

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 6, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Parker, William Rice, John Whelan (left at 8:20 p.m.),
Francis Cavaco, Robert McLintock

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 being recorded visual and audio and asked if anybody in the audience was taping. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star was taping audio and Abigail Crocker of The Patch taping audio and visual.

With the consent of the Board, Item D under Old Business was moved forward. The Chairman noted that Town Clerk Janet Parker, a notary, was in attendance for this item.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on 41 Lake Street with David Cabral

Town Engineer David Cabral advised that he had a copy of the Warrant to Execute the Order of Taking. He explained what had transpired during the past year. The water main was installed on Lake Street. The owner of this property did not allow the Town to decommission the well. There has been a lot of discussion on what to do. Decommission of the well is the final step as recommended by Town Counsel.

Mr. McLintock stated that he would not sign it because he did not receive any documentation until now. He said the proposal is from one person but there are about eight or nine owners of the property. He wanted to know who the lawyer is representing the owner.

Chairman Parker said an item for executive session would address Mr. McLintock's questions.

Mr. Whelan said he is tired of being blackmailed by this individual.

The document was signed by four selectmen and notarized by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2011 Regular Session with Revisions, June 20, 2011 Open Session and June 1, 2011 Open and Executive Session

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

VOTED: To table approval of minutes until the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Sign By-Law with Building Inspector

Building Commissioner Mary MacNeil sought direction from the Board. The last action was taken in February. The moratorium is due to expire in July. She recommended extension of the moratorium.

Mr. Whelan felt it has to be extended.

Mr. Rice said he would have liked to see the By-Law pass at Town Meeting. He suggested a group of individuals meet to work on the language.

Mr. Cavaco said it should go back to the Planning Board.

Mr. Whalen felt the Building Commission should not be responsible for writing the Bylaw and then enforce it.

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

VOTED: To extend the temporary moratorium for up to one year and refer the Sign By-Law to the Planning Board.

Mr. Rice suggested contacting SRPEDD for feedback.

Chairman Parker asked about the individual who was hired to enforce the By-Law.

Mrs. MacNeil said that he has been working on researching records in preparation of an upcoming insurance survey.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Reappointment of Robert (Bob) McKenna to Conservation Commission

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; to reappoint Robert McKenna to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. McLintock was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Consider Reappointment of David Pinsonneault and Robert Richardson to Youth and Recreation Commission

Chairman Parker noted that Mr. Pinsonneault's letter of interest came back after the deadline. Therefore, it should not be considered at this time. Mr. Richardson's letter was received on time.

Mr. McLintock questioned why Mr. Richardson's reappointment was before the Board since a vote had previously been taken.

Chairman Parker replied that the vote was 2 Ayes to 2 Nays. He noted that a precedent was set in the past (Chief Jack).

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; To reappoint Robert Richardson to the Recreation Commission.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Cavaco agreed with Chairman Parker that it was done for Chief Jack. However, the Board cannot continue to put town business aside because only four members are in attendance.

Chairman Parker indicated it has never been done before; only in the case of Chief Jack.

Mr. McLintock felt there is no comparison between Chief Jack, an employee, and this appointment.

2011 Memorial Day Parade Update and Discussion

(1) Communication Issues and Matters as Expressed by the American Legion

(a) 2012 Memorial Day Parade

(b) Veterans Memorial Garden at Town Hall

Veterans Agent Seth Bai and members of the Memorial Day Parade Committee were in attendance.

Mr. David Viera, American Legion of Seekonk, requested that the Board grant authority to the Legion to take charge of the Memorial Day Parade exclusively. They are concerned it will turn into just another parade.

Mr. Viera said that Memorial Day is to honor veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. He served as chairman for over 30 years until he became the fire chief. At one time, the Fire Department budget included \$2,000 for the parade.

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The Legion had concerns this year when the day changed from Saturday to Monday. He said the Legion received a generic letter from the Parade Committee about the change. The Legion was greatly concerned that they did not have representation on the Committee and they were not invited to participate.

Mr. oDocö Rubble, a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Parade Committee, said it is all about who shows up and the American Legion did not.

Mrs. Michelle Hines, Parade Committee, said that a Commander from the American Legion was on the committee last year. The invitation was hand-delivered by the Veterans Agent.

She said that planning begins in January. There was sufficient time to advertise and provide information about the parade and that it would be on Monday. She agreed that there wasn't as much participation as in the past. She said the Legion is more than welcome to be on the committee.

Mrs. Jo Anne Rondeau, Parade Committee, felt it is important that the children of this community know what it is all about. She suggested the American Legion could send a representative next year so that they could all work together.

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman commended the committee.

Mr. Whelan suggested the Veterans Agent work together with the American Legion.

Mr. McLintock agreed. He felt there was miscommunication and that we should not lose sight of the meaning of the day. People have given their lives for this country. He felt changing the day wouldn't make a difference.

Mr. Cavaco said the #1 issue is to honor the veterans who gave their lives.

Chairman Parker said that it is all about veterans.

He noted that the Board of Selectmen was not invited.

Mr. Nick Rondeau of the Parade Committee said invitations were sent to the Board.

There was no second to a motion by Mr. Whelan that the Memorial Day Parade continues under the purview of the Veterans Agent and work in conjunction with the American Legion.

Mr. Cavaco added the American Legion and the parade committee appointed by the Board.

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; 1 Abstention; To appoint the American Legion in charge of the Memorial Day Parade to work with the Veterans Agent and any other committee member who wishes to participate.

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

Chairman Parker advised the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Garden was on June 18, 2011. There was one complaint, which was addressed. He questioned why people weren't invited to the dedication.

Veterans Agent Seth Bai said that he thought he had invited Board members to the parade when he attended a meeting. At another meeting, he invited them to the dedication.

He asked if he is supposed to work together with the American Legion on all veterans' events, such as Flag Day and Veterans Day.

Mr. Kinniburgh said Mr. Bai is welcome.

Mr. Kinniburgh named four veterans in the town that were not put on the stone.

Mr. Cavaco advised that the Veterans Agent had money donated in memory of Al George. There was not enough money in the gift account to include all the names. That will be pursued.

Mr. Kinniburgh said there should be another stone for Post 911.

Mr. Viera offered a \$500 donation from the American Legion for the Veterans Garden.

Mr. Viera responded to comments around town that the American Legion is nothing more than a bar. He said they do community service, sponsor baseball leagues, student trooper program and scholarships. They also have a women's auxiliary.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

None.

Chairman Parker advised that Pamela Nolan, the new Town Administrator, will start on July 18th. She will be living in Rehoboth. In the meantime, any concerns can be addressed to Mr. Alexander.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrants

Mr. Cavaco questioned why some employees are using their own credit card to buy supplies. There is a town credit card, and procedures are in place to purchase supplies. He will talk to Mr. Alexander and Ms. Nolan.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Jeanne Pacheco, Registrar for the Seekonk Soccer League, complained that this year they were asked to pay a fee for use of the fields. They have never paid a fee before. The fee was \$120, but she contacted the Recreation Commission and got it reduced to \$55. She said this is a pick up summer league.

Chairman of the Recreation Commission Neil Rapp said the request was from the Seekonk Soccer League and that's why there was a charge. There is no charge for a resident who wants to have a pick up league. Ms. Pacheco will submit the request as a resident.

Mrs. Pacheco said the fields need to be maintained.

Mr. Rapp noted that Recreation does not have the money for proper maintenance.

Chairman Parker said there will be follow up discussion at a July meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Mr. Cavaco asked about the bridge on Woodward Avenue.

Chairman Parker said Sen. Scott Brown is trying to get the money.

Mr. Rice said that Mr. Lamoureux reduced the cost to get the money faster and not have to use Chapter 90 funds.

Mr. McLintock stated that he has been trying to locate communications between DPW, Mr. Carroll and the Mass. DOT; but, to date has been unsuccessful. He said Sen. Brown needs that information.

Save a Pet will be on a future agenda to accept a check from Mr. Cavaco. He lost he bet to Chairman Parker regarding his moustache.

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Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of April 27, 2011.

Prior to the vote, Mr. McLintock wanted clarification about the statement regarding distribution of packets (page 3).

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

VOTED: To strike Mrs. Hallalö from the minutes of June 1, 2011 (page 3 under Board of Selectmen Liaison Reports and Comments) and review that section.

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

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of June 1, 2011, as amended.

Chairman Parker will schedule a meeting with the Board of Health for sometime in July.

In response to Mr. McLintock's question, Mr. Cavaco said that Chief Jack is working on plans for the light on Route 44 at the entrance to the Public Safety Complex.

Mr. McLintock suggested a meeting with Mr. Lamoureux to talk about the contract with Weston & Sampson.

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of June 20, 2011.

At 9:12 p.m. Mr. McLintock motioned, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to go into Executive Session for Strategy Relative to Pending Litigation re: 41 Lake Street; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

