

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 15, 2010
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Executive Assistant: Anne P. Rogers

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

In accordance with the new Open Meeting Law, Mr. Parker stated the meeting is being taped both audio and visual. George Morse of the Seekonk Star advised he is taping audio and Abigail Crocker of Patch and Jennifer Quinn of Cable 9 video recording.

WORK SESSION

Discussion on the Future of Seekonk

Town Administrator Michael J. Carroll advised that his current contract with the Town calls for the Board to notify him six months prior to expiration of its intent to extend that contract.

At this time, he intends to retire before the contract would begin. He recommended a work session at the end of the next meeting to review the job description and develop goals for the town.

In response to Mr. Parker's question, Mr. Carroll said he made a commitment and would stay until June.

Mr. Cavaco referred to Section 18 of the contract that the Board would have to make a decision within a six month period prior to the expiration; that would be this meeting

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

VOTED: Based on the information given tonight, that the Chairman send a letter to the Town Administrator prior to December 31, 2010 that the Board of Selectmen does not intend to renew his contract.

Mr. Parker felt this would probably be the smoothest transition ever because Mr. Carroll will stay until June.

A work session was planned for the first meeting in January.

Senior Manager Employment Contracts

Mr. Carroll advised that the contracts of Police Chief Ronald Charron and Finance Director Bruce Alexander expire on June 30, 2011. They have both indicated they want to be reappointed.

HEARING FOR SEASONAL LIQUOR LICENSE CONVERSION TO ANNUAL

Chairman Richardson opened the hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Brothers Seafood, Tito's Cantina, Inc. and Chardonnay's Restaurant

Executive Assistant Anne P. Rogers advised that the process started in February 2010. The Governor signed Chapter 368 of the Acts of 2010 on November 11, 2010 to allow the conversion of seasonal licenses to annual. Ms. Rogers briefed license holders on the paperwork necessary to complete the transfers. These three establishments have submitted the proper documentation. They are in compliance and have the necessary insurance. These licenses are location specific and cannot be transferred to any other location in town.

Mr. Whelan explained that according to the Ethics Commission he can vote on restaurant licenses but cannot participate in any action regarding package stores.

He thanked Mr. Cavaco and Ms. Rogers for their efforts.

Mr. Cavaco added his appreciation to Sen. Timilty. He suggested that Sen. Timilty should be invited to personally present the licenses to these establishments.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen forward to the ABCC the conversion of the seasonal to annual liquor license according to Chapter 368 of the Acts of 2010 for Brothers Seafood.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen forward to the ABCC the conversion of the seasonal to annual liquor license according to Chapter 368 of the Acts of 2010 for Tito's Cantina.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen forward to the ABCC the conversion of the seasonal to annual liquor license according to Chapter 368 of the Acts of 2010 for Chardonnay's Restaurant.

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Chairman Richardson closed the hearing at 7:22 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Acceptance of \$250.00 Donation from Sam's Club to the Park and Recreation Department

Recreation Director Ashley Pimental advised the money would be used for a storage shed for baseball and softball equipment.

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

VOTED: To accept the generous donation from Sam's Club for a shed on Cole Street, upon approval of the School Committee.

Consider Acceptance of Christmas Wreaths for the War Memorials

Mr. Cavaco stated that he wanted to donate wreaths for the memorials outside Town Hall to honor the soldiers who gave their lives for the Town of Seekonk.

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

VOTED: To accept Mr. Cavaco's generous donation of wreaths for the memorials outside Town Hall.

Consider Approval of Annual Alcohol Licenses

Mr. Whelan left the room.

Ms. Rogers explained that establishments have met all requirements.

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

VOTED: To approve the Club Licenses for Seekonk Columbus Corporation, d/b/a Knights of Columbus, Seekonk Council #5108, and Ledgemont Country Club, Inc. (including cart).

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

VOTED: To approve the Inn Holder Licenses for Seekonk Hospitality, Inc., d/b/a Ramada Inn, and J & W Corporation, d/b/a Johnson & Wales Inn.

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

VOTED: To approve the Common Victualler Licenses for 555 Corporation, d/b/a/ West Wind Restaurant; 99 West, Inc., d/b/a 99 Restaurants; T.G.I. Fridayø, Inc., d/b/a T.G.I. Fridayø; Bugaboo Creek Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Bugaboo Creek Steak House (establishment closed); Bay State Racquet Club, Inc.; Buca Restaurants, Inc., d/b/a Buca DeBeppo; Applebeeø Restaurant North LLC, d/b/a Applebeeø Neighborhood Grill & Bar; Outback/New England ó 1 Limited Partnership, d/b/a Outback Steakhouse; The Luxury Box, Inc.; J. T. Development Partners LLC; Eleven Forty Nine; and CABB, LLC, d/b/a Bone Yard Saloon.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To approve the Common Victualler License for Grist Mill Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Old Grist Mill Tavern.

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

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To approve the Veteranø Club License for the American Legion of Seekonk, Inc., Post #311.

The vote: Mr. Brady ó Aye; Mr. Parker ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Chairman Richardson ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Abstained. Mr. Cavaco advised that with all due respect he has a lifetime membership with the American Legion.

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

VOTED: To approve the Section 12 Wine and Malt Licenses for Titoø Cantina, Inc.; MI-KAM, Inc., d/b/a Bakerø Corner Pizza Restaurant; Popular Pizza LLC, d/b/a Popular Pizza; Chardonnayø, Inc., d/b/a Chardonnayø; and Totiø Pizza Palace, Inc., d/b/a Totiø Grill and Pizzeria.

Ms. Rogers noted that Titoø, Chardonnayø and Totiø will surrender these licenses once the all alcohol licenses are issued.

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

VOTED: To approve the Section 15 All Alcohol Package Store Licenses for Eleven Forty-Three Fall River Avenue Associates, Inc., d/b/a Hillø Liquors; Country Liquors, Inc.; Mohler-Nadeau, Inc., d/b/a Landry Liquors; Seekonk Liquors, Inc., d/b/a Chris Gasbarroø Fine Wine & Spirits; and Araujo Liquors, Ltd., d/b/a Regency Liquors.

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

VOTED: To approve the Section 15 Wine & Malt Package Store Licenses for Samø Food Stores, Inc., d/b/a DB Mart #13; Reema Corporation, d/b/a Oakhill Package Goods Store; Parkerø Meat & Deli, Inc., d/b/a Parkerø Meat Market; Seekonk Petroleum, Inc.; Tonyø Seafood, Inc.; and Vintage Fine Wine & Beer, Inc.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Ms. Carol Bragg of 44 Hope Street said that she didnø hear expressions from the Board so she wanted to personally thank Mr. Carroll.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Job Descriptions

As previously reported to the Board, Mr. Carroll said that the job descriptions have been circulated to the departments. Many didnø have any comments. Most of the comments were on lifting requirements (Library, Conservation). He has incorporated all the comments.

The Board will review the job descriptions in the office and discuss at the December 29th meeting.

Status of FEMA Projects

Mr. Carroll advised that Mr. Alexander notified him that the FEMA reimbursement on one project would be one half of what it was supposed to be.

Further discussion deferred until Mr. Lamoureux is in attended.

WORK SESSION

Fire Department Staffing

Mr. Carroll distributed materials that include a memo prepared by the Chairman and a financial analysis prepared with Chief Jack to address the concept of increasing the staffing of the Fire Department to supplement additional ambulance availability and fire response. The addition of four firefighters will have a net impact of \$9,309 when all the firefighters reach maturity. Until that time, it will cost much less even to the point that action can be taken this year without a need to supplement the Fire Department salary or fringe benefit line items. This would put seven firefighters on each group. The Department could pick up ambulance calls through mutual aid. The impact eventually would be on overtime. Call firefighters would have the opportunity to apply for the positions.

Chairman Richardson said that he met with Mr. Carroll, Chief Jack, Mr. Alexander and the presidents of both the career and call firefighters union.

Chief Jack stated that he supports the proposal. This will go a long way to assist in providing better coverage. The ultimate goal is to make certain that every ambulance that goes out is staffed by a paramedic. It is done now but not on a 24/7 basis. It would provide the ability to capture additional revenue.

Mr. Parker agreed with the concept of converting call to career firefighters but he wanted to review the proposal.

Mr. Whelan had reservations. He heard that Blue Cross payments would not be made to the Fire Department but would go directly to patients. He talked about higher criteria for the use of oxygen, which will also be a loss of revenue. He talked about the possibility of having to lay them off in the future.

Chief Jack responded that Blue Cross of Massachusetts has tried to do that. The Association of Massachusetts Fire Chiefs is 100% opposed. The issue isn't with municipalities as much as it is with private companies.

The Chief said that the billing company deals with a collection agency. A recent agreement with the billing company is at a less percentage than what the Town previously paid.

Mr. Whelan said the positions weren't advertised.

Mr. Parker said that there had been an extensive outreach for call firefighters.

Chairman Richardson noted that there are only six firefighters are each shift.

Mr. Brady said he supports it.

In response to Mr. Cavaco's question, Chief Jack gave the names of the call firefighters.

Mr. Cavaco asked if one of them is the Chairman's son-in-law and questioned if that is a conflict of interest. He suggested offering the test to all residents because the Town is an equal opportunity employer.

Mr. Carroll referred to the by law amendment which requires that opportunities are given to current employees.

Board members agreed to accept the proposal and defer until the meeting of January 5, 2011 for direction on how to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Staffing

Adam Clement, Acting President of the Seekonk Firefighters Union, asked the Board of Selectmen to consider the proposal to provide increased safety of residents and firefighters.

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman spoke in support of additional firefighters.

James Garrott, a call firefighter, stated that all seven members are in support of this proposal. He noted that Chief Jack made every effort to hire call firefighters.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of FEMA Projects

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux advised that he received project estimates from FEMA, with the exception of Pine Street. FEMA will not fund the culvert on Jacob Street. DPW did some work and the street is now open. FEMA will provide \$26,000 for that project, \$14,000 for Prospect Street, \$12,000 for Read Street and \$65,000 for Woodward Avenue. He noted that the Town will receive 75% of the worksheet amount and only 90% of that until the project is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept with Regret the Resignation of Jam Tabor as Outreach Case Manager for Human Services

Mr. Carroll advised that the position has been posted in-house but has not been advertised. d.

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Jan Tabor as Outreach Case Manager for Human Services, effective January 3, 2011 and to send her a letter of appreciation.

Mr. Cavaco said this is a sad day for the Town of Seekonk. Heread his letter in which he expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Tabor for her dedication to the senior citizens of Seekonk.

Consider Appointment of Linda Marcotte to Human Services

Human Services Director Bernadette Huck said that Mrs. Tabor will be greatly missed.

She noted that this is a busy time of the year for Human Services. She wanted to hire Linda Marcotte for a period of no more than 19 hours per week until December 30, 2010. This position is funded through a grant.

A motion by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco (discussion), was defeated because the proper paperwork was not submitted. The matter was deferred until next week. Ms. Marcotte will be in attendance.

Mrs. Huck advised that residents who need a Christmas dinner should contact the Human Services office. Fuel assistance is available and there is a waiting list for participation in the òBrown Bagö project. She noted that the Tax Work Off Program is very successful. She received the first half of grant funding.

Accept Appointment of Timothy Cutler as Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Deferred until next meeting.

Consider Appointment of Melissa Cota as Administrative Secretary for the DPW

DPW Superintendent advised that he received more than 266 applications for the position. . He recommended the appointment of Melissa Cota. She was in attendance.

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

VOTED: To appoint Melissa Cota as Administrative Secretary for the Department of Public Works, effective December 20, 2010.

Comm-Tract Presentation with Russ Hart and Bryon Hopkins

Mr. Russell Hart explained that the side letter of the contract would give the Town of Seekonk \$132,000 by February 1, 2011. The Town would own the I-Net by the end of May.

He introduced Byron Hopkins, President of Comm-Tract, the company that installed the fiber optic in the Seekonk schools.

Mr. Hopkins made a presentation to the Board. The fiber has a 25-year warranty and the life span is around 30-35 years. These are secure networks.

Mr. Carroll noted that this firm is on the state bid list.

Mr. Hopkins said Comm Tract would do maintenance at about \$2,500 per year for schools and the town. The response time is generally four hours.

The concensus of the Board is to move forward with replacing the I Net with fiber optic and obtain quotes.

Discussion with Donald Kinniburgh on Sick Leave Payout

Mr. Kinniburgh withdrew his request.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Parker and Mr. Brady extended wishes for a Merry Christmas. Mr. Whelan added his greetings.

Mr. Cavaco inquired about the new truck for DPW.

Mr. Carroll said he would find out.

Mr. Cavaco advised that brown bags will be available on December 22, 2010 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Town Hall. He provided the Human Services phone number for residents who have any needs. He will attend a meeting at Bristol Elder Services and will try to get additional allocation of brown bags. He noted Town Hall, Library, Grist Mill, Brothers Seafood, Chardonnayø and Totiø are locations for drop off of toys for øToys for Tots.ø

Mr. Cavaco inquired about the 114A Project - 25% submittal letter.

As the liaison to Human Services, Mr. Cavaco advised that the Human Services Council requested to meet with the clerical union representative. The Board of Selectmen agreed that should not be allowed.

Mr. Cavaco questioned Mr. Lamoureux's request for clothing reimbursement in the amount of \$585.09.

Mr. Carroll referred to the contract. The proper procedure would be for the Town Administrator to authorize payment upon getting receipts from Mr. Lamoureux.

Mr. Cavaco requested that the Finance Director keep better control of expenditures.

Mr. Cavaco said that the packets are going out late because some department heads do not get materials in by the deadline.

He raised questions about the siding project at Town Hall.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll advised that the tax rate has been certified by the Department of Revenue at \$11.39 residential and \$22.62 commercial. He commended Mrs. Gabriel and Mr. Alexander for their assistance.

He distributed a memo which he gave to Ms. Huck and presented to the Human Services Council requesting that she start to work on a strategic plan for the future.

He distributed a request from the Planning Department that the housing production plan not be placed on the April ballot. Mr. Cavaco said it should go on.

He said he met with Ms. Bragg, Mr. Lamoureux, and Mr. Roy to discuss an RFP to study the Town's facilities.

At 10 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Parker, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session for purposes of collective bargaining; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary