

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 16, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Mr. Parker advised that 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

Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2011

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of March 2, 2011.

Sign Contracts for Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator and Chief of Police

Mr. Carroll recommended attaching the goals and objectives to the contracts.

Mr. Cavaco noted that he wants to review the goals and objectives with Mr. Alexander.

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

VOTED: To accept the amendment (Goals and Objectives) to the contract of the Chief of Police.

Deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. Parker said the Chief's goals are the best he has seen.

A motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Brady, to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with the Police Chief was withdrawn. All Board members will sign.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Central Avenue Project Construction Schedule

Town Engineer David Cabral reported there was a pre-construction meeting with the Mass. Department of Transportation on February 18th. Construction is scheduled to begin around April 1, 2011. Survey work will begin next week for traffic control plan. The completion date is October 31, 2012. An informational meeting will be held on March 27, 2011 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Public Library. Residents were notified by a letter mailed to property owners, door to door, and the Seekonk Star.

Update on 114A – Arcade Avenue Project

Mr. Cabral advised that an RFP was issued on March 9, 2011 for a consultant to complete the design work. The job was submitted for review on July 30, 2010, but no comments from the District Office; should be within a month. There will be a pre-proposal meeting next Monday for consultants coming in to pick up RFPs. The bid opening will be April 7, 2011. Firms will be ranked followed by a final recommendation. He met with SRPEDD officials today. The next allocation of money is 2015.

Mr. Parker noted to residents that this is still very much in the planning process. Under the best conditions, it is at least two to three years.

Continued Discussion on Cable Access

Mr. Parker said that he contacted Cable Access. It is the responsibility of the School Committee or Board of Selectmen to provide volunteers to run the equipment. Cable has reinstated its commitment to supply reasonable equipment. New equipment is on order. There are many high school students who are willing to do an internship.

Mr. Cavaco wanted to make it perfectly clear that the person who operates the equipment for the Board of Selectmen will not be replaced. She is on the Tax Work Off Program.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion with Donald Kinniburgh re: Sick Leave Buyback

Mr. Kinniburgh said that when he separated from employment with the Town two years ago there was discussion about getting his 25% sick time back. He was informed he was not

eligible for that. He has been collecting unemployment. He felt he is eligible according to the union contract.

Mr. Carroll noted that the contract states, "death, retirement or resignation" in order to be eligible for the 25% lump sum sick leave payment.

There was discussion about the Personnel Policy.

Chairman Richardson suggested the Town Administrator get a legal opinion.

Discussion on Hiring Freeze

Mr. Cavaco said last week he suggested a hiring freeze for the 2012 budget. It has nothing to do with a replacement.

At the Chairman's request, the item was deferred until after the election.

Consider Authorization for the Police Chief to Extend a Conditional Offer of Employment for Two Probationary Police Officers

Chief Ronald Charron explained the interview process. He recommended two candidates, contingent on completion of testing requirements. Those candidates are Matthew Gardner and David Mahoney III.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to Matthew Gardner as Probationary Police Officer.

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

VOTED: To extend a conditional offer of employment to David Mahoney III as a Probationary Police Officer.

Chief Charron expressed his appreciation to the Board for the confidence and renewing his contract.

Consider Bid Award for the Culvert and Headwall Repairs to Barrows Contracting

Mr. Cabral stated that bids came in from \$94,715 to \$213,000. He recommended awarding the contract to Barrows Contracting, the low bidder.

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

VOTED: To award the contract to Barrows Contracting in an amount not to exceed \$94,715 for headwall repair and work on Prospect Street, Pine Street, Jacob Street, and Woodward Avenue.

Mr. Cabral advised the work should start this summer.

Vote on Order of Taking for Lake Street Property

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

VOTED: To adopt the Order of Taking re: Lake Street property.

Discussion on Article for Food Inspection Revolving Fund

Board of Health Chairman David Evans presented the warrant article that would establish a revolving fund to provide for inspections of food establishments after hours at the sole discretion of the food establishment owner for a fee that would pay for an inspector to go out and do that.

This item will be on the March 30, 2011 agenda for approval of fees.

Discussion on Spending Freeze

Tabled until after the election.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Mr. Parker reminded residents of the Save-A-Pet auction scheduled for next week.

Mr. Cavaco questioned a bill for optical fiber in the amount of \$74,855.

Mr. John Turner, a member of the Cable Advisory Committee, explained that the installation has begun but they are waiting until after the Save-A-Pet auction to complete the project. This is to make sure nothing happens with the signal.

Mr. Cavaco said department heads continue to submit bills for reimbursement without approval by the Town Administrator.

March 16, 2011

-5-

He referred to a bill in the amount of \$26,544.25 from Vasco. He asked when the job was completed. He wants to hold paying because there are uncompleted items.

Mr. Carroll said an inspection was done by the Building Commissioner.

Mr. Cavaco said he will be at Town Hall in the morning to point out the items that were not completed.

Mr. Parker felt the bill should be paid subject to getting the answers to Mr. Cavaco's concerns.

Mr. Cavaco inquired about human services guidelines.

Mr. Carroll said he received them and reviewed them.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll distributed an updated list of warrant articles. He should have a draft warrant by the end of next week.

He had a draft advertisement for the position of Town Administrator.

For the future, Mr. Carroll suggested that the Board consider a bylaw for tri-board meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session for collective bargaining and a legal matter, not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary