

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 9, 2013
REGULAR SESSION

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

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Cavaco opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, he announced that anybody taping must notify the Chair. Board of Selectmen meetings are recorded via audio and video and broadcast on Seekonk Channel 15.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Contract for Banna Construction Cost Analysis
Approve Contract for Sprinkler System Design Fee

Mr. Warren Carpenter, Chairman of the Banna Fire Station Building Committee, explained that this is done before the town meeting to have the proper amount of funds. They had asked for \$550,000 to complete the project. They did not have a contingency and intend to ask for \$680,000 including the contingency.

He would also like to get the sprinkler system design done prior to the February Town Meeting.

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

VOTED: To approve the contracts with Blount Bennett Architects Ltd. for cost analysis and sprinkler system design fee at Banna Fire Station and authorize the Chairman to sign.

NEW BUSINESS

Accept, with Regret, Retirement Request from Police Chief

Mrs. Nolan read the letter of intent to retire from Police Chief Ronald Charron. The retirement is effective March 15, 2013.

Chief Charron would like to be appointed a special police officer. He has asked to be paid if he is called for assistance.

Mrs. Nolan told the Chief that she is very sorry to see him go. He has been a good police chief and she has enjoyed working with him. He has integrity. He is trustworthy and professional. She felt the Seekonk Police Department is a good department because of Chief Charron.

Chief Charron said it is hard to believe it has been seven years since he became chief. He has reached the age and years of service plateau.

He said the special officer and the compensation is typical.

Mrs. Nolan said that she has discussed his leaving and what would happen.

Chief Charron said the right thing for the department, this Board, and the residents would be to promote from within. He strongly urged the Board to move forward and promote from within and move forward from there.

Chief Charron said it is clear that Capt. Mace is the number 2 officer in the department. He is loyal. He has integrity. He has been the right hand and left hand man to the Chief.

The Chief felt they made the best 1 and 2 team in the department. He said that Capt. Mace has worked his entire career for this. There is no question in his mind that Capt. Mace is the right choice for the job.

Mr. Almeida thanked Chief Charron for his service and wished him the best of luck.

Mr. Sagar said the recommendation should come from the Town Administrator, according to the Charter. However, the Board could make a policy decision to stay within the department or go outside.

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

VOTED: To approve Chief Charron's request for special police officer and post employment compensation.

Chairman Cavaco said that Chief Charron would be hard to replace. He has been a man of integrity. He thanked the Chief for his service.

Chief Charron said that he could not have run the department without the blue shirts next door. He has been able to work with all the Boards, the Finance Department and the Town Administrator over the years.

Board members concurred that it would be more appropriate to discuss the direction of the Police Department in executive session. Chief Charron was asked to attend.

Accept, with Regret, Resignation of Mark Strycharz from DPW

Mrs. Nolan advised the position would be advertised starting this weekend.

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

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Mark Strycharz, with regret, and authorize the Town Administrator to advertise the position.

Consider and Approve the Date of March 9, 2013 for Annual Rabies Clinic

Mrs. Nolan advised the clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mr. Parker motioned, Mr. Sagar seconded, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the rabies clinic on Saturday, March 9, 2013.

Mr. McLintock opposed but rescinded his vote.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Sagar questioned why it had to come before the Board of Selectmen and why it couldn't just be scheduled.

Mrs. Nolan said it is best to be approved by the Board because the insurance is in place.

Mr. Almeida asked how the veterinarian is chosen.

Mr. Parker said they volunteer their time.

Mr. McLintock felt it is important that the Board is aware of everything that is going on.

Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of December 12, 2012

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

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of December 12, 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Nolan said that she received an update from the Chairman of Columbia Gas regarding the field inspection of valves. They have completed field inspection of street valves in Seekonk. They located, operated and installed electric markers on 427 valves. Of that, 127 were paved over and 13 of the valves were greased to make it easier to operate.

Mr. Sagar pointed out that the Board had asked for but not yet received a computer mapping system. He requested that the President of Columbia Gas be invited to a future meeting.

Mr. McLintock said the gas company was on Oakdale Avenue checking a possible leak. There are things in the ground that need to be maintained a little better than in the past. He assumed that would be done.

Mrs. Nolan read a letter dated December 19, 2012 from Congressman James McGovern. Because of redistricting, he would no longer represent Seekonk. Congressman-elect Joseph Kennedy would replace him as of January 1, 2013.

Contact information for Rep. Kennedy will be on the Town's website.

Mrs. Nolan advised that she had a request to allow girls to sell girl scout cookies at the transfer station. She didn't think it was a good idea. She will recommend the library.

She will begin negotiations with police and fire; contracts end June 30, 2013.

The Finance Director and she will meet with department heads to discuss budgets. Starting on January 23, department heads will present their budgets to the Board.

Mr. Almeida said he would like to see all department heads.

Mr. Parker noted that some departments are small.

Mr. McLintock suggested it should be a work session.

Mr. Sagar requested the income side of the ledger possibly for the January 23 meeting.

Mrs. Nolan said last year the Veterans Agent came before the Board three times. He expects his budget will go up by \$119,000.

Mr. McLintock noted it is 75% reimbursable by the State.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Chairman Cavaco advised the warrants are in order. The payment of \$17M is to pay off the old bond.

Mr. Almeida extended best wishes for a Happy New Year. He thanked those people who rang the Salvation Army bell at Wal-Mart during the holiday season.

He said he an inquiry from a resident about the Town using an automatic car wash in East Providence to clean town vehicles rather than a Seekonk business.

Mrs. Nolan was quite sure what he was talking about but she would research it.

Mr. Almeida asked if the Town goes out to bid for oil heat for the various buildings.

Mrs. Nolan said it is three-year bids with a possible extension. The county bid could also be used.

Mr. Almeida asked why an Attleboro company is providing the fuel to those Seekonk residents who are eligible to receive it.

Mrs. Nolan replied that comes out of Human Services. It depends on how much Ms. Huck estimates. An amount over \$5,000 requires a contract. She has never seen a contract and she doubts it is over the \$5,000.

Mr. Almeida inquired about the vacancy on the Housing Authority.

Chairman Cavaco advised it is an elected position. There are two positions open. February 11, 2013 is the deadline to take out nomination papers.

Mr. Almeida asked about putting a light on Etelvina Street off of Tee Jay Drive.

He also asked about real estate discount for age 65 and up.

Mr. Sagar said it is for residents over 70 years of age with certain income guidelines. He suggested Mr. Almeida talk to the Assessors.

Mr. Sagar said Chief Jack and he will meet with Sen. Timilty about the land at the salt shed for a possible south end fire station.

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He noted that he is an abutter to the Maple Avenue property that was destroyed by fire. He thanked the Conservation Agent and Building Commissioner for successfully obtaining a \$100,000 grant for work at that property.

He noted that the warrant for the Special Town Meeting closes on Friday, January 11, 2013.

He talked about information on medical marijuana.

Mrs. Nolan said that is under the State. It is never supposed to affect the work place. There may be people looking for locations. It is premature at this time.

Mr. Sagar asked about the expiration for the trash contract.

Chairman Cavaco noted there is an option to extend. The Board had argued to reduce the price. It was reduced \$125,000 over a three year period.

Mr. Sagar asked about the new truck for DPW.

Mrs. Nolan said the new loader is in but not the big truck. It was ordered off the state bid.

Mr. Sagar said he had a resident compliment the snow plowing operation.

Mrs. Nolan said Mr. Cabral handled that because Mr. Lamoureux was on vacation. It is nice to hear he did a good job.

Mr. McLintock mentioned that the new front end loader is a Volvo and repairs will be very expensive.

Mrs. Nolan said it was ordered off the state bid.

Chairman Cavaco asked Mr. Parker about passports.

Mr. Parker said that he had not received a reply from his e mail.

Chairman Cavaco advised that the Housing Authority is allowed \$87,000 for repairs.

He intends to go to the State to lobby for \$500,000. He has a cost on prevailing wage as to how much it would cost to vinyl side those buildings.

He said he has been working with Rep. Howitt on the location of the salt shed for a south end fire station. He will not be attending the meeting in Boston with Chief Jack and Mr. Sagar.

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He felt the Town is close to getting that. It has been almost three years. The next step would be to contact Congressman Kennedy to request grants from homeland security.

Chairman Cavaco would like to have Board goals and objectives for the January 23, 2013 agenda.

He noted that the Town of Seekonk has had a good year - 12 liquor licenses, \$100,000 for the Route 152 project, \$100,000 for the animal shelter and \$10,000 for veterans.

The Chairman stated that the Board needs to work together regarding the disbursement of lottery money to cities and towns. Some cities and towns that do not sell lottery tickets get a lot of state money. The Finance Director does not have a report on how much the Town gets from the lottery. He will try to get that information from legislators.

Mr. Parker felt it is available on line.

Mr. McLintock noted that a lot of lottery tickets are sold in Seekonk.

Chairman Cavaco said they have got to be aggressive in pursuing this money.

He questioned what could be done to make the industrial park more attractive to incoming industries.

Mr. Almeida suggested the Town Administrator put information on the website.

Chairman Cavaco said that a press release was sent out about the additional liquor licenses.

Mr. McLintock noted that the tax rate is the same for small and big businesses. That needs to be looked at.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Mr. David Viera asked the Board to consider a warrant article for \$5,000 as seed money for the Memorial Day Parade. The Finance Department already has a line item for that.

A motion by Mr. Sagar to support the warrant article was withdrawn when Mr. Parker noted it was not an agenda item.

Chairman Cavaco said the School Committee also had an article for the Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. Nolan said that the Board will review the draft warrant.

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Mr. McLintock mentioned that the intersection at Central Avenue at Bakers Corner has improved dramatically in terms of the signalization compared to what it was a month ago.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 p.m., Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Bristol County Superior Court issue with the Building Commissioner, Discussion on contract for a new Police Chief due to retirement, Discussion on Veteran's Agent contract, Discussion on criminal investigation, Discussion on negotiations of real estate property, and Consider approval of Executive Session minutes of December 12, 2012; not to return to Open Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Sagar, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary