

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**JUNE 27, 2012**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: Francis Cavaco, Gary Sagar, David Parker

Absent: Robert McLintock

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Cavaco called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, Chairman Cavaco stated that anybody taping must notify the Chair and that the meeting is taped via audio and video.

Mr. Jonathon Friedman of The Patch was taping audio.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Reappoint Town Matrons, Constables and Special Police as Presented in Memo by Police Chief Ronald Charron**

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To appoint Matrons, Constables, and Special Police for 2012-13 as presented by Police Chief Ronald Charron, as follows:

Constables

Chief Ronald Charron	Sgt. Anthony Araujo	Sgt. Matthew Jardine
Capt. Craig Mace	Sgt. David Ciszkowski	Sgt. Gerard Lafleur
Lt. Frank John	Sgt. Michelle Hines	Sgt. David Enos
Lt. David Dyson		

Matrons

Myra Cavallaro	Sandra Phillips
Katelyn Butterworth	Kathleen Alves
Lisa Parker	

Special Police Officers

Anthony Azulay	David Bourque	Dennis Smiley	William Dallaire
Scott Dumond	Mark Ferrick	Richard Bradley	Gary McNally
David Miller	Stephen Lucke	Edward McDonald	Richard Phillips
Thomas Piquette	Jason O'Hara	James Roy	Arthur St. Hillaire
Nancy Sheldon	Ronald Rickey	Joseph Sousa	

### **Discussion of Grist Mill Fire and Performance of Columbia Gas**

Fire Chief Alan Jack distributed the narrative of the incident report and timelines that were earmarked with the audio in taping system. The final page of the report showed the proximity of the gas line to the telephone pole (approximately 9 ft.).

He reported that at 5:46 a.m. the fire department was dispatched to a structure fire at 390 Fall River Avenue (Grist Mill). A commercial vehicle was laying on its side. A code red was reported. It was initially thought to be a fuel fed fire but clarified that it was a natural gas fire. There was heavy fire coming from the ruptured gas line. When the truck tipped over it fractured the 2" feed coming from the underground. The vehicle also took down the telephone pole. There was an explosion confined to one building. The heat of the fire ignited all combustibles in the immediate area. They called out for mutual aid from surrounding areas. Within a matter of minutes there was a heavy 3" fog line on the exterior of the building. Technically, the fire department is not to put a gas fire out. It was cooled down and extinguished as much as possible. They advanced fire lines into the structure. The light smoke turned into massive heat and a heavy brown smoke with no visibility.

At 6:41 a.m. the command was issued to evacuate the building. There was a major collapse of the roof. On a primary search, the building was unoccupied.

Seekonk and East Providence Fire Departments put up aerial pipes. The gas company was reported on the scene at 6:56 a.m.

Subsequently, the report supports the first hour or so and other hours directly after the incident and what took place.

Mr. Sagar commended the fire personnel. He said they did a great job to save as much of that building as they could. He added that the building is a treasure and, hopefully, going forward people will be able to enjoy it again.

He said there is a difference of 35 minutes in the report of the fire vs. the gas company. Gas Company records indicate they were notified at 6:05 a.m. and arrived at 6:21 a.m. It took 20 minutes to shut off one valve which did no good. Finally at 7:58 a.m. the valve was located and shut down. That contradicts a letter he got from the gas company today.

Mr. Sagar felt the response time wasn't much better than it was for 36 Maple Avenue.

The Chief had indicated he would like to see all gas valves located.

Chief Jack said there was a valve in close proximity of the vehicle that overturned. There was a heavy body of fire. That valve accessed the restaurant itself. They looked for subsequent valves.

The Rehoboth Fire Chief indicated they knew that and looked for subsequent valves that would feed that area. It was the third valve that the flow of gas was terminated completely. The gas was terminated into the building at 8:01 a.m.

Mr. Sagar said there was confusion by gas company personnel on the scene.

Chief Jack concurred. He noted the gas company responded from Taunton so it would not be a long response time.

Mr. Sagar requested that Chief Jack get a copy of the radio transmissions and phone conversations for this incident and 36 Maple Street. He called for a moratorium on road openings for the gas company.

Mr. Parker expressed his gratitude to the surrounding communities who responded in both incidents. He also thanked Capt. Healy who assumed command and did an exceptional job on the scene and saved some of the artifacts.

He was uncomfortable discussing the gas company role considering the fact that the fire marshal and police are investigating and there might be litigation in this case.

Mr. Parker stated that he filed a Form 268e today because his daughter has worked as a manager at the Grist Mill for 17 years.

Chairman Cavaco thanked Chief Jack and the Fire Department for an outstanding job once again on this tragedy. Luckily, it was early in the morning and there were no patrons in the restaurant. He was at the scene, and he is not happy with the performance of the gas company. He witnessed gas company employees running around in confusion trying to find valves on maps.

He said that a few months ago Mr. Sagar had come up with a list of items for the gas company - #1 all gas valves and other controls located in the Town's right of way shall be located and inspected and replaced no later than December 31, 2012, #2 all gas valves located in Town's right of way shall be located and mapped on a computer software program compatible with the Town's computer center currently in use by fire and police departments, and #3 locating and mapping shall be completed and supplied no later than December 31, 2012. Amendments and updates shall be completed when changes occur and annually and certification of the information supplied.

The Chairman noted that discussion on a moratorium cannot be done at this time because it is not an agenda item. He would like to invite the President of Columbus Gas to the July 11, 2012 meeting for discussion.

Chairman Cavaco stated that the gas company needs to work with the Town of Seekonk. Trying to locate valves and the inability to shut them off is unacceptable.

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Mr. Sagar commended department heads: Chief Jack, Building Commissioner Mary McNeil, and Conservation Agent Bernadette DeBlander.

He said he assisted the owner in completing paperwork. The owner will be going before the ZBA on July 16, 2012.

In response to Chairman Cavaco's request, Chief Jack indicated he would have copies of the information he presented available on Thursday morning.

Mr. Greg Esmay, owner of the Grist Mill, expressed his appreciation to Capt. Healy and firefighters who were able to save some of the artifacts.

He obviously has a few questions for gas company officials but will follow Mr. Parker's lead and not say anything.

Mr. Esmay stated that people have been amazing. He expected the building will be standing once again. It will be a process, but he will get it done.

## **INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

### **Interview, Consider Reappointment and Vote on Candidates to Multiple Committees**

Mrs. Nolan referred to the list of committees that will expire at the end of June 2012. She wrote a letter and asked candidates to attend tonight's meeting. She also interviewed everybody. Comments are in the packet.

David Brescia (Conservation) and Larry Ransom (MCIC) are unable to attend tonight.

Christopher Clegg, 187 Monarch Drive, said he wanted to continue on the Conservation Commission because they do a great job representing the Town in wetland issues.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, a motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Chairman Cavaco, and it was

**VOTED:** 2 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To reappoint Christopher Clegg to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term until the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker - Abstained.

Mr. Parker said he abstained because several weeks ago he mentioned the expiration dates were not right. There are seven members on the Conservation Commission which means the terms should be 2 - 2 - 3. He felt the list has been wrong for at least three years.

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Mr. Richard Hill, 58 Field Street, Seekonk, MA said he finds the Conservation Commission very rewarding. They work very well together and do good work. He has been a member of the Conservation Commission for 22 years.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Chairman Cavaco seconded, and it was

**VOTED:** 2 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To reappoint Richard Hill to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term until the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Abstained.

Mrs. Josephine Veader, 777 County Street, said she has been on the Board of Registrars for quite a while and would like to think she has been helpful.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, a motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Josephine Veader to the Board of Registrars for a three-year term until the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker - Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

Human Services Director Bernadette Huck said that transportation is very important to senior citizens. She would definitely like to continue to serve on GATRA.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Mr. Parker seconded, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Bernadette Huck to GATRA for one year to expire at the end of June 2013.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

Mr. Daniel Horton, 940 County Street, stated that it is important to keep the existing members on the Historical Commission. He first became a member in 1976, he left for awhile, and was reappointed.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Mr. Parker seconded, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Daniel Horton to the Historical Commission for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

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Mr. Michael Markley, 92 Chestnut Street, said that he believes in contributing to the community and history is what he does best.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Mr. Parker seconded, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Michael Markley to the Historical Commission for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

Mrs. Nolan advised she could not reach Mr. Casarella (MCIC) and Mr. Ranson (MCIC) was unable to attend. She would recommend both reappointments.

Mr. Parker stated that the MCIC is three years old and the terms for seven members should be 2 - 2- 3.

Town Moderator Michelle Hines said the open position expires in 2014.

Mr. Parker referred to an appointment book in the Town Clerk's office. He tried to figure out terms. He would not support any appointment to MCIC.

Mr. Sagar noted that the MCIC cannot work if the appointments are not made.

Ms. Hines said she has several reappointments and she cannot do anything until the dates are re-verified. She suggested they let it go.

Mr. Parker felt that the chairman of each committee should be able to keep the appointment dates updated.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Ms. Hines has been working with Ms. Rogers. However, Ms. Rogers is currently out sick.

Ms. Lauren Walsh said she and Mrs. Hart have been working on this since the first of the year. She said there is no place in Town Hall, including the Town Clerk's office that can be accountable for defining any of the terms, at least the MCIC.

She added that the Town Clerk has a little black book with dates and signatures of when the person was sworn in. Ms. Walsh felt the Town Clerk is supposed to keep track of terms; she is the keeper of the records. Ms. Walsh disagreed with Mr. Parker. She felt the Town Clerk should keep a spreadsheet.

Ms. Walsh said the MCIC began in 2006. Her term and Mr. Ransom's term are up this year. They would be reappointed for the next three years; she, by the moderator and Mr. Ransom, by the Board of Selectmen.

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Mr. Parker said there are letters that were sent to the Town Clerk but no terms on the appointments. He felt it could be corrected if somebody would take the time to do it.

Ms. Walsh said the MCIC terms were staggered. Three terms rolled over time.

Mr. Parker said all terms should expire as close as possible according to Charter.

Ms. Hines suggested the Board vote on Ms. Walsh and Mr. Ransom.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, a motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Larry Ransom to the MCIC for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

Ms. Irene Andrews, 109 Monarch Drive, said that she has served on the Human Services Council for quite a few years. She replaced someone and was twice reappointed. She enjoys it and she thinks that people have enjoyed her. She hoped that she has brought something good to the Council.

Mrs. Victoria Kinniburgh and Mrs. Anita Gendreau were also in attendance.

Mr. Parker questioned the terms.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Mrs. Lynn Neves does not want to be reappointed. She suggested the Board reappoint the three individuals in attendance and correct the term with Mrs. Neves' replacement.

Mr. Parker argued that the issue might be with one of these reappointments.

Mrs. Kinniburgh noted that she also was appointed to the Council to fill a vacancy.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Chairman Cavaco seconded, and it was

**VOTED:** 2 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To reappoint Irene Andrews, Victoria Kinniburgh, and Anita Gendreau to the Human Services Council for three-year terms to expire at the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye; Mr. Parker – Abstained.

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Mrs. Nolan recommended the reappointments of Mr. Rapp and Mr. LeClerc.

Mr. Neal Rapp, 14 Airdrie Court, said that there are a lot of great things going on with Recreation.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Neal Rapp to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.

Mr. Dennis LeClerc, Meadow Court, reiterated Mr. Rapp's comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Dennis LeClerc to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

Mr. Parker commended that committee for the progress they have made.

Mr. William Kirchmann of 59 Oak Hill Avenue said he still has a passion for recycling.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint William Kirchmann to the Recycling Committee for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

Mrs. Christine Allen of 39 Brook Street stated that she has been on the Taxation Aid Fund Committee since its inception. She helped design the guidelines and application. She felt it is very important to safeguard the money because it is donated money. She said the Committee was established with one year, two year and three year terms. The Collector/Treasurer and Assessor serve by statute under Mass. General Laws. Mrs. Allen said she believes in volunteering in the community.

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, Mr. Parker seconded, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Christine Allen to the Taxation Aid Fund Committee for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Cavaco – Aye.



Mr. Sagar suggested the elimination of the Open Space Planning Committee and Police and Fire Building Committee that expired in June 2011. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **Reappointment of Town Constable**

Mrs. Nolan recommended, Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To reappoint Steven J. Ladeira as Town Constable for a three-year term.

### **Moderator Interviews and Reappointments of Candidates to Various Multiple Committees**

Ms. Hines appointed Mr. Evan Akers to the Banna Fire Station Building Committee with no expiration date. She said that Mr. Akers had been interviewed and notified of the appointment.

Due to the discrepancy with expiration dates, Ms. Hines deferred action on Finance Committee appointments until the July 11, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Hines appointed Lauren Walsh to the MCIC for a three-year term to expire at the end of June 2015.

Mr. Sagar asked who would correct the problem with the dates on the list of board and commissions.

Ms. Hines said she will talk to the Town Clerk. She suggested they need to research this for the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. If they can't find anything, they will have to correct it as appointments are made. She said that committee members already know that the terms might change. She has talked to the Finance Committee about this.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Patricia Cloutier, President of Save a Pet – Report on Animal Shelter Building Committee and Request to Spend Money**

Members of the Building Committee Patricia Cloutier, Karen McHugh, and Sharon Hall were in attendance.

Mrs. Cloutier updated the Board on the progress made and requested permission to spend about \$8,000 to \$10,000 to prepare drawings. The committee has spent \$686.68 to date on site plan and advertising to go before the ZBA. They currently have \$176,000.

She noted that the original plan called for an addition to the current building. It is the consensus of the committee and town officials to go with a new modular building.

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Mr. Sagar asked if they had considered consolidating with other communities.

Mrs. Cloutier said it was discussed in the past and decided that it probably would not be in the best interest of everybody involved. It would be too complicated.

Mrs. Nolan felt that the earliest construction could start would be mid September. She thought it might be possible to look at one project manager for all three buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To authorize the Animal Shelter Building Committee to expend \$15,000 to prepare drawings.

### **Discussion on Town Hall Sign**

Mrs. Nolan advised the Town has a small amount of land on the side of the road; however, it is not the right size to place a sign. It has to be 12 feet. There is a small sign under the street sign right now.

### **Set Date in November 2012 for Fall Town Meeting**

The Board discussed optional dates because the original date of November 5 is the national election.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To set the date for the Fall Town Meeting as Tuesday, November 13, 2012, subject to availability of the high school.

### **Open Warrant for Fall Town Meeting and Vote on Date for Closure to Warrant for Fall Town Meeting**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To open the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting tonight (June 27, 2012) and close at the end of business on September 14, 2012.

### **Discuss Seekonk Cemetery Expansion and Projected Costs as Provided by GPI Engineering**

Deferred until possibly July 11, 2012 to allow GPI to complete the necessary work in order to provide cost estimates.

**Consider Employee Logs for Inspectional Services**

Mrs. Nolan advised that she met with Bernadette DeBlander, Beth Hallal, Mary McNeil, Robert Lamoureux, David Cabral, and Bruce Alexander. They are receptive to the idea. They want to be able to enter into a computer program while out in the field. The way to do it is to use smart phones or I Pads. Mr. Alexander felt they could use the same software currently being used. Mrs. McNeil indicated this is being done throughout the commonwealth.

Mrs. Nolan would like to get more information from the computer company.

**Town Engineer David Cabral on Change Orders for Baker's Corner Project and Permit Process and Design of Route 44 Safety Complex Stoplight**

Mr. Cabral advised that one of the items has a cost, the others are overruns. The items resulted in an under run of \$17,018.76, putting the Town in the black of contingency money by \$10,000 right now.

In response to Mr. Sagar's question, Mr. Cabral said it was not necessary to put a traffic light at Oak Hill Avenue. The State decided to box out the area for the conduit for the future.

Mr. Parker asked about maintenance of the strip of grass along the sidewalk.

Mr. Cabral responded that DPW will be responsible, similar to Olney Street.

Chairman Cavaco asked about flooding at Bakers Corner this week.

Mr. Cabral said it had to do with material used for work on the CVS. It was corrected within an hour.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Change Orders and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the documents.

Chairman Cavaco talked about the traffic light on Rte. 44 at the entrance to the Public Safety Complex. Former Rep. Philip Travis had started to look into it before he left office.

The transportation safety bond came out last Wednesday. A request for \$185,000 for the light, opticom system and control unit was submitted. Rep. Howitt amended the transportation bond to \$50,000. Following that, Sen. Timilty filed an amendment for \$135,000. Last year the Town received \$225,000 on the Route 114 project. At that time, the Board voted to take \$50,000 for the design and permit process for the light at the complex.

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Prior to his retirement, Mr. McCourt of Mass. Highway indicated it would be approved.

Chairman Cavaco would like to move forward with Mass. Highway, Mr. Cabral, and GPI to start the process of permit and design.

Mr. Cabral said he has not heard from Mass. Highway. Usually it is the first week of April.

Mr. Parker questioned what would happen if the plans are done and the Senate bill is held up.

**Bernadette Huck to Discuss Grants for Senior Center and Discussion and Vote on Application for Specific Grants**

Continued until July 11, 2012.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval and Vote on Contract for Markings, Inc. for Road Markings**

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the three-year contract with Markings, Inc.

**Outside Entertainment License for Carnival for Junior Warriors Football and Cheerleaders**

Ms. Renee George of Pawtucket, RI was in attendance.

Chairman Cavaco asked for about the insurance certificate.

Ms. George said the vendors provide the information on the day of the carnival.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the outside entertainment license for a carnival to be held on Saturday, July 28, 2012 to benefit the junior warriors football and cheerleaders, pending receipt of satisfactory insurance certificate naming the Town of Seekonk.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Nolan reminded residents that fireworks are illegal in the State of Massachusetts.

She is about to send out RFP for legal services.

She noted that the Town of Seekonk is not responsible for the property at 36 Maple Avenue. It is privately owned. The Town can make it safe for public safety. There are cameras watching the facility.

She will advertise for a representative to the Board of Directors of Bristol Elder Services.

### **Report on Tom Lennon at 495 Central Avenue**

Mrs. Nolan said they have found a resolution. They are still meeting with Mr. Lennon, Mr. Cabral, the engineering firm, and neighbors.

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

Mr. Parker congratulated the library for the concert last weekend and the Lions Club for the barbeque. He said about 225 residents attended the PawSox game on July 7, 2012.

He asked if the Board had done the right thing in requiring a solid barrier for outside liquor license.

Mr. Nolan advised that Mrs. McNeil has indicated the solid barrier is not needed.

Mr. Parker noted that the Town has unlimited use of the Reverse 911. It could have been used to notify residents of activities for the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

He talked about a newsletter or some way of notifying residents about town activities.

Ms. Hines said that information is on the town's website.

Chairman Cavaco said the Town Clerk has provided him with certified minutes of Town Meeting, and Sen. Timilty will file for 12 additional liquor licenses for the Town of Seekonk.

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

None.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

Mrs. Christine Allen cautioned about the moratorium on road openings for the gas company. It would prevent residents from switching from oil to gas.

Mr. Sagar noted the moratorium will be on the July 11<sup>th</sup> agenda.

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Mrs. Lisa Bianco, 1 Tee Jay Drive, suggested a town page on Facebook.

She noticed there is a church run out of the Martin School. She asked if the Town was paid.

Mr. Parker said the School Committee is paid.

She felt that call firefighters might have had a faster response than surrounding towns.

Mrs. Nolan noted that they would have to leave their homes and get their equipment at the fire station.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary