

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 13, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Vice-Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. The meeting was rescheduled from January 12, 2011 due to a snowstorm.

Vice-Chairman Parker advised that the meeting is recorded via audio and visual. George Morse of the Seekonk Star is recording audio.

There was a five minute recess until the Chairman arrived.

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

VOTED: To move to Item C under New Business.

Consider Promotion of Police Officer to Sergeant

Police Chief Ronald Charron respectfully requested the promotion of Officer Gerard Lafleur.

Board members thanked Officer Lafleur for his service to our country.

Mr. Parker said he would be honored to motion, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the promotion of Officer Gerald Lafleur to the position of sergeant.

Sgt. Lafleur was sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Acceptance of \$2,500 DECON Grant from the Department of Public Health for the Fire Department

Fire Chief Alan Jack advised the Fire Department has received the grant for several years. It is a DECON trailer to be used to train with other departments.

Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the \$2,500 DECON grant from the Department of Public Health to the Seekonk Fire Department.

Consider Acceptance of \$4,815 Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) Grant from the Department of Fire Services Office of Public Safety and Security for the Fire Department

Chief Jack stated that this grant allows firefighters to go into the schools to teach children about fire safety.

Mr. Brady noted that his son and his classmates have enjoyed the program.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$4,815 SAFE grant presented to the Seekonk Fire Department.

Accept Receipt of a Bristol County Technical Rescue Trailer

Chief Jack said that the State of Massachusetts has found it necessary to create technical rescue teams. Teams are trained for hazardous situations. Seekonk is one of two communities in Bristol County selected to be the host of a technical rescue trailer. Two firefighters are currently in training and three others will start in March. The Town of Norton is the other community.

Mr. Parker congratulated Chief Jack and the department.

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

VOTED: To graciously accept the Bristol County Technical Rescue Trailer to be kept in Seekonk for response in the Bristol County area.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Reaffirming Letter of Support for Save a Pet

Mrs. Patricia Cloutier, President of Save-A-Pet, was in attendance.

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

VOTED: To reaffirm the letter of support for Save-A-Pet in order to solicit donations.

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

VOTED: To pre-approve Save-A-Pet to expend monies raised for the care of animals not to exceed \$25,000.

Mrs. Cloutier advised that the auction is scheduled for March 22, 23, and 24, 2011.

Update on Hiring Process to Replace Police Officer

Chief Charron advised that he sent out a 26 page employment application. After the interview process, the successful candidate will be subjected to an extensive background investigation. The candidate would be offered an appointment contingent on passing a physical, agility and psychological test. The Chief expected to have an appointment by March.

Seek Approval to Store Message Boards for Southeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

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

VOTED: To approve the Police Chief's participation in the Southeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council and approve the storage of message boards.

Consider Approval to Hire Firefighter from Established Eligibility List

Chief Jack stated that this is a budgeted position. He requested authorization to fill the vacancy that currently exists with the only applicant on the eligibility list. The candidate has completed all testing and is a licensed Mass. paramedic. He has met all the criteria established by the Board of Selectmen.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Fire Chief to proceed with the hiring process to hire Aaron Grillo, subject to his passing all the necessary tests. The Chief will return to the Board with a recommendation.

Donation Agreement Police Association Building

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

VOTED: To graciously accept the Police Association donation of the building behind the library for use by the Town.

Consider Appointment to Board of Health

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

VOTED: To appoint Gail S. Nunes to the Board of Health for the duration of the unexpired term.

Mr. Cavaco said that the Board of Health is not complying with the Board's directive to have all meetings recorded.

This matter will be on next week's agenda.

Report from the Senior Center Building Committee

Members of the committee David Bowden, James Ranke, and Robert McLintock were in attendance. Mr. Bowden and Mr. Ranke explained updated plans. This plan would include office space for the Veterans Agent and the Recreation Department. Mr. Bowden estimated the total cost would be \$2.5M or less.

Mr. Carol Bragg stated that SRPEDD might be able to find grants if this were a model project.

Board members and Mr. Bowden agreed that the next step is the ZBA and then return to the Board.

Town Hall Siding Change Order –Work Session

Mr. Cavaco questioned a work session.

Mr. Carroll said the initial contract was \$141,568. There were three change orders which reduced the amount to \$132,911.

The contract was reduced with those change orders to \$132,911. After water damage and mold was found, anonymous complaints were filed with OSHA and the Div. of Occupational Safety. The contractor responded to the concerns. The cost to encapsulate is \$20,778.45, which would put the contract above the limited authority.

Mr. Carroll noted that several thousand dollars had been expended to improve the air quality within the building.

The additional money would come from the \$100,000 allocated for repairs to various town buildings.

Mr. Greg Vaslet, contractor, advised that there will be further testing after repairs are made.

Mr. Cavaco wanted to see documentation to support the need to expend the additional \$20,000. He complained that the Board did not get the information in the packet.

Mr. Carroll said that attached to the change order is the mold analysis report with the recommendation and invoice from the subcontractor.

Mr. Arthur Foulkes commented on the repairs. He felt it is not being handled properly.

Mr. Vaslet objected to Mr. Foulkes' comments.

Board members wanted to see the contract and/or proposal, license, etc. with the subcontractor.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Parker had received a complaint that Papino Road had not been plowed.

He noted that it is difficult to contact town employees in case of a snowstorm because there isn't a formalized list. He contacted Mr. LeClerc and it is possible to contact town employees via the 911 system. He will follow up with Mr. LeClerc.

Mr. Carroll noted that Mr. Alexander posts a notice on the website.

Mr. Parker complained that Board of Selectmen minutes are not on the Town's website.

He inquired about the snow removal budget.

Mr. Carroll felt it might be at the limit right now.

Mr. Parker said a section of the town was without power for about 15 hours. Neither the police chief nor fire chief was aware of that. Residents can call dispatch if they need assistance. The number should be publicized.

He inquired about liquor license extensions.

Mr. Cavaco said the State has all the material. He follows up daily.

Mr. Parker complained that the Building Commissioner had not done any more work on the temporary sign by-laws.

In response to Mr. Parker's question about DeParma Restaurant, Mr. Cavaco indicated that the deadline is February 4, 2011.

Mr. Brady noted that the M & S case has been pushed back to February because of the weather.

Mr. Cavaco questioned the purchase of gravel from a Rehoboth firm. He felt local businesses should be supported. He noted that DPW had purchased two wall calendars at \$21 each. In checking bills for snow plowing, he found discrepancies in insurance and registrations. He felt there should be a checklist in place. He questioned an adjusted bill for a snow plow driver. He requested copies of meal receipts for drivers while snow plowing.

Mr. Cavaco asked why the Building Department paid for a perk test. It could be done in-house.

In response to Mr. Cavaco's concern about high legal bills, Mr. Carroll advised that town counsel will provide an update at the next meeting.

Several questions were raised regarding the bills.

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

VOTED: To hold two bills from the Assessor's Office (Asst. Assessor and Gary Sagar, special municipal employee) for re-evaluation and field work.

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

VOTED: To hold the bill from the library for stamps (\$440).

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

VOTED: To hold the petty cash bill from the library.

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There was discussion about how many departments have petty cash accounts.

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

VOTED: To hold Save-A-Pet bills to get original receipts.

Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To hold an adjustment to a snow plowing bill (\$86.70).

Town Administrator's Report

Comm Tract

Mr. Carroll noted that the Board had authorized him and Mr. Hart to negotiate a contract. The total amount is \$74,855.

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

VOTED: To solicit bids for I-Net service.

At 10:30 p.m. Mr. Brady motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session for matters related to collective bargaining and strategy on threatened litigation; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary