

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 13, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Parker, William Rice, Robert McLintock, John Whelan

Absent: Francis Cavaco

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 anybody in the audience was taping. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star indicated he was taping audio.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

There were questions and failed motions about reorganization since all members were not in attendance.

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

VOTED: To table reorganization until 7:15 p.m. waiting for Mr. Whelan to arrive.

At this time, Mr. Rice requested that the Board make an exception and approve the request of a small business owner to open an antique shop on Route 114A. It is not an agenda item.

Mr. Carroll advised the open meeting law requires the notice has to be posted 48 hours in advance, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, along with a list of all items to be discussed. The only exception would be unforeseen items. Additionally, the Board has an Administrative Policy that items for the agenda must be received by Thursday at 12 p.m. The application was not received on time. He recommended the Board adhere to the Administrative Policy.

Executive Assistant Anne Rogers explained the application was picked up in the office on Thursday and returned this morning. The CORI check was returned last Friday.

Mr. McLintock indicated he was in the office while Ms. Rogers was on the telephone with the applicant, who gave Ms. Rogers a lot of grief. For that reason alone, in addition to the issue as it relates to the bylaw, he would not support the request at this time.

Mr. Patrick Turner, husband and partner of the applicant, said he came into Town Hall for a business certificate. He was told there was a process for an antique business. He went through all the departments. He was never told that he needed Board of Selectmen approval until he returned the paperwork. He felt it was a roadblock.

McLintock reiterated he did not like the way Ms. Rogers was treated. Also, the Board needs time to review the documents in order to make a rational decision.

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Mr. Rice suggested the Board look at how small business people are treated.

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

DEFEATED: 1 Aye; 3 Nays; To support including the request on the agenda.
It did not comply with the law.

The vote: Mr. Rice ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Nay; Mr. Whelan ó Nay; Vice Chairman Parker ó Nay.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To remove the motion on reorganization from the table in order to reorganize.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Aye; Vice Chairman Parker ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Nay.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Rice, to nominate Mr. Parker as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Parker closed nominations and instructed the Clerk to cast one vote for Mr. Parker as Chairman.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. McLintock, to nominate Mr. Rice as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Parker closed nominations and instructed the Clerk to cast one vote for Mr. Rice as Vice Chairman.

A motion was made by Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Parker, to nominate Mr. Whelan as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Parker closed nominations and instructed the Clerk to cast one vote for Mr. Whelan as Clerk.

Packet Distribution

Mr. Parker noted that this was originally brought up by Mr. Cavaco. Mr. Rice has suggested getting a net book or laptop. The Board agreed that Mr. Rice should look into the cost.

Mr. Whelan said he would not support the Town incurring additional costs.

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Consider Reappointment of Animal Control Officer and Assistants per MGL C. 140, Section 151

Mr. Carroll recommended the reappointments.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Sharonlyne Hall as Animal Control Officer, effective May 1, 2011.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Darlene Christensen as Assistant Animal Control Officer, effective May 1, 2011.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Karen Harvey as Substitute Assistant Animal Control Officer, effective May 1, 2011.

Consider Reappointment of Veteran's Agent per M.G.L. Chapter 115, Section 3

Mr. Carroll recommended the reappointment for one year.

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

VOTED: To reappoint Seth Bai as Veteransø Agent, effective May 1, 2011.

Mr. Bai distributed a packet of information on his accomplishments during the past year.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Review of Warrant

Discussion on Budget for Animal Control

Ms. Hall said that she would like to add about 7 hours per week to Karen Harvey's time in the ensuing fiscal year.

Mr. Carroll recommended an increase in the budget from \$107,925 this year to \$111,600 for next year (salaries, wages and expenses). He recommended an increase in the Services ó Phone line item from \$800 to \$2,200 for next year. He noted that the three employees work alone and they were issued cell phones with a GPS as a safety measure.

Mr. McLintock felt that overall step increases need to be discussed during collective bargaining.

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In response to Mr. Rice's concerns about the rising cost of gasoline, Mr. Carroll said he spoke to Fire, Police, and DPW Department Heads. The Town Administrator and Finance Director will review the costs at the end of each month.

Ms. Hall noted the importance of the phones.

Chairman Parker expressed his appreciation to Ms. Hall for the job she is doing.

Update on the Memorial for Al George

Mr. Bai said that he met with two veterans to see what could be done with funds donated in memory of Mr. George. The area outside Town Hall will be refurbished. Several businesses will donate plants and materials. Money donated will be used for engraving. The dedication is tentatively scheduled for June 18, 2011.

Update on Seekonk Meadows

Mr. Michael Durkay advised that the \$55,000 gift to the Seekonk Meadows was for design, construction and erection of a fence.

Ms. Cheryl Faria explained the design. She responded to Mr. McLintock that plans were submitted and approved by the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Chairman Parker suggested Board members visit the site. He commended the Committee.

Continued Discussion on a Hiring Freeze and a Spending Freeze

Chairman Parker noted this item was included on the agenda at Mr. Cavaco's request.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To indefinitely postpone discussion on the hiring and spending freeze.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Nay.

Chairman Parker directed that this item be on next week's agenda.

Review Fire Department Rules and Regulations

Chief Alan Jack said that the current rules and regulations are more than 17 years old.

Deferred until the next meeting to allow all Board members time to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Outreach Worker for Human Services

Human Services Board Members Vicky Kinniburgh and Chris Allen, Director Bernadette Huck and applicant Adriana M. Dossantos were in attendance.

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

VOTED: To appoint Adriana M. Dossantos as Outreach Worker at Human Services, contingent upon a satisfactory CORI check.

Chairman Parker said that he attended the final interview. He felt the Town of Seekonk will benefit by Mrs. Dossantos' appointment.

Consider Instituting an Adopt-A-Drain Program Presented by Robert Lamoureux

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux advised that this is a volunteer program to keep debris off the drains. Residents who volunteer would be given a free roll of trash bags. This is in compliance with the new EPA mandate and recommended by the Stormwater Advisory Committee.

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

VOTED: To approve the Adopt-A-Drain program.

Consideration of a RFT for the Town Administrator Search

Mr. Carroll said that a Board member not in attendance has suggested advertising outside of Massachusetts. The ad is currently in The Beacon and MMA.org. He has not looked at the applications that have come in.

Mr. McLintock felt the Board should be looking for a person who is familiar with Mass. General Laws.

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

VOTED: To direct the Town Administrator to contact the Mass. Board of Selectmen Association for assistance.

Mr. Carroll suggested sending recruitment notices and copies of the ad to towns that are comparable to Seekonk.

He noted that Friday is the deadline for submission of talent bank forms to serve on the search committee. The item will be on next week's agenda.

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Chairman Parker urged interested residents with a background in human resources and/or finance to obtain talent bank forms at Town Hall.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Human Services Director Bernadette Huck announced there is a vacancy on the Human Services Board.

She requested authorization to apply for a grant which would fund home repairs for senior citizens on a sliding fee scale. She would also like to look into CHDOs where non-profit organizations purchase houses in the community and repair them to be rented or sold to provide affordable housing in the Town of Seekonk.

Mr. Patrick Turner requested assurance that his application for antique business would be on next week's agenda.

Mr. Gary Sagar stated that polling locations need to be reconsidered. He felt there should be at least two locations in order to provide more accessibility for voters.

Chairman Parker deferred the matter until June.

Mr. Sagar felt that citizens are confused about the town budget (65% school/35% town). Once the budget is adopted and prior to Town meeting, he suggested a Power Point presentation between the Town Administrator, Finance Director, and Assessor to explain the entire process and allow taxpayers to ask questions.

Mr. David Bowden stated that at least three people in town had received the distinguished flying cross. His brother-in-law, James Douglas Spencer, was one of them.

As Chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, Mr. Bowden noted that people have said the new building is too big. It is about 9,100 sq. ft., which is 650 sq. ft. more than the current space being utilized.

Mr. James Reinke advised he met with the new director and regional director of the YMCA about collaborating with the Town on programs for the senior center.

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman felt the voting at the high school went smoothly. She suggested using school buses to get people to the polls that cannot get there.

Chairman Parker noted that candidates provide rides to the polls. This will be a future agenda item.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Status of D. Parker's Mustache

Chairman Parker said that he will not lose the bet. Mr. Cavaco will donate \$300 to Save-A-Pet.

Notices

Mr. Carroll advised that the Planning Board will sponsor a Master Plan Public Forum on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Public Library to obtain public input from residents.

Mr. McLintock urged residents to be involved.

Mr. Carroll advised that the amount of Chapter 90 funding for Seekonk in the current year is \$447,000 and \$580,000 for the next fiscal year.

Mr. McLintock requested information on street repairs for the last several years.

Mr. Carroll advised the House Ways and Means Committee budget bill is about the same as the Governor's. Next year's budget is 7.2% lower than the current year.

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

VOTED: To refer the Zoning bylaw amendments (Article 12 Definitions and Article 12.7 Temporary Signs) to the Planning Board in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5.

Mr. Carroll advised he had received the collective bargaining agreement for Steelworkers. This was previously approved by the Board and needs to be signed. He would be glad to review it with new members.

Tabled until Mr. Cavaco returns.

Copies of the Open Meeting Guide were distributed to Board members. Mr. Carroll pointed out the new rules on posting 48 hours in advance with the agenda included.

He cautioned about e-mails; the Atty. Gen. has stated that e-mail exchanges between Board members may constitute deliberations.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

For the benefit of new members, Chairman Parker explained the procedure regarding questions on any bill.

Residents who are interested in serving on the Planning Board have two weeks to complete talent bank forms. A joint meeting (BOS/Planning Board) will be scheduled for May 4, 2011 to appoint a member.

Appoint Members as Liaison to Different Committees

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; Not to have official liaisons.

The vote: Mr. McLintock ó Aye; Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Nay.

Mr. McLintock advised that the School Committee would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the budget.

He requested copies of the detailed sheets submitted to Mr. Carroll by department heads.

Mr. Rice wanted to make sure the Board talks to the CIC and Finance Committee

Mr. Carroll advised the Chair of the CIC will be at the next meeting to make a recommendation on awarding a contract.

Chairman Parker advised the agenda will be available electronically on Friday and backup packets on Monday. Board members have three days to review the material and ask questions.

Chairman Parker inquired about passports.

Mr. Carroll responded that Ms. Rogers will take the test on line.

Chairman Parker inquired about old town buildings.

Mr. Carroll said he would address that at the next meeting.

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Mr. McLintock asked if it is necessary to meet every week or if the meeting on the third week of the month could be on a Thursday.

Deferred until the next meeting.

Chairman Parker advised that he is thinking about hosting a TV show on Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. for questions and/or input from residents.

He talked about members of the Board making recommendations on the warrant at Town Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:45 p.m. Mr. Whelan motioned, seconded by Mr. Rice, to go into Executive Session for strategy relative to collective bargaining; not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

List of Items Distributed at Board of Selectmen meeting of April 13, 2011

MGL Chapter 140, Section 151

MGL Chapter 115, Section 3

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Megan Young ó Letter of commendation for Seth Bai

Budget Analysis

Seekonk Fire Department ó Rules and Regulations

Resume for Adriana M. Dossantos, Outreach Worker for Human Services

Adopt-A-Drain Information

Draft Town Warrant

