

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 24, 2012
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Francis Cavaco, Gary Sagar, David Parker, Nelson Almeida
Absent: Robert McLintock

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Cavaco called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, he stated that anybody taping must notify the Chair and that the meeting is taped via audio and video and televised on TV 9. Jonathan Friedman of The Patch was taping audio and video.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion and Vote to Approve/Disapprove a Street Light at 889 Newman Avenue

Police Chief Ronald Charron said he referred to the policy on file from 1995 when several streets in town were shut down because of budgetary problems. He spoke to DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux. This does meet the policy.

Chairman Cavaco and Mr. Parker indicated they would not support the request because it would be opened up to others and the Town would pay for it.

Mr. Sagar noted this is one of the heaviest traveled streets in town. He referred to a light on Bloomfield Street that is on day and night and the Town is paying for it. With the Chief's recommendation, he wholeheartedly supported it.

A motion by Mr. Sagar to approve the light had no second and failed.

Interview Kristen Pion, David Norton and Elaine Petter for Historical Commission

Mrs. Nolan advised that Ms. Petter withdrew her request for now in order to allow Ms. Pion and Mr. Norton to be appointed. There are two openings.

Mr. Parker asked about Eleanor Resnick, a previous candidate.

Mrs. Nolan said she had the opportunity to reapply.

Mr. Sagar suggested there should be a written administrative policy.

Mrs. Nolan recommended Mr. Norton's appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint David Norton to the Historical Commission for a term to expire in 2013.

Ms. Kristen Pion said she wanted to serve to give back to the community. She is very interested in history and wants to preserve it for the future.

Mrs. Nolan recommended the appointment.

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

VOTED: To appoint Kristen Pion to the Historical Commission for a term to expire in 2014.

Consider Appointment of Craig Roy as Sealer of Weight and Measures on an On Call As Needed Basis

In response to Mr. Almeida's request, Building Commissioner Mary McNeil said the salary is currently under review. It is a stipend paid twice a year.

Mr. Parker noted that the Town has been paying a person who goes to Florida during the winter.

There was discussion on the budget for these positions.

Mrs. McNeil said the problem would be next year.

Mrs. Nolan noted that this individual is the grandson of the current sealer of weights and measures.

Chairman Cavaco noted that the position had not been advertised.

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

VOTED: To table the appointment for a future meeting.

Consider Appointment of Loretta Ferreira as a Volunteer Coordinator for Human Services

Human Services Director Bernadette Huck noted that Mrs. Ferreira has done the job for four years. This position does not cost the Town any money. It is paid through a grant. She is filling a vacancy.

Chairman Cavaco noted that Mrs. Ferreira is a hard worker. However, the process wasn't followed. The Board of Selectmen does the hiring; not a department head and the position should be advertised.

Mr. Parker said he cannot support it for that reason.

Mrs. Nolan said Mrs. Huck was told the Board had to hire. She will proceed with the advertising.

Informational Update from Human Services Director on Bell Ringing at WalMart for the Holiday Season

Mrs. Huck stated that Human Services receives assistance from the Salvation Army. She asked about getting the money from the kettles in Seekonk. She reached an agreement with the Salvation Army Major in Fall River so that Human Services would get donations collected at WalMart, Seekonk, from Thursday, Friday, and Saturday beginning on the Friday after Thanksgiving. She needs volunteers for bell ringing. The money goes into a Salvation Army account and then to Human Services.

Mr. Sagar said this is a 501C organization as was the church from Swansea who wanted to collect money.

Chairman Cavaco noted that under the new ethics law employees of the town who volunteer must complete a form.

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

VOTED: To approve the request of the Human Services Director, as presented, subject to the Finance Department.

Informational Update from Human Services Director on Holiday Baskets and Dinners

Mrs. Huck reported that so far 38 baskets will be delivered on November 18. They did 50 baskets last year. Meals will be donated by Outback Steak House. Volunteers are needed to deliver the meals. She mentioned that residents and local businesses are generous. For those who want to donate, vegetables, turkeys, potatoes and pies are needed.

She coordinates with other organizations in town.

Chairman Cavaco suggested a box in Town Hall for people to drop off canned goods for Christmas.

Mrs. Nolan said that will be done after Thanksgiving.

Informational Update from Human Services Director on GATRA Vans

Mrs. Huck said she spoke to the director at GATRA. The biggest problem in Seekonk is transportation. GATRA was in town but the Board of Selectmen at that time voted not to do it. The town does get medical transportation from GATRA but could use more.

Mr. Sagar requested documentation from the Board of Selectmen advising the Town discontinued the service.

Mrs. Huck will set up a meeting with the GATRA director.

Discussion on the Meeting and Town Hall Hours on Wednesday, November 21, 2012

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

VOTED: To close Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21, 2012.

Vote to Approve/ Disapprove the Request from Police Chief to Begin Hiring Process to Replace an Officer

Police Chief Ronald Charron said there is an opening due to a disability retirement.

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

VOTED: To approve the police chief's request to begin the hiring process to replace an officer.

Vote to Approve/Disapprove the Request from the Police Chief for the Acceptance of \$1,500 Grant from WalMart

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

VOTED: To authorize the police chief to accept the \$1,500 Heroes Grant from WalMart.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Chief Jack had received a similar grant. It was not on the agenda so Chief Jack will attend the next meeting.

Chief Charron mentioned that the police department unveiled its new website.

Consider Approval or Not for Individual Establishments with Alcohol Trainer Classes be Accepted in Conjunction with Administrative Policy #65

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

VOTED: To table until November 7, 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours Before the Meeting

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

VOTED: 3 Ayes; 1 Nay; To authorize Chief Jack to accept the \$1,500 WalMart grant for the Fire Department.

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan advised the Rotary Club is conducting a coat drive until the day after Thanksgiving. There is a box at the front entrance to Town Hall and also at the schools and the library for slightly used coats.

She stated there is an opening on the Armed Forces Memorial Park Committee and two opening on the Community Preservation Committee. The Cultural Council has seven members but could have up to 22. The Economic Development Committee has one member and Energy Committee, two. The Municipal Capital Improvement Committee needs a member from the Board of Selectmen and one from the Town Moderator. The Park Committee needs one member. The Property Tax Work Off Committee needs two people and the Recycling Committee needs members. ZBA needs an alternate and an appointment should be made to SRPEDD.

She had a reserve fund transfer from the Assessors Office for signature by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Parker noted it was not an agenda item. It will be on the agenda for November 7, 2012.

The Recreation Committee is asking for participation in the Run for the Planet in conjunction with National Geographic Kids. They are trying to break a world record. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Cole Street.

She had a letter from Arlene Bosco, Interim Superintendent of Schools, in appreciation for the Board's pursuit of available money for schools.

Mrs. Nolan said she took the mandated conflict of interest training for municipal employees.

She said the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show is scheduled for January 25-26, 2012. She has registration forms for any member who is interested in attending.

Chairman Cavaco noted there are two vacancies on the Armed Forces Memorial Park Committee.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Sagar referred to the article on the \$750,000 for the reauthorization of the Banna Fire Station.

Mrs. Nolan advised she was advised to take it off by legal counsel.

The article on the continued care facility is on the warrant.

Mr. Sagar noted that the School Department has concerns about the article on the permanent building committee. There will be amendments on the town meeting floor.

He asked about the Reverse 911 re: the landfill. Mrs. Nolan said it was done.

Mr. Sagar said the State will stock the pond at Grist Mill with fish.

School Committee Chairman Mitch Vieira, Interim Superintendent Arlene Bosco, and Mr. John Beaulieu were in attendance. There was discussion about the warrant article for the permanent building committee – multiple legal issues as the warrant is written right now, including some with the Education Reform Act and Mass. School Building Authority regulations. In 2010 it was postponed and not recommended by the Finance Committee at that time.

The School Committee was not informed this was on the warrant as written. They cannot support it as written and encouraged the Board of Selectmen not to support it at this time.

Mr. Bilodeau requested an opportunity to discuss it with the Board of Selectmen and refer to legal counsel.

Mr. Parker said a motion could be made at Town Meeting to indefinitely postpone.

Supt. Bosco agreed.

Chairman Cavaco felt the School Committee should have been contacted.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Chairman Cavaco reported the warrant is in order.

Mr. Parker talked about the National election on November 6, 2012. A record number of voters is expected and there will be delays. He encouraged people to vote by absentee ballot. Police officers will be on duty and people holding signs will not be allowed to park in the parking area.

Mr. Sagar respectfully disagreed with Mr. Parker on his reasons for using an absentee ballot. He felt this would be a test to determine how well one polling place works.

Chairman Cavaco said he had received complaints that people have paint on their cars from the striping on Newman Avenue. The Town Administrator was not aware of it. He questioned how many complaints DPW had gotten.

He announced the fundraiser for the Memorial Garden to be held on Saturday, November 17th at the Boneyard from 2 to 5 p.m. - all you can eat. There are 20 tickets left.

He is still trying to get donations from major corporations for the garden.

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh advised that \$4,880 was raised so far. He had a bet with Chairman Cavaco that he could not raise \$5,000. He commended the Chairman.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. Robert Blanchard, a Finance Committee member, indicated the reserve fund transfer mentioned earlier relates to Verizon.

He asked Mr. Parker not to scare residents away from the polls.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 7:39 p.m. by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session to consider approval of Steelworkers Union Clerical and Steelworkers Union Supervisory contracts, consider approval of AFSCME Union Dispatch contract, consider approval of AFSCME Union DPW contract and consider approval of Library Union contract; to return to Open Session.

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

Mr. Parker said he would not participate in Executive Session or approval of the Agreements because he had nothing to do with it.

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RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

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

VOTED: To approve the Agreements with the United Steelworkers of America – Supervisory, United Steelworkers of America – Clerical, AFSCME – DPW, AFSCME – Dispatch and Seekonk Library Employees Association.

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

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary