

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 31, 2011

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

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

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 was taping audio.

The Chairman noted that he expected to have a storm update but cable is out so residents cannot view this meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Accept with Regret the Resignation of Tom Clancy from the Planning Board

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

VOTED: To accept, with regret, the resignation of Tom Clancy from the Planning Board.

Consider Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2011 (Work Session) August 3, 2011 Regular and Executive, June 15, 2011 Executive Amended, July 20, 2011 Regular and Executive Amended

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

VOTED: To accept the minutes of June 2, 2011.

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of August 3, 2011.

Prior to the vote, Mr. McLintock noted that Woodward Avenue is now open. He asked about the payment from FEMA.

Finance Director Bruce Alexander stated that he just received a wire that 90% of the money would be forthcoming.

Mr. Rice referred to discussion on page 8 regarding financial needs for Banna Station.

August 31, 2011

-2-

Chairman Parker said that would be a work session in September.

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone action on Executive Session minutes of June 15, 2011.

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

VOTED: To accept the Regular Session minutes of July 20, 2011.

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

VOTED To indefinitely postpone action on the Executive Session minutes of July 20, 2011.

Consider Referral of an Overlay District to Accommodate Additional Liquor Licenses to the Planning Board

Town Planner John Hansen explained that this overlay district entails from Showcase Cinema on 114A down to the former Bugaboo Creek on Route 6 and Commerce Way to the East Providence line.

Mr. McLintock felt this might be a chance for the Town to attract large restaurants.

It will be a warrant item for the November Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To endorse this overlay district in order to petition the Legislature for additional liquor licenses and to refer to the Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Annual Disposal Invoice Procedures

Finance Director Bruce Alexander and Town Treasurer/Collector Christine DeFontes requested approval to return to the original disposal invoice procedures.

Mrs. DeFontes noted that, in FY010, the Board voted to allow taxpayers to pay their bill in two separate payments. Twenty three people successfully paid first and second installments timely. Demands were issued (645 or 13%). The same thing happened in FY011; 105 people paid and 617 demands were issued (13%).

August 13, 2011

-3-

She noted that waiting six months plus to send demands exceeds \$15 in interest and penalties; and, legally, she cannot adjust that. Also, during the six-month period, many properties change hands. The new owners are getting demands for original bills they never received.

Currently there are 398 FYø1 disposal bills outstanding.

Mr. McLintock and Mr. Rice wanted to make sure the Treasurer's Office would cooperate with residents who are having financial problems.

Mr. Cavaco felt this would be going against the taxpayers, and there must be another way other than eliminating this process.

Mrs. Nolan said she spoke to Mr. Alexander and Mrs. DeFontes. She recommended going back to the original process.

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To return to the original annual disposal invoice procedures.

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

Consider Appointment of Probationary Career Firefighter Christopher Sloan

Chief Jack advised this is to fill a vacant position.

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

VOTED: To appoint Christopher Sloan as probationary career firefighter.

Mr. Sloan was sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

Mr. McLintock expressed concern that Mr. Sloan is from Foxboro. However, Chief Jack noted it is within the 15 miles as per the collective bargaining unit.

Interview Candidates for Appointments - MCIC (1 BOS and 1 Moderator) and Finance Committee

Mitchell Krzyzek (MCIC)

Mrs. Nolan advised that Mr. Krzyzek is interested but he is working out of town.

August 31, 2011

-4-

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

VOTED: To postpone the interview with Mr. Krzyzek until September 14, 2011.

Myrna Gagnon Elderkin and Robert Richardson (Finance)

Following an interview, Town Moderator Michelle Hines appointed Myrna Gagnon Elderkin to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Richardson did not attend.

Consider Appointments of Ginny Pacheco and Jason Adamonis to Recreation and Youth Commission

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; To appoint Ginny Pacheco and Jason Adamonis to the Recreation and Youth Commission.

Mr. Whelan was not in the room at the time of the vote.

They were sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Signing Traffic Control Agreement for the Safety Improvement Project with Mass DOT for Central Avenue

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To indefinitely postpone the Traffic Control Agreement for the Safety Improvement Project with Mass DOT for Central Avenue.

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan provided an update on the storm. As of noon today, National Grid reported that 49.5% of Seekonk was without power. Most residents should be restored by Friday and the remaining customers by Sunday.

August 31, 2011

-5-

Fire Chief Jack, Police Chief Charron, and DPW Superintendent Lamoureux stayed in contact with her and with each other throughout the storm. The Town was severely impacted by wind. There was no flooding. A shelter was opened; one person attended in a 12-hour period. The Health Agent was present all the time the shelter was open. Shingles fell from the Banna Station and the Public Safety Complex. A tree fell on the Animal Shelter. The roof leaks at the Pine Street Fire Station. Chief Charron had two shifts, and he cancelled all vacations. The biggest problem seemed to be the trees and wires.

Hotels were full and restaurants were extremely busy.

Chief Charron credited Mr. Lamoureux, the DPW crew, and Chief Jack.

The Town Administrator's office has been handling several complaints, mostly about power. There hasn't been much communication with National Grid until today. A representative from National Grid will be assigned to Seekonk starting tomorrow morning.

Mrs. Nolan commended the Chiefs and Mr. Lamoureux.

Chairman Parker added his commendations. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting so that Chief Charron, Chief Jack, and Mr. Lamoureux can report to residents. The Chairman had letters of appreciation from residents.

Mrs. Nolan advised that Chairman Parker and she went to the Water Board meeting. The Banna Fire Station will not be assessed fees, effective September 12, 2011.

She reported that the Building Commissioner has changed her hours. Mr. Watson will work early. While he is on vacation, Mrs. McNeil will start at 7 a.m.

The Building Commissioner has been summoned to Federal jury duty from October 3 to 21, 2011. Mr. Watson is attending continuing education courses at UMASS from October 3 to 6 2011. Mr. Fricot will work his usual 10 hours a week. The Building Inspector from Rehoboth may be available to provide coverage in Seekonk.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Mrs. McNeil is trying to get out of the jury duty.

She advised that she is extremely busy. She met with five bargaining units and she just heard from the Library.

On Thursday, Mrs. Nolan, Mr. Cavaco, and Mr. McLintock will attend an all day seminar on regionalization at Holy Cross College.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant
Use of Personal Credit Cards

Mr. Cavaco noted that there has been a problem with employees using their personal credit cards.

Ms. Hines said that she uses her card at Christmas time when she shops for the children. She is reimbursed from an account at Human Services.

Mrs. Nolan suggested language should be added to the policy.

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

VOTED: To indefinitely postpone action on Administrative Policy #63.

Mr. McLintock said that at a recent meeting at Mass. Highway several issues were discussed - light on Rte. 44, fire station for the south end, and Rte. 114A project. Rte. 152 will be blacktopped this weekend. The finished grade will be done later from the Attleboro line. He asked about second hand stop and go signals. Mass. Highway strongly recommended against it.

He felt the Board needs to pursue getting I-Pads.

Mr. Cavaco said he is very concerned that the Fire Department lost shingles and suggested contacting the contractor who did the work.

He noted that the trees behind the animal shelter should be cut down.

He mentioned that the lights at the Town Hall parking lot and animal shelter go out.

He asked about refinishing the sign at the entrance to Peck Street.

Chairman Parker said that \$1,000 was set aside for that.

At Mr. Cavaco's request, the issue of utility poles will be a work session item for October.

Mr. Rice felt there should be a policy in place.

He said the animal shelter needs a generator. There is a line from behind the shelter to the Town Hall that should be able to accommodate both buildings.

August 31, 2011

-7-

Mr. Rice suggested the Board of Selectmen and School Committee meet in a work session in September.

Mr. McLintock complained that members of Boards and Commissioners who are coming to Town Hall for meetings in the evening are not able to get into the building. The Police Department is busy and cannot open the door right away. He suggested a way to let people sign in and get a key.

He also mentioned a light at the back of Town Hall.

Mrs. Nolan felt that usually somebody has a key to get into the building.

Mr. Lamoureux noted there is a light outside the door and one on the corner of the building.

Mr. Rice commended Mrs. Hallal and the Board of Health for setting up a shelter during the storm. Call firefighters and citizens volunteered. Mr. Cavaco came by.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mrs. Ellie Wiseman expressed her appreciation for the Reverse 911 calls during the storm.

Mrs. Eleanora Rezek asked for an update on restoring electricity.

Mr. Lamoureux explained that it is difficult to get information from National Grid. However, he does know where they are dispatching the crews.

Mrs. Nolan noted that there is supposed to be a National Grid Representative in Town tomorrow morning.

Mr. McLintock felt National Grid did a terrible job informing people.

Mrs. Rezek said she has submitted a talent bank form for the Historical Commission. She would also be interested in the Community Preservation Commission (CPC). She hasn't heard anything.

Mr. Rice said there are three vacancies on the CPC. He suggested that this Board consider and post all vacancies.

Mr. McLintock felt there should be a better way to do this.

However, Mrs. Nolan stated the process done here is the same as in other communities and it is the fair way. She will include it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

August 31, 2011

-8-

Mrs. Rezek asked about a date and the procedure for putting an article on the warrant for the November Town Meeting.

Mrs. Nolan said according to the Charter.

Chairman Parker said it is usually 60 days before the meeting. The Town Clerk has petitions.

Mr. Edward Malloy asked about the proper way to dispose of food that went bad due to the storm. He asked about brush removal.

Mr. McLintock suggested it would be a good idea to use the Reverse 911 to inform residents.

Mr. Lamoureux stated that DPW cannot pick up brush. The department will only pick up whatever they cut down.

Chairman Parker noted that all storm related information will be announced at the next meeting.

Mrs. Barbara Malloy said they did go to DPW for information. She complained about newspaper coverage following the storm.

MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:13 p.m. Mr. Whelan motioned, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to go into Executive Session to discuss threatened litigation and settlement proposal made by Mr. Drohan with Mark Reich from Kopelman & Paige, dispatch collective bargaining negotiations update with Mr. LeClerc, and police union collective bargaining negotiations update; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary