

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 11, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Michael J. Carroll

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He advised the meeting was taped via audio and video and asked if anybody in the audience was taping. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star said he was recording audio.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Accept Warrant for Animal Control Officer

Mr. Carroll advised this is routine action per M.G.L. Chapter 140. On Mr. Carroll's recommendation, the Board

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To accept the Warrant for Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Whelan was not in the room when the vote was taken.

Approve Proceeding Recruitment for a Mechanic at DPW

DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux noted that the position became available when the mechanic was appointed to the shop foreman position. Two individuals submitted applications and interviews were held.

Mr. McLintock stated that, during discussion at the previous meeting, Mr. Lamoureux was going to provide a format for the recruitment process.

Mr. Lamoureux replied that concerned recruitment for a mechanic. There will now be an opening for a driver/laborer. In response to Mr. McLintock's comments, Mr. Lamoureux said there was no discussion about a written document.

Mr. Lamoureux would like to post the position for driver/laborer if Mr. Young is appointed mechanic.

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

VOTED: 4 to 1; To promote Wayne Young to the position of mechanic.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye; Mr. McLintock ó Nay. He noted it had nothing to do with Mr. Young.

Mr. Young was in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Matthew Gardner and David Mahoney to Police Officer, Third Class, Probationary Officer

Chief Ronald Charron advised that these officers were offered conditional appointments at the March 16, 2011 meeting. They have passed all testing and background checks. These are not new appointments but replace two officers who resigned. The positions are funded in the current and FY 2012 budget.

Chief Charron said that these officers have already been through the Police Academy; saving the Town about \$16,000 per officer. Officer Gardner is coming from Rehoboth and Officer Mahoney from Nantucket. The Chief noted that several Rehoboth police officers were in attendance to support Mr. Gardner.

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

VOTED: To appoint Matthew Gardner as police officer, third class, probationary.

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

VOTED: To appoint David E. Mahoney as police officer, third class, probationary.

They were sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

Update on COPS Hiring Program Application

Chief Charron advised that this is a three-year grant, and he has applied for this grant for the past two years. The Town scored high last year but not enough to get the money. If the grant is awarded, the Town would have to agree to keep the position for a fourth year.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Chief of Police to submit the COPS grant.

Mr. McLintock noted that the Town would be locked into four years at 35 police officers if the grant is awarded.

Designation of all Special Police Officers as Special Municipal Employees

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

VOTED: To designate all special police officers as special municipal employees.

In response to Mr. McLintock's question, Mr. Carroll noted that the job title is the designation. In this case, it is a special police officer who is a locksmith.

Discussion on 65%-35% Split

Mr. McLintock felt that there should be an accurate percentage in terms of preparing the budget, and there should be transparency between the School Department and the town side of government. The 65%/35% was developed in 1990 and should have been revised in 2005. He felt the Board of Selectmen has a responsibility to taxpayers to come up with a percentage that they can work with.

Mr. Cavaco suggested 50%/50%.

Mr. Rice felt the 65%/35% is workable. He noted that the budget will change between now and the time it is presented at Town Meeting.

Mr. McLintock said that, according to bylaws and the Charter, the Town Administrator and Superintendent of Schools are supposed to meet and come up with a budget. There has been a battle between the School Department and the town side of government. He felt they need to set a direction that makes sense in putting a budget together. He suggested individuals who do not have anything to do with the School Department or Town government should put figures together.

He said 14 teachers were cut last year and the projection for this year is 17. He talked about payments into the Bristol County Retirement. There is a difference between retirees from the School Department and the Town.

Mr. Whelan felt the 65%/35% has worked. He said the school side is complicated because of unions, step increases, etc.

Mr. McLintock suggested a zero-based budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion with Municipal Capital Improvement Committee (MCIC) on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Chairman David Bowden and member Larry Ransom were in attendance to talk about confusion on the petitioned warrant article for paving at the schools.

MCIC members looked at what was available financially. They propose removal of the old dirt and grass in the parking lot and paving and crack sealing the large cracks. Overlay of the entire area could be done next year.

Discussion on Board of Selectmen Recommendations to Town Meeting of Budgeted Line Items

Mr. Cavaco suggested increasing legal services by \$4,000, using funds from Line Item 47 - Forestry Expenses.

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Mr. McLintock requested a report on legal services and an estimate for the future. He felt \$110,000 for legal services is excessive.

Mr. Carroll advised that the firm Kopelman & Paige submits periodic reports.

No action was taken on Mr. Cavaco's suggestion.

Chairman Parker noted that the \$42,577,448 represents a balanced budget. There was talk about a public hearing for next week.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Bob Blanchard spoke about the 65%/35% split. He said the schools are getting a much larger amount of state aid than the Town. So, 50% is not a valid statement as far as what the Town is contributing.

Ms. Karen Perkins, Finance Committee Chairwoman, commended Mr. Carroll on the job he has done for the Town.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carroll reported that he has been busy with collective bargaining.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

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

VOTED: To pay the locksmith bill.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To hold until the next meeting two bills from Veterans' Agent in the amount of \$200 each, Library bill for conference in the amount of \$158.72, and \$9.00 mileage for Library.

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

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

VOTED: To hold a bill from DPW for \$1,152.00 until receipt of proper document.

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

VOTED: To hold a bill for \$1,437.50 for DPW, pending receipt of green sheet and signature.

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

VOTED: To hold a bill for \$3,893.90 for the Police Department (damage of police cruiser), pending receipt of green sheet.

Chairman Parker questioned why bills are submitted without green sheets.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Cavaco advised that he spoke to Sen. Timilty and Rep. Howitt about additional liquor licenses for Seekonk. We need to do an overlay district.

Chairman Parker noted that some businesses in town paid substantial amounts of money for their licenses.

Mr. Cavaco talked about the light on Route 44 at the entrance to the Public Safety Complex.

Mr. McLintock advised that Mr. Alexander and he met with Rep. Howitt and Sen. Timilty in Boston. It appears the State owes the Town of Seekonk \$1.6M. The House has completed its budget. The Senate is concerned on how the Town would get the money.

Mr. McLintock said he met with the former chairman of the Board of Health and Mr. Chenevert regarding problems with the Board of Health. He suggested working with them collaboratively might be beneficial. They discussed the septic system that was brought up a few meetings back.

Mr. Rice concurred. He felt they want to discuss the issues.

Chairman Parker asked if the Board of Health held public hearings on the policies they instituted.

Mr. Rice advised that he met with Rep. McGovern about the 152 project. Rep. McGovern will look into FEMA.

Chairman Parker noted that Rep. Howitt had indicated he would look into FEMA if Sen. Scott Brown does not respond. It has been two weeks.

Mr. McLintock talked about a potential problem in the north end of Town regarding the ARCO gas station at Bakers corner and the traffic flow on Central Avenue. The owner of the gas station wants to keep the road cut open so that cars can go in and out.

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Mr. Rice agreed. There seems to be conflicting opinions from the engineer and the DOT.

Chairman Parker suggested this should be an agenda item for June or July with representatives from the DOT in attendance.

Mr. McLintock stated that the Chairman seems to be under the impression that selectmen have to report to the Town Administrator or to the Chairman.

Chairman Parker responded that when a Board member requests a meeting with the State and represents himself as a member of the Board of Selectmen, it should be approved by the entire Board.

Mr. Cavaco noted that Ms. Rogers made the appointment with the DOT to discuss the 152 project.

Chairman Parker reminded the Board about the Tri Board meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2011, at 10 a.m. at Seekonk High School.

At 9:37 p.m. Mr. Rice motioned, seconded by Mr. Whelan, to go into Executive Session per Chapter 30A, Section 21, for collective bargaining; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary