

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 22, 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 and asked if anybody in the audience was taping.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE HEARING

Consider Approval of Class II Motor Vehicle License for MS Classic Cars to be Located at 1865 Fall River Avenue, Marc Schiliro, Manager

Mr. Schiliro explained that it would be an upscale facility with about 25 to 30 cars.

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

VOTED: To approve the Class II Motor Vehicle License for MS Classic Cars to be located at 1865 Fall River Avenue.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes for January 25, 2012 and Amended Minutes of November 17, 2010

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Abstentions; To accept the Regular Session Minutes of January 25, 2012.

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

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 2 Abstentions; To accept the amended minutes of November 17, 2010.

The vote: Mr. Whelan – Aye; Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Abstained; Mr. Rice – Abstained. Mr. McLintock and Mr. Rice were not members of the Board at that time.

INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES

The following individuals submitted talent bank forms and were interviewed for the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee, Armed Services Memorial Park Committee, and Energy Committee.

Dr. Frank Casarella, Municipal Capital Improvement Committee
Teresa DeSilva, Municipal Capital Improvement Committee

Chairman Parker advised there are three vacancies – two to be filled by the Board of Selectmen and one by the Moderator.

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

VOTED: To appoint Dr. Frank Casarella and Teresa DeSilva to the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee, effective immediately.

Nicholas Rondeau, Armed Services Memorial Park
Kathleen Healey, Armed Services Memorial Park
Dr. Gill Woodside, Armed Services Memorial Park
Russell Horsman, Armed Services Memorial Park
Thomas Rubel (Doc), Armed Services Memorial Park
Donald Kinniburgh, Armed Services Memorial Park

Mrs. Healey was disqualified because she is not a Seekonk resident.

Dr. Woodside advised that he is the founder of the Seekonk Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Foundation. That group put together and erected the Seekonk Memorial on Seekonk Commons. He has a lot of fundraising experience.

All candidates indicated they wanted to help veterans.

Chairman Parker said this is a seven-member committee and there are two openings. The Veteran's Agent will serve as an ad hoc member since he does not live in Seekonk.

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

VOTED: To appoint Nicholas Rondeau, Dr. Gill Woodside, Russell Horsman, Thomas Rubel, and Donald Kinniburgh to the Armed Services Memorial Park Committee.

Mr. Cavaco's recommendation to allow the Armed Services Memorial Park Committee to privatize fundraising and to spend any money raised was deferred until the next meeting.

Robert Braunsdorf, Energy Committee

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

VOTED: To appoint Robert Braunsdorf to the Energy Committee.

A second candidate for this committee will be at the next meeting.

Mr. McLintock suggested that the Town Administrator send a letter to Mrs. Healey in appreciation of her interest and urging her to remain involved.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion on Town Election Polling Hours

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To change the time of voting to 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. for the national election.

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

Prior to the vote, Mr. Cavaco felt the Chairman should recuse himself because he is a candidate for reelection. However, Chairman Parker noted it is not of personal interest to him. He said the Board of Selectmen voted to change the time in 2009 as a way to save money.

Mr. Gary Sagar read from the minutes of December 1, 2008 which said the Town Clerk requested authorization to combine all four voting locations at the high school. A vote was taken by the Board. There was no mention about changing the hours.

Mr. Cavaco felt the Town Clerk, as the keeper of records, should have that information.

Mrs. Nolan read a request from Town Clerk Janet Parker that the hours stay from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Mr. McLintock stressed the importance of having extending voting hours.

Chairman Parker said there has been no curtailment of voting. He felt it is a disservice to the Town and to the Town Clerk. Poll workers have just been trained on the new voting machines. Additional workers might be needed to cover the extra hours.

Mr. Sagar noted that polls will have to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Super Tuesday, March 6th. He noted that part of the election expenses is reimbursed by the State. His goal is for longer voting hours and increased participation.

Mr. Robert Blanchard said there might have been more people voting in one location but not as many voters because of less time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Runnins River Dam (Burr's Pond) with Richard Wallace from Conservation Commission

Chairman of the Conservation Commission Richard Wallace advised that Weston & Sampson was contracted in 2009 to study the Burrs Pond Dam. The report came back as "fair condition." The previous Town Administrator felt it wasn't a topic that needed to be addressed.

This report brings out several issues, such as sink holes on the dike and the need for safety rails. There is an area with a 15-20' drop with no guardrails.

Mrs. Nolan will meet with Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Wallace and report back to the Board.

Discussion and Vote on Changes to the Sign Moratorium

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

VOTED: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; To extend the sign moratorium until August 31, 2012.

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

The Planning Board will be invited to the next meeting for further discussion.

Budget Review with Human Services

Human Services Director Bernie Huck advised her budget is level funded. The only changes will be per negotiations.

She received a formula grant for \$18,900 and a minor home repair grant for \$5,800. She is waiting to hear from Mass. Transportation about a new computer system.

Mrs. Huck said she talked to the Finance Committee about plans for the new senior center if approved at Town Meeting. She felt her budget should take care of it.

Mrs. Nolan noted that \$5,000 was included for office supplies and furniture.

Chairman Parker stressed that government meetings cannot be used to promote the new center.

Budget Review for Town Clerk

Town Clerk Janet Parker was not in attendance. No questions from the Board.

Budget Review for Treasurer/Collector's Department

Treasurer/Collector Christine DeFontes was not in attendance.

Mrs. Nolan had a breakdown of expenses in that department. One more person is eligible for longevity this year. There is \$25,000 (\$10,000 increase) in the tax title account because attorney fees and tax property processing fees continue to rise. She has had to cease activity because of lack of funds in past years.

The debt service has gone down \$48,000 based on declining debt schedules. The retirement assessment has increased \$71,962. The health insurance with no changes has increased \$69,481. When the changes are made as voted last week, the Town will realize a savings of several hundred thousand dollars; however, not until the end of 2013. The best way to give back to employees might be a holiday in terms of health insurance in paychecks.

Mr. McLintock commended Mrs. Nolan for getting this insurance item.

Budget Review for Finance Department

Finance Director Bruce Alexander was not in attendance.

Mrs. Nolan advised that longevity has increased because a clerk has reached 25 years of service. Software license fees have increased and in-state travel increased in accordance with the IRS mileage reimbursement.

There is a separate line item for town audit.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Mr. Alexander does the MIS work, saving the Town a salary.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan advised that two people had resigned from the Banna Station Building Committee. Appointments were made to the MCIC. In accordance with a 2009 warrant article, the Town Moderator is supposed to appoint a member of the MCIC to the Banna Station Building Committee.

February 22, 2012

-6-

Chairman Parker noted that there is a bylaw that says CIC members cannot serve on any board in town.

Mr. McLintock said the idea of the CIC was to have people make a non-biased decision based on the information they had before them.

Chairman Parker noted that every member of the CIC has turned down from serving on the Banna Fire Station Committee.

Board members agreed that the warrant article regarding the Banna Fire Station Committee needs to be corrected in May.

Mrs. Nolan noted that there are still loyal members on the Banna Fire Station Committee. Mr. Carpenter is getting prices on module buildings. They have \$750,000 available.

There will be a ballot question about the senior center.

She updated on the changes in employee medical insurance.

Mrs. Jenkins next door called about placing the Town Hall sign on her property. She is waiting to hear from her attorney.

Mrs. Nolan advised that bids were opened this afternoon for engineering services. About 80 RFPs were sent out; 15 replied. She asked members of the Board to help her go through the proposals and select about five to come before the full Board. Mr. McLintock and Mr. Cavaco will work with Mrs. Nolan, Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Cabral.

She will not open the price proposals until the five finalists are selected.

She read a notice from the Bristol County Mosquito Control that residents must provide the Town Clerk with a certified letter if they want their property excluded from spraying.

Chairman Parker suggested a Reverse 911 call to everyone.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Mr. Cavaco reported that all warrants are in order.

Mr. McLintock said that he met with Mass. Highway officials today regarding the recent change orders that were presented to the Board. There will be further discussion next week after he and Mr. Cavaco meet with Mr. Cabral.

February 22, 2012

-7-

Chairman Parker read a letter from Mr. Edward Karbowski in appreciation of the work done by the Highway Department on Cross Street during the snowstorm.

Mr. Cavaco inquired about the PILOT program.

Mrs. Nolan said it is "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" and usually applies to educational programs or schools that do not pay taxes. It relies on services.

Mr. Cavaco had two agenda items for next week: (1) Armed Services Memorial Park Committee – approval to fundraise and spend the money and (2) a \$500 donation for the Al George Memorial Park.

Mr. Cavaco expressed concern about a misunderstanding regarding a liquor license in an establishment in town. The Chairman got a call that the license was not posted. It was implied that Mr. Cavaco did not deliver the license to that establishment. When Chairman Parker received the call, he contacted Ms. Rogers. He noted that Ms. Rogers and he hand deliver the licenses. He felt that Ms. Rogers deserves an apology.

Chairman Parker agreed.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Ed Wiseman expressed disappointment that Mrs. Healy could not serve on a board because she lives out of town.

Mr. McLintock noted that the bylaws are clear about that.

Mr. Rice suggested that Mr. Wiseman get 10 people who agree with him and write a petition for a warrant article for Town Meeting.

At 9:55 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Rice, to go into Executive Session per Chapter 30A, Section 21, for matters related to call firefighters contract, discussion on contract for DPW, and to approve Executive Session minutes of October 26, 2011, November 30, 2011, December 7, 2011, and December 21, 2011; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

