

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**JANUARY 11, 2012**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

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

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.

Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star was taping audio.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To accept the minutes of December 7, 2011.

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

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

**VOTED:** 3 Ayes; 2 Abstentions; To accept the Quad Board minutes  
of December 15, 2011.

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

**Consider Approval of Community Innovation Challenge Grant**

Town Planner John Hansen explained that SRPEDD is applying for this regional grant on behalf of Seekonk and eight other towns. It would assist the Town with E Government solutions. Residents would be able to apply for licenses and permits on line. SRPEDD will solicit a RFP.

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

**VOTED:** That the Town of Seekonk participate in the regional Community Innovation Challenge Grant Application for the following reasons: E-Gov can help increase services, improve public access to key information and processes, show a positive return on investment for municipal operations and also because E-Gov solutions have a strong sustainability and green benefit. Also, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the document.

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The document was signed by the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Nolan advised that the Assessors are part of a group also applying for this grant.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Update on Repair of the Town Hall Sign**

Mrs. Nolan advised the sign at the entrance to Peck Street should be back in its place by the end of next week.

#### **Update on Electrical Problems at Town Hall**

Mrs. Nolan advised that National Grid had to repair a line yesterday. In the meantime, Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Fiske have assured that Town Hall is in no immediate danger. They are evaluating the best way to solve the problem of water getting into the wires.

#### **Status on Snowplow Vendors**

Mrs. Nolan advised there are 16 additional trucks. Two drivers will be driving DPW vehicles.

Mr. Cavaco had an additional vendor. It will be an agenda item for next week.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion and Formation of the Al George Memorial Garden Ad Hoc Committee**

Veterans Agent Seth Bai stated that he would like to establish a seven-member committee with himself as chairman. This would be for the continued beautification of the garden and a permanent sanctuary. He recommended that interested individuals submit a talent bank form. He already has some residents. The term of the appointments will be for one year until November 2012.

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

**VOTED:** To establish a seven-member Ad Hoc Committee for the memorial garden at the entrance to Town Hall.

Appointments will be on the agenda for the January 25, 2012 meeting.

#### **Consider a Motion to Rescind the Vote of December 21, 2011 Meeting to Not Support the Staffing Plan Proposed by the Police Chief (per John Whelan)**

Mr. Cavaco noted that the vote was taken two weeks ago with four members in attendance. The vote was 3 opposed and one in favor of the chief's proposal.

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Chairman Parker stated that he has never denied a board member from including an item on the agenda.

Mr. McLintock said the Board cannot continue to revisit items because a member was not in attendance. A quorum was present at the time the vote was taken.

Mr. Whelan stated there are no rules about this. He felt the Chief is due the respect of revisiting the matter.

Mr. McLintock felt there has to be better communication between the Board and department heads.

Chairman Parker stated that Chief Charron has requested the Board not address this particular staffing problem until he has time to further study the organizational breakdown of the Police Department before moving forward with any promotional plan.

Chief Charron stated that it might be wise to step back. He needs to think about this, and he is still standing by his original proposal. With the budget and binding arbitration, it would be wise to take a step back. He said this has dominated his time and it has been a distraction to the department. It should have been a positive development to the department. He miscalculated the Board's thoughts on this matter. Chief Charron apologized to the officers on the promotion list. They have been police officers for more than twenty years. It affects them and their families. He received a number of phone calls and e mails, and he appreciations the support.

Mr. McLintock said he wanted to table the matter when it came up last week.

No motion was made; the Chairman moved to the next item.

Mr. Whelan asked if it could be taken up at another time.

He stated that he was not approached by the Chief at any time and there was no communication between them.

### **Consider Approval of the Police Chief to Replace a Vacant Position for Sergeant**

Chief Charron said that he did not approach Mr. Whelan or anyone else.

He requested that the Board consider filling the vacant sergeant position. Without that, he would be forced to remove a sergeant from the Prosecution Department and put that officer back on patrol and fill the patrol officer position. He did not recommend that action.

Chairman Parker noted that this represents a savings because the sergeant is actually replacing a retired captain.

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

**VOTED:** To support the request of the Police Chief to replace a sergeant.

**Discuss a Staffing Plan for the Police Department Going Forward (Officers' Distribution)**

No action at this time.

**Discuss Special Town Meeting to Vote on the Senior Center Project**

Mr. Gary Sagar provided a history of the senior center project since 1999. He said that \$120,000 has been expended thus far.

He suggested the Board schedule a Special Town Meeting prior to the April election in order to move forward on this project.

Mr. McLintock, a member of the building committee, disagreed. He said the committee is ready to move forward with the senior center on Town Hall property. So far, \$12,000 of the \$50,000 appropriated has been spent on design work.

They need a large number of people to vote in April, and then it would be up to Town Meeting.

Mr. Sagar said that Sen. Scott Brown indicated there were might be money available.

Mr. McLintock said the bonding people said this is the way to do it.

Mr. David Bowden, Chairman of the Building Committee, advised that the committee voted to go to the ballot first. The reason being the weather is warmer and more people would turnout.

Mr. Rice felt that spending \$120,000 for nothing is shameful.

Ms. Michelle Hines, a member of the first building committee, explained that they had to go to Town Meeting first because they were applying for CDBG funds.

Chairman Parker stated that the bottom line is – is it worth calling a Special Town Meeting for 60 days on the construction season. If there is a Special Town Meeting in January and the election in April, the project could proceed in April. With the election in April followed by the Town Meeting in June, the project could go forward in July. He added that the cost of a Special Town Meeting is less than \$300-\$400.

Mr. Rice wanted assurance that this would be on the ballot.

**Consider Appointment of a Member to the Southeastern Rail Task Force**

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

**VOTED:** To appoint Mr. Rice to the Southeastern Rail Task Force.

**Consider Approval of Update to Administrative Policy #1, New Employment with the Town**

Mrs. Nolan advised that she is currently updating the Administrative Policies. For the most part, they were done in 1984.

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

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To replace Administrative Policy #1 with the policy presented by the Town Administrator.

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

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Discussion on RFP for Engineering Services for the Town**

Mrs. Nolan advised that she included this on the agenda because Mr. McLintock has been asking for this information.

She noted that she include actual work awarded on a project by project basis as approved by the Board.

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

**VOTED:** To approve the RFP for engineering services.

**Letter of Praise for Animal Control Officer**

Mrs. Nolan read a letter of praise from a resident for Ms. Sharon Hall, the Animal Control Officer.

She advised that Sen. Scott Brown was in Town Hall today. He presented Save A Pet with a certificate for 25 years of service to the Town.

Mrs. Nolan advised that the Seekonk Library Trust had been selected for a Smart Investing at your Library Grant in the amount of \$98,818.

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

### **Accounts Payable Warrant**

Mr. Cavaco reported that the warrants are in order.

He suggested that a DPW worker should go out early in the morning to sand wherever it is icy.

He found out that lights were stolen from a vehicle while it was parked at the DPW yard. Police are investigating.

Mr. Cavaco told Board members that any letters of complaint about the Board of Health should be forwarded to the Board of Health.

Mr. McLintock said the signals were installed at Baker's Corner and should be working by spring.

Chairman Parker advised that the Dinner/Dance for Seekonk's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is on Saturday, January 21, 2012. There are less than five tickets left for the Celtics game on March 4.

Sen. Brown dropped off a flag

Chairman Parker said that he attended the ribbon cutting for Not Your Average Joes Restaurant this afternoon. The restaurant adopted the Friends of the Library and presented a check for \$3,500.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

President of the Seekonk Firefighters Adam Clement asked if they would be allowed to speak at the meeting with the Fire Chief on Thursday, January 12.

Chairman Parker advised it is a work session; therefore, the public will not be allowed to comment. Representatives from each group will be allowed to speak. Any votes will be taken at a future meeting.

Mr. Don Kinniburgh inquired about the subcommittee for the memorial garden.

Chairman Parker explained that appointments will be made based on talent bank forms submitted.

Mr. Kinniburgh stated that he felt the memorial garden was supposed to be dedicated to four individuals of the Town; not just one as it appears on the agenda.

Mr. Ed Wiseman mentioned that the light under the American Flag was not lit. He complained that the "Police Beat" program is not on local television.

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Mr. McLintock responded to Mr. Kinniburgh's comments. If there is an issue, Mr. Kinniburgh and the American Legion should contact the Veterans' Agent.

Mr. Kinniburgh stated that, following the Memorial Day Parade, the Board decided the memorial garden would be named for four individuals.

Mr. McLintock said that should be brought to the attention of the committee when it is formed.

Mr. Kinniburgh said he asked Mr. Bai to meet with the Commander.

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary