

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 2, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Robert Richardson, David Parker, John Whelan, Francis Cavaco
Michael Brady arrived at 8 p.m.

Finance Director: Bruce Alexander

Town Administrator Michael Carroll was on vacation.

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

Mr. Parker advised the meeting was being taped via audio and video. He asked if any audience members were recording. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star indicated he was recording audio.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2011 and January 19, 2011 Regular and Executive Session

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of January 13, 2011, as submitted.

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

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 19, 2011, as submitted.

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

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the Executive Session minutes of January 19, 2011, as submitted.

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

Accounts Payable Warrant – Current

Under review by Mr. Cavaco.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion with Planning Board on Affordable Housing Plan

Planning Board Chairman Neil Abelson and Planning Director John Hansen were in attendance as a follow up to the request to redraw the Housing Production Plan from the ballot.

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

VOTED: To put nothing on the ballot relative to the Housing Production Plan.

Mr. Parker noted that the Town Clerk needs to know if any questions will be added to the ballot. She needs to order ballots.

Mr. Abelson felt a questionnaire would be better.

Continued Discussion with Planning Board of Master Plan Preparation and Future Implementation Action

Mr. Hansen advised that a survey was sent to all households in town to obtain feedback. He felt it is important to get input from the Board of Selectmen, various boards and also department heads. He asked if the Board is interested in developing a master plan steering committee.

Continued Discussion with Planning Board on Taunton Avenue Tax Title

Mr. Hansen said this is a strategy within the Housing Production Plan. The Town owns property at the corner of Taunton Avenue and Gude Street. He asked if the Board would support an RFP to see if there are any developers for a unit or two of affordable housing.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Clerk will Draw Ballot Positions for April Town Election

Town Clerk Janet Parker drew the ballot positions.

Board of Selectmen ó John Turner, William Rice, Webster Larkin, Robert McLintock
Library Trustees ó Cheryl Faria, Deborah Bostian
Planning Board ó Phoebe Lee Dunn, Russell Horsman
School Committee ó John Bilodeau, Robert Richardson

Mrs. Parker said there is a lengthy question on charter amendments.

2012 Budget Discussion with Town Clerk

Mrs. Parker advised that she increased the postage line item by \$200.

She removed the capital outlay line item and put it in a line item to pay for office help during dog licensing and elections.

Discussion with Planning Board re: Proposed Zoning By Law Amendment

Mr. Hansen said that this would allow assisted living facilities in town with reasonable standards.

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

VOTED: To forward the proposed zoning by law amendment to the Planning Department.

2012 Budget Discussion with Planning Board

Mr. Hansen said the budget is the same as 2011. It includes \$40,000 for Phase 2 of the Master Plan. Phase I should be completed by June 1, and he will have a baseline report.

Consider Bid Award for Shimming Leveling

Chairman Richardson abstained from discussion because his son-in-law works for J. H. Lynch.

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux responded to Mr. Cavaco's questions.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To award the bid for Shimming/Patching/Leveling to J.H. Lynch & Sons in the amount of \$95 per ton.

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

2012 Budget Discussion with DPW

Mr. Lamoureux noted that he had reviewed the budget with Mr. Carroll and Mr. Alexander. The building maintenance budget increased by \$6,000. Sanitation increased by almost \$20,000 due to contractual obligations.

Mr. Alexander responded to Mr. Parker's question about fiber optic and savings on telephones.

Mr. Lamoureux stated that he took money from the revolving fund to purchase garbage bags because he found out the price was going up. He noted the high cost of gasoline.

Mr. Cavaco suggested increasing the gasoline line item by about 50 cents per gallon.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Bilodeau of 82 Bittersweet Drive asked what the School Committee is putting together for its budget.

Chairman Richardson said 65%.

Consider Bid Award for Old Town Hall Architectural Design

Chairman of the Historical Commission Daniel Horton explained the selection process. He introduced Mr. Edward Rowse.

Mr. Horton noted that the CPC had awarded \$40,000 for this project.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To approve the appointment of Edward Rowse Architects for design services at the Old Town Hall at no cost to the Town of Seekonk

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

Discussion of Bylaw Re Compensation for Elected Officials

Mr. Parker submitted a draft bylaw in response to concerns from several residents. This would allow board members to miss two meetings per year after which the stipend will be reduced.

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

VOTED: To forward the proposed bylaw to the Town Meeting floor.

Continued Discussion on Town Administrator Recruitment

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

VOTED: To hire the next Town Administrator through an internal process.

Mr. Alexander advised there is about \$4,000 in the budget for advertising, etc.

A work session is planned for the next meeting. Board members should have names of people to serve on the search committee.

Mr. Cavaco referred to information in the packet for consideration.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Cavaco asked Mr. Alexander to find out why the Human Services Director had nine keys made.

Mr. Parker suggested the Board establish a policy that any department that needs goods or services should first consider local businesses.

Mr. Brady said there should be a list of local vendors.

Mr. Parker suggested the Board request Cable for a funded position to tape Board of Selectmen and School Committee meetings.

Mr. John Turner, Chairman of the Cable Advisory Committee, was in attendance. He said there are local universities that have interns as part of a work study program. He suggested the Board send a formal request to the Cable Advisory Committee.

Mr. Parker stated that the State of Massachusetts had prepared a new building code book, which came out earlier than anticipated. He asked residents to be patient with the Building Department.

Mr. Brady requested that his name be removed from the contact list. He gets a call every time there is an alarm in this building.

Mr. Cavaco read a thank you note from Mr. Hank Smith in appreciation of the tree planted in Sophie Smith's memory.

He had a letter of resignation from Josephine Veader. She resigned from the Human Services Board. Mr. Cavaco suggested the Board send her a thank you letter.

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Mr. Cavaco read a letter from Rep. James McGovern to Town Administrator Michael Carroll. Congressman McGovern offered his assistance to the Town regarding federal programs.

Mr. Cavaco stated that he met with a representative of Sen. Scott Brown's office regarding assistance for the senior center.

He said the ABCC has notified Ms. Rogers that two more license conversions will be approved this week.

Mr. Cavaco wanted to dispel any rumors. Mr. Alexander is not leaving the Town of Seekonk.

Mr. Parker paid respects to Joe Chandley, who passed away this week.

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

VOTED: To dissolve the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary