Atty. Solomon has not concluded discussion with Gerry Buckley. This item will remain on the agenda until action is taken.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Parker stated that he had received telephone calls regarding people connecting donations on Route 6 to benefit a Florida church. He contacted newly-elected Rep. Howitt to find out state regulations. It appears the Town could draft a bylaw locally. Mr. Parker and Chief Charron will follow through.

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Mr. Cavaco advised that Proclamations will be given to the Boy Scouts who made Eagle Scout prior to the Town Meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cavaco asked about an update on the tree list.

Mr. Carroll replied that it is included in the DPW report.

Mr. Cavaco said he had not received a response to his e-mail to Mr. Carroll regarding the postponement on the 152 project.

Mr. Carroll said he has not had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Lamoureux.

Mr. Cavaco mentioned that he received an e-mail from Kyrstal DeFontes in her capacity as cheering leading coach. It seems the Aitken School cannot be used for recreational activities.

Mr. Cavaco advised that the Town has received approval of the liquor license conversion. Executive Assistant Anne Rogers will prepare a packet so that license holders can prepare the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Cavaco and Mr. Parker urged Mr. Carroll to solicit an additional person for the BOS/TA office through the Citizen For Citizens senior aide program.

Mr. Cavaco advised that the ðBrown Bagö program, sponsored by Bristol Elder Services, would start on Wednesday, November 24, 2010. Pick up will be between 1 and 2:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Carroll advised that he has drafted a proposed policy procedure for preparing a warrant.

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary