

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MARCH 9, 2011**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: David Parker, Michael Brady, Francis Cavaco

Absent: Robert Richardson, John Whelan

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Vice Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He advised that the meeting was taped via audio and video and asked if anyone in the audience was taping.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Consider Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2011 (Regular and Executive) and February 9, 2011 (Regular)**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of February 3, 2011.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Executive Session minutes of February 3, 2011.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of February 9, 2011.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Memorial Day Parade Update from Parade Committee**

Veteransø Agent Seth Bai expressed his appreciation to the volunteers on the committee. The parade is scheduled for Monday, May 30, 2011, at 9 a.m. beginning at Seekonk High School. He made an announcement for TV-9. There will be an essay contest, art competition for pin design, and nominations for grand marshal. Letters were mailed for organizations to participate. He has received a donation from a resident and is waiting to get donations from local businesses. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011.

**Discussion on the Passport Application Procedure**

Vice Chairman Parker noted that federal law prohibits the Town Clerk from processing passports after May or June. The Board of Selectmen had previously voted to keep the process in Town Hall.

The Library Director had indicated it could be done there. That might be a better place because of the flexibility. However, the Board of Library Trustees has not voted on this. It is on the agenda for discussion at their next meeting. No additional compensation is involved nor is it a change in work conditions.

In the meantime, Mr. Carroll suggested that Ms. Rogers and Ms. Gamer should register for training.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mr. Bob Blanchard of 85 Sykes Road said he was watching the ZBA meeting. The Superintendent of Schools requested a variance for a sign, which she said lost by one vote at Town Meeting. In these economic times, he had a problem with an expenditure of \$20,000 for a sign, which has nothing to do with the quality of education.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2012 Budget Discussion with Veterans Agent**

Veterans Agent Seth Bai announced the 2012 budget is the same as last year. He currently services 12 veterans in the Town of Seekonk.

Mr. Carroll noted that the larger accounts are benefits to veterans.

Mr. Brady wanted to make sure people serving our country deserve what they are entitled to.

In response to Mr. Cavaco's question, Mr. Bai said that he has seen an increase in veterans coming into the office.

Mr. Carroll noted that benefits are reimbursed by the State at 75%. The Town does not get it back in the year of the appropriation.

Vice Chairman asked if veterans services would be cut by the Governor's budget.

Mr. Bai responded that he hasn't heard. He noted the cost of health care is the biggest concern.

Mr. Cavaco said that Mr. Bai recently attended a conference as part of his job and he is up to standards.

**Accept, With Regret, the Resignation of Officer Russell L. Berry**

Police Chief Ronald Charron announced the resignation. The Chief will be at the next meeting to move forward to replace two police officers.

Mr. Cavaco thanked Officer Berry for his dedication to the Town of Seekonk. Mr. Brady extended best wishes in his new position in the Town of Raynham.

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

**VOTED:** To accept the resignation of Officer Russell L. Berry with regret and send him a letter of appreciation.

**Consider Approval of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement**

Presented by Chief Charron and Chief Jack.

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

**VOTED:** That the Town join the so-called "Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement" established under M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4J, to create a framework for the provision of mutual aid assistance among the parties to the agreement in the case of a public safety incident. The assistance to be provided under the agreement shall include, but not be limited to, fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, transportation, communications, public works, engineering, building inspection, planning and information assistance, resource support, public health, health and medical services, search and rescue assistance and any other resource, equipment or personnel that a party to the agreement may request or provide in anticipation of, or in response to, a public safety incident.

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

**VOTED:** That the Town join the so-called "Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement" established under M.G.L. Chapter 48 Section 59A, to create a framework for the provision of mutual aid assistance among the parties to the agreement in the case of fire services.

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

**VOTED:** To authorize Town Administrator Michael J. Carroll to sign the Agreements on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

**Discussion/Approval of “Toll Road Policy” Presented by Chief Ronald Charron**

Chief Charron advised that there needs to be regulations when members of groups stand in the road to collect donations. It spells out safety zones.

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

**VOTED:** To adopt the Toll Road Policy as a condition for organizations to be able to utilize the public roadways of Seekonk.

**Discussion with Cable/PEG Access**

Tabled until the next meeting. Vice-Chairman Parker advised he would attend the next meeting of the Cable Advisory Committee to try to get assistance with broadcasting meetings.

Mr. John Turner, a member of the Cable Advisory Committee, advised the meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011 at 4 p.m.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Cavaco stated that he met last Friday with Rep. Steve Howitt about getting money for the Newman Avenue project. Rep. Howitt talked to Mr. McCourt of Mass. Highway District Five. Chapter 90 monies can only be used for capital improvements. Mr. McCourt suggested that DPW submit a project needs form.

Mr. Carroll said that Mr. Lamoureux had the application that was filed for federal stimulus money, which was denied. He understood that Mr. Cavaco would deliver the document to Rep. Howitt. The next step is the completion of the project needs form.

Mr. Cavaco read a letter from Rep. Howitt to Mr. McCourt requesting that Newman Avenue be done under the district-wide paving contract and also district-wide guard rails.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the light at the Town Hall sign is out.

He asked if Mr. Carroll had received a response to his letter of February 23, 2011 to the Director of Human Services regarding the guidelines to determine eligibility for fuel assistance and food. He requested that information by the next Board meeting.

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Mr. Cavaco suggested a hiring freeze until receipt of state aid figures.

Mr. Carroll explained that the Town Administrator's recommendation does not include any new hires except for the four firefighters. Two call firefighters have completed the written test and agility test. They need a physical. There is sufficient money in this year's budget.

Spending freeze will be an agenda item for next week.

Mr. Cavaco requested documentation that Town Engineer David Cabral is working on his Massachusetts license.

Mr. Cavaco questioned why Mr. Carroll would delegate authority to Mr. Richardson to negotiate the contracts with the School Committee.

Mr. Carroll responded that the police union is in mediation and other units are expiring on June 30<sup>th</sup> so he does not have the time.

Mr. Cavaco and Vice Chairman Parker questioned why the Town Administrator would pick a person who in three weeks will no longer be a selectman or might be a School Committee member.

Mr. Carroll said nothing would be done until after the election.

Vice Chairman Parker stated there should be clarification if the law designates the Board of Selectmen or designee or the Town Administrator or designee.

Mr. Brady advised that the Town was awarded \$112,000 plus legal fees in the MS Transportation law suit. The Town has twenty years to collect that judgment. He suggested checking with the bankruptcy court. If MS Transportation is there, the Town would go ahead of unsecured creditors.

Vice Chairman Parker asked why the Zoning Board of Appeals did not approve the plan for the community center.

Mr. Robert McLintock, a member of the Building Committee, explained that the meeting was to get approval of the site plan. One individual needed more information. The issue of parking design had nothing to do with ZBA; but, they have to give approval.

Vice Chairman Parker requested further information about a possible Board of Health warrant article to establish a reserve fund to pay for inspections that are required during odd hours.

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Vice Chairman Parker announced that rabies shots for dogs, cats or parrots will be available this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at DPW. The cost is \$10, which will go to Save-A-Pet.

Mr. Brady requested a legal opinion if the Board of Health has the authority to hire people who are not under collective bargaining units.

Vice Chairman Parker requested that the stipend issue for board members be on next week's agenda.

He would like to replace the Town Hall sign. He suggested the same company that did the sign for the Public Safety Complex.

Mr. McLintock talked about a traffic study for the Town Hall area when the senior center is built.

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

Mr. Carroll advised the warrant closes at 12 noon on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Carroll said the Atty. Gen. had approved actions taken at the last Town Meeting. The Town Clerk has to advertise that. He suggested also advertising for a public hearing on road opening for Seekonk Precision Tool, which has submitted the application on time.

Mr. Carroll met with the director and members of the Human Services Council. Sixteen resumes were received for the outreach worker position, and six were selected for interviews.

He will talk to the director about rearranging the desks in order to provide more confidentiality for clients and outreach workers.

Budget presentations will occur after the election. Mr. Carroll advised the Town Administrator's recommendation balances to the penny. The Town Treasurer has a ballpark figure on what the health insurance rates will be.

Mr. Carroll said that Animal Control has an overflow of cats for adoption. The Animal Control Officer is offering two for one to a good home.

Mr. Cavaco referred to the legal bills. He asked how much would be transferred.

Mr. Carroll said there is about \$30,000 left and might need another \$35,000.

**WORK SESSION (No Public Input)**

**Continued Discussion on Town Administrator's Search Procedure**

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

**VOTED:** To select the next Town Administrator through the in-house selection process.

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

**VOTED:** That the Selection Committee consists of five members.

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

**VOTED:** That the Selection Committee review applications and make a recommendation of up to six candidates to be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

Residents who are interested in serving on the Selection Committee should submit a talent bank form and resume.

The ad will be posted in "The Beacon" beginning on Monday.

Mr. Cavaco noted that the Finance Director indicated there was about \$4,000 in the account for a search, but realized there is \$800 in that account. He will need to transfer money.

At 9:02 p.m., Mr. Brady motioned, Mr. Cavaco seconded, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining, Personnel, and Goals for the Finance Director and Police Chief; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary