

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 21, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He advised that the meeting was taped via audio and video. No one in the audience was taping.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 30, 2011

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; To accept the minutes of November 30, 2011.

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

Consider Approval of Student Awareness Fire Education SAFE Grant for Fire Department

Fire Chief Alan Jack advised that this grant allows the Fire Department to go into the schools and teach students about fire safety and awareness education.

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

VOTED: To accept the \$4,665 SAFE grant for the Fire Department.

Consider Approval of Renewal for 2012 Class II Motor Vehicle License for Seekonk Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a 114A Auto Sales (late filing)

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

VOTED: To approve the renewal of the Class II Motor Vehicle license for Seekonk Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a 114A Auto Sales.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Probationary Public Safety Dispatcher

Communications Director Dennis Leclerc recommended the appointment of Nicholas Rondeau.

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

VOTED: To appoint Nicolas Rondeau as Probationary Public Safety Dispatcher.

Consider Creating Two New Committees

Economic Development Committee and Energy Committee

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

VOTED: To strike the word “Advisory.”

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

VOTED: To form a five member Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee with revolving three year terms.

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

VOTED: To form an Ad Hoc Energy Committee.

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

VOTED: That the Ad Hoc Energy Committee would consist of five members with revolving three year terms.

Anyone interested should complete a talent bank form.

Report from the Police Chief on Promotional Process and Promotional Recommendation

Chief Charron noted that he was appointed Police Chief on this date in 2005. He inherited a department that needed a lot of work and lack of proper rank structure. He has been able to put together a rank structure that meets the needs of the department today and going into the future. That structure is two captains, two lieutenants, and five sergeants.

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He intends to move forward to replace a captain who retired during the summer. The position is budgeted. It wasn't filled at the time of retirement because there was a payout through September.

The new structure would involve three promotions. He gave this a lot of thought and talked to other chiefs in the area. He researched with the National Police Association. He learned that it is all contingent on the needs of the community.

He feels this is the right direction for the department. The promotion process is by contract. There is a list of officers who have passed the written test. The oral portion of the test is scheduled for January 6, 2012. Three outside chiefs will come in. At that time, the Town Administrator and he will finalize the list.

He said there is a need to develop officers who will move into the rank structure and take the department into the future.

He explained that the duties of the captain will be different. He does not anticipate a captain being assigned to the court, although it has been that way for years. He envisions division of duties between Administrative Captain and Operations Captain.

He felt this would allow for a smooth transition when he retires.

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

DEFEATED: 3 Nays; 1 Aye; To support the Police Chief's recommendation for promotional process.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Cavaco asked when the written exam expires.

Chief Charron explained the lieutenant's list expires in February. Two officers are on the list. The captain and sergeant lists are good for another year and a half. The lists last for two years even if there are no openings.

Mr. Cavaco said he would rather hire street officers.

Chief Charron said that he understood there are people who have "axes to grind" and will try to influence Board members.

Mr. McLintock asked for a breakdown of the department. He said there are nine ranking officers from a total of 34 police officers.

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Chairman Parker said that the current structure has been in effect since 2007. There have been two captains for several years. For the last several years, one of them has been assigned to the court. He questioned what training this second captain has provided by being a court officer. He felt the chief has proven to him that two captains are not needed, but maybe three lieutenants.

Chief Charron noted that was extenuating circumstances at the time.

Chairman Parker asked the chief what rank he was when he was promoted.

Chief Charron responded that he was a sergeant.

The Chief said he did not feel a third lieutenant is the way to go.

There was no second on Mr. McLintock's motion to table.

Mr. McLintock suggested the Chief reconsider and come back to the Board after the first of the year.

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

FAILED: 2 Ayes; 2 Nays; To support the Police Chief's recommendation to promote an officer to sergeant.

The vote: Mr. Rice – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. Cavaco – Nay, Mr. McLintock – Nay.

Chief Charron said he was not sure if he would have a new plan by January.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Review of Greenbrier Tour

Mrs. Nolan reported that this afternoon, the Board of Selectmen, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Building Inspector, School Committee Chairman and she took a bus tour through Greenbrier to see what kind of impact the development would have on the Town. They met with Mr. Charles Tapalian, Jr. and Mr. Chris Pelletier. A total of 440 units are proposed. School enrollment could possibly increase by 50 children. Both chiefs see a very large impact on their departments if these units were to develop.

Mr. Cavaco requested a copy of the traffic study for that area. He asked if the Board's subcommittee could request that the State install traffic lights on Rte. 114 at the entrance to Greenbrier.

Mr. McLintock noted that residents were encouraged to vote for this at Town Meeting. There won't be a problem if it goes the way it was supposed to.

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He felt there should be a light on Cole Street at Rte. 114. He thanked Mrs. Nolan for scheduling the tour.

Chairman Parker explained that it has to be treated as two separate projects, one for Greenbrier and one for Cole Street and it will not exceed the amount needed for the State to provide lighting; therefore, it will be the Town's responsibility.

Mrs. Nolan advised that she received communication from the ABCC that Monday, December 26, 2011, is a regular day of business for the sale of alcohol beverages. This is for this year only as long as licenses are in compliance.

She advised that the newly-formed management group (Seekonk, Norton, Plainville, No. Attleboro, Rehoboth, and Mansfield) has met to discuss the \$4M Community Innovation Challenge Grant put out by the Governor to encourage municipalities to regionalize. They haven't come up with anything. The deadline is January 21, 2012. SRPEDD is helping all communities to participate in E-Government to get money from this grant. John Hansen is the front person for this.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Mr. Cavaco advised that the warrants are in order.

Chairman Parker reported the 200th Anniversary dinner dance is on January 21, 2012. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at the Town Clerk's office. The Boston Celtics game is on March 4, 2012, at 1 p.m. There are two buses; one is completely sold out. The cost is \$95 and includes admission and the bus. The police honor guard will march on the floor for the National Anthem. Children under the age of 14 will be allowed on the floor to HiFi the team.

There is a different celebration each month throughout the year.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Gary Sagar read an article that appeared in local newspapers. It was written by a young lady and talked about the conditions at the current senior center. Because of limited access, seniors with disabilities cannot attend the activities.

He asked the Board of Selectmen to accelerate and convene a special town meeting for this topic. The previous building committee spent \$85,000 and the current committee has spent \$15,000 and nothing has happened.

Chairman Parker said it would be an agenda item for the first meeting in January, 2012.

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Mr. Kinniburgh stated that he was on the Planning Board when the overlay passed. It passed with the stipulation that all Boards approved it.

Chairman Parker commended DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux. He successfully negotiated with the salt company and locked in a price of \$65 per ton. This is a savings of approximately \$18,000 per year for the next two years.

He noted that there have been positive comments on the appearance of Town Hall. The Town was able to save \$30,000 by going to a private contractor for cleaning services.

Mrs. Nolan advised the building will be painted and a new rug installed.

At 7:44 p.m. Mr. McLintock motioned, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to go into Executive Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, for strategy pertaining to pending litigation with the ZBA case; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary