

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 30, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7 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 taping. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star was taping audio.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Revision on Annual Fee Schedule for Town of Seekonk

The Public Hearing opened at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Carroll advised that the Treasurer has reviewed the fees charged by all departments and interviewed department heads and has only one recommendation as result of her work.

Included in the packet is the calculation of the cost to operate solid waste services in town.

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux proposed \$189.61 as the trash fee for FY 2012. It represents an increase of \$4.61. The cost of large bags would increase from \$1.05 to \$1.07 and small bags from 60 cents to 66 cents.

Mr. Cavaco said he is not satisfied with the increases. He suggested the matter be continued until after the election when the new Board is in place.

Mr. Lamoureux responded to Mr. Brady's question that "Non Used" is for residents who want to be exempt from the program. They have to prove they have trash collection at their house. "Uncollected" was put in by the Finance Office.

Mr. Carroll noted that a portion of that is for people who get bills but do not pay.

Mr. Brady felt that should stop. He didn't think it is fair to people who pay the fee. He has no problem paying for people who cannot afford to pay.

Mr. Lamoureux explained the trash hauler is notified not to collect trash from residents who do not pay.

Mr. Carroll explained that \$25,000 is reserved to replace equipment and \$40,768 will be applied to support FY 2012 operations; therefore, there is no surplus. All money collected in previous years is being used to offset the coming year.

Mr. Carroll noted that people who have dumpsters are also billed.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the \$189.61 trash fee.

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

Mr. Cavaco requested information on who is not paying the fee. He asked about foreclosed properties.

Mr. Lamoureux replied that the information is available in the Treasurer's Office.

Mrs. Christine Allen complained because the only ones paying to cap the landfill are the people paying for the trash bags.

Mr. Brady suggested that residents who have a hardship should come into Town Hall for assistance.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To approve the increase on the large bags of .02 cents and .05 cents for the smaller bags for Year 2012.

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

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

VOTED: That the bulky waste pass fee remain the same at \$65, the appliance sticker fee remain the same at \$12.25 and the bulky waste sticker fee remain the same at \$4.48.

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Police Chief Ronald Charron said that this is part of the door to door solicitors. He checked with other communities, and he recommended an increase from \$5.00 to \$62.00. In addition, Town Meeting will be asked to raise the fine from \$50 to \$200. He recommended enacting a \$10 filing fee.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To increase the \$5.00 fee to \$62.00, according to Section 2, Category 32.

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

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

VOTED: To assess a \$10 filing fee.

A draft warrant article for the Board of Health fees was distributed to the Board. Mr. Carroll was reluctant to establish fees until action is taken at Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To change the language on Article 17 re: the Board of Health conducting inspections for any matter within their jurisdiction outside business hours, etc.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:36 p.m.

New Seasonal Beer and Wine License for K & G Group, LLC., d/b/a Lum's Roast Beef Shops, located at 717 Fall River Avenue, Jo-Ann L. Duarte, Manager

The Public Hearing opened at 7:38 p.m.

The owners were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To approve the new license for Lum's Roast Beef Shops, 717 Fall River Avenue, subject to verification of proper insurance.

The Hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

Seasonal Transfer to Annual Beer and Wine for Seekonk Speedway per Chapter 368 from the Acts of 2010

The Hearing opened at 7:47 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the seasonal transfer to Annual Beer and Wine for Seekonk Speedway per Chapter 368 from the Acts of 2010.

The Hearing closed at 7:49 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Renewal of a Seasonal Alcohol License for Alex, Inc., located at 1520 Fall River Avenue

Mr. Cavaco noted that the owner did not get the paperwork for a transfer to annual so he is renewing his seasonal at this time.

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

VOTED: To approve the renewal of a Seasonal Alcohol License for Alex, Inc.; subject to confirmation of signature sheet.

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

To be signed by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Report from Town Counsel Regarding Sick Leave Buyback

Mr. Carroll said that at a previous meeting a former employee requested consideration of buyback. Counsel has ruled that the employee is not eligible. Mr. Carroll will notify the employee.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. John Turner asked that residents pray for the Seekonk men and women that are in Afghanistan.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Outreach Worker

Mr. Carroll advised that interviews were held. He is prepared to recommend a candidate once background checks are completed.

Discussion on Revision to Administrative Policy #29 Emergency Medical Service Rate Setting Policy

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

VOTED: To accept revised Administrative Policy #29.

Mr. Cavaco wanted to make sure that Seekonk residents are not billed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll stated that he would prepare a letter to Rep. Howitt and Sen. Timilty to be signed by Board members requesting that the Legislature act on the State budget expeditiously so that this Board can act on the budget.

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

VOTED: That a letter be drafted to Sen. Timilty and Rep. Howitt regarding the State budget and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Carroll received a document on health insurance from SMHG. The increase is 7.4%. Nothing else will change. Any changes in the plan would affect the premiums.

Mr. Brady strongly urged the Board to petition the Department of Health and Human Services for a waiver of Obama Care.

Mr. Carroll advised that the budget has to be presented at Town Meeting. There is \$14,000 surplus as of yesterday.

Mr. Carroll advised that Tri County students installed display cases on both sides of the front door for meeting notices. There might be other projects they could accomplish. He suggested a display case to display materials for veterans.

He advised that the solar panel installation at the DPW has resulted in a \$1,640 savings since September. The total yearly savings may be \$7,000.

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Mr. Carroll advised that five residents have expressed an interest in serving on the Town Administrator Search Committee.

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

VOTED: To extend the deadline to April 15, 2011 for submission of Talent Bank forms for the Town Administrator Search Committee.

Mr. Parker cautioned residents about a scam regarding calls to verify jury duty. The court system does not make phone calls.

He advised that Save-A-Pet raised more than \$18,000 during the recent auction.

Mr. Parker said there were a few complaints that the Reverse 911 system was used to remind residents about the election. He suggested that residents who want to be notified for emergencies only should re-register.

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

VOTED: That the position of Town Moderator be declared as a special employee status.

Mr. Parker suggested that individuals who are making accusations about Board members should come forward.

Mr. Parker extended best wishes to Mr. Brady and Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Whelan added his best wishes. He thanked them for their service and said he enjoyed working with them.

Mr. Cavaco said that he would attend a meeting at District Five on May 10, 2011 to try to get money for Newman Avenue at the East Providence line.

He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Brady and Mr. Richardson for their service as member of the Board.

Mr. Cavaco offered a challenge to Mr. Parker - \$100 per month for three months if he does not shave his moustache. A status report will be an agenda item. This was the last meeting for Mr. Brady and Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Brady expressed his appreciation to the voters. He hoped he made changes for the Town. His biggest regret is that the senior center never got done. Although he felt he did the right thing, he was troubled when Thorn Mead died. He thanked the other members of the Board. He felt it was an honor to serve this community.

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Mr. Richardson thanked the people for the last twelve years as a School Committee member and Selectmen. He felt he worked very hard to accomplish all tasks. He expressed his appreciation to his colleagues and to the town employees.

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

VOTED: To dissolve at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary